

Master of Arts in Legislative Affairs
PSC 222--EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS

Fall Semester 2006
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This course addresses the perennial conflicts between the White House and Congress. The Constitution has set the basic framework of power and over the centuries patterns of power and precedent have developed. This course looks at the constitutional aspects of Congressional-Executive relations, the institutional settings, the forces of weak and strong leadership, and other dynamics that make up this complex, fascinating relationship.

HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED

The final grade for this course will be determined by five factors:

- Midterm exam, counting as 25 percent of the final grade; Distributed October 16; Due October 23.
- Final exam, counting as 25 percent of the final grade; Distributed December 11; Due December 18.
- Paper on a legislative issue or regulatory issue, counting as 30 percent of the final grade, due November 20.
- Class Presentation/Participation counting as 20 percent of the final grade.

REQUIRED READINGS

Please purchase the following books for the class:

Jon R. Bond and Richard Fleisher, Polarized Politics [paperback, 2000]
Kenneth Collier, Between the Branches [paperback, 1997]
Louis Fisher, Politics of Shared Power, 4th ed. [paperback, 1998]
James A. Thurber, 3rd ed., Rivals for Power [paperback, 2005]

SYLLABUS

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| SESSION 1 (September 11) | INTRODUCTION |
| SESSION 2 (September 18) | AN OVERVIEW OF THE RELATIONSHIP Readings: Fisher, ch. 1 Thurber, ch 1: <i>"An Introduction to Presidential-Congressional Rivalry"</i> Collier, ch. 1 |
| SESSION 3 (September 25) | THE HISTORICAL RELATIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY Readings: Collier, <i>Between the Branches</i> , chs. 2-10 |
| SESSION 4 (October 2) | PRESIDENTIAL AGENDA SETTING Readings: Fisher, ch. 2 Thurber, ch. 2 <i>"The President and Congress at the Turn of the Century: Structural Sources of Conflict,"</i> James Pfiffner. Thurber, ch. 3, <i>"Presidential Leadership of Congress: A Functional and Institutional History,"</i> by Stephen Wayne. |
| SESSION 5 (October 9) | THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS Readings: Thurber, ch. 5, <i>"Successful Influence: Managing Legislative Affairs in the Twenty-first Century,"</i> by Gary Andres & Patrick Griffin. Thurber, ch. 6, <i>"The Presidency and Congressional Leadership,"</i> by Roger Davidson. Thurber, ch. 7, <i>"The Legislative Presidency in Political Time: Party Control and Presidential-Congressional Relations,"</i> by Richard S. Conley. |
| SESSION 6 (October 16) | THE BUDGET Readings: Fisher, ch. 7 Thurber, ch. 9: <i>"Politics of the Federal Budget Process,"</i> by Leon Panetta. |
| SESSION 7 (October 23) | OUTTAKE: INTERACTING BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS |
| SESSION 8 (October 30) | APPROPRIATIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS |
| SESSION 9 (November 6) | THE FIGHT FOR THE BUREAUCRACY |

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| SESSION 10 (November 13) | <p>FOREIGN AFFAIRS</p> <p>Readings: Fisher, ch. 6 Thurber, ch. 10, "<i>Ending a Transatlantic Trade War: The Art of Coalition Building on Capitol Hill</i>," by Mark J. Oleszek & Walter J. Oleszek. Thurber, ch. 11, "<i>The Making of US Foreign Policy: The Roles of the President and Congress over Four Decades</i>," by Lee Hamilton.</p> |
| SESSION 11 (November 20) | <p>THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN ACTION</p> <p>Readings: Thurber, ch. 4, "<i>The Impact of Campaigns on Presidential-Congressional Relations</i>," by Richard Cohen. Thurber, ch.8, "<i>The Institutional Context of Veto Bargaining</i>," by C. Lawrence Evans & Stephen Ng.</p> |
| SESSION 12 (November 27) | <p>PARTISAN RELATIONS IN THE 1990's</p> <p>Readings: Bond & Fleisher, chs. 1-4</p> |
| SESSION 13 (December 4) | <p>PARTISAN RELATIONS IN THE 1990's, continued</p> <p>Readings: Bond & Fleisher, chs. 5-8</p> |
| SESSION 14 (December 11) | <p>IN CONCLUSION</p> <p>Readings: Bond & Fleisher, ch. 9 Collier, ch. 11 Thurber, ch. 12, "<i>Conclusions about Congressional-Presidential Rivalries</i>," by James Thurber.</p> |