

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

Spring Semester 2009
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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 four factors:

- Midterm exam, counting as 25 percent of the final grade; Distributed March 3; Due March 10.
- Final exam, counting as 25 percent of the final grade; Distributed April 28; Due May 5.
- Paper on a legislative issue or regulatory issue, counting as 30 percent of the final grade, due April 14.
- Class Presentation/Participation counting as 20 percent of the final grade.

REQUIRED READINGS

Please purchase the following books for the class:

- Kenneth Collier, *Between the Branches* (1997). ISBN#: 9780822956297
- Louis Fisher, *Constitutional Conflicts between Congress and the President*, 5th ed. (2007). ISBN#: 9780700615346
- Michael Nelson, *The Presidency and the Political System*, 8th ed. (2006). ISBN#: 9781568028750
- James A. Thurber, *Rivals for Power*, 3rd ed. (2006). ISBN#: 9780742536838

SYLLABUS

SESSION 1 (January 13)	INTRODUCTION
SESSION 2 (JANUARY 20)	AN OVERVIEW OF THE RELATIONSHIP Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collier, Ch. 1. <i>Introduction.</i> • Thurber, Ch 1: “<i>An Introduction to Presidential-Congressional Rivalry</i>”
SESSION 3 (February 3)	THE CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisher, Ch. 1. <i>Constitutional Struggles.</i> • Fisher, Ch. 2. <i>Appointment Powers.</i> • Fisher, Ch. 3. <i>Theory in a Crucible: The Removal Power.</i> • Fisher, Ch. 6. <i>Power over Knowledge: Seeking and Withholding Information.</i>
SESSION 4 (February 10)	THE ROLE TIME PLAYS IN THE RELATIONSHIP Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson, Ch. 4. “<i>Presidential Leadership in Political Time.</i>” Stephen Skowronek. • Thurber, Ch. 4. “<i>The Impact of Campaigns on Presidential-Congressional Relations.</i>” Richard Cohen. • Thurber, Ch. 7. “<i>The Legislative Presidency in Political Time: Party Control and Presidential-Congressional Relations.</i>” Richard S. Conley.
SESSION 5 (February 17)	THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: A HISTORICAL REVIEW Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collier, Chs. 2-10.
SESSION 6 (February 24)	THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, I Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisher, Ch. 4. <i>Legislative Powers.</i> • 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>” Stephen Wayne.

SESSION 7 (March 3)	<p>THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, II</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson, Ch. 19. <i>“Divided Government and Policymaking: Negotiating the Laws.”</i> Paul J. Quirk and Bruce Nesmith. • Thurber, Ch. 5. <i>“Successful Influence: Managing Legislative Affairs in the Twenty-first Century.”</i> Gary Andres & Patrick Griffin. • Thurber, Ch. 6. <i>“The Presidency and Congressional Leadership.”</i> Roger Davidson.
SESSION 8 (March 10)	<p>OUTTAKE: A VISIT FROM THE REAL RELATIONSHIP</p>
SESSION 9 (March 24)	<p>THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, III</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisher, Ch. 5. <i>Veto: Presidential and Legislative.</i> • Nelson, Ch. 17. <i>“The President and Congress.”</i> Matthew J. Dickinson. • Thurber, Ch.8. <i>“The Institutional Context of Veto Bargaining.”</i> C. Lawrence Evans & Stephen Ng.
SESSION 10 (March 31)	<p>SPENDING MONEY: THE SUPER BOWL</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisher, Ch. 7. <i>The Power of the Purse.</i> • Thurber, Ch. 9. <i>“Politics of the Federal Budget Process.”</i> Leon Panetta.
SESSION 11 (April 7)	<p>THE FIGHT FOR CONTROL OF THE BUREAUCRACY</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson, Ch. 15. <i>“Presidents and the Bureaucracy: Management Imperatives in a Separation of Powers System.”</i> David E. Lewis • Nelson, Ch. 16. <i>“Presidents, Prime Ministers, and the Civil Service.”</i> Colin Campbell.
SESSION 12 (April 14)	<p>FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisher, Ch. 9. <i>The War Power.</i> • Nelson, Ch. 21. <i>“The Presidency at War.”</i> Andrew J. Polsky.
SESSION 13 (April 21)	<p>FOREIGN AFFAIRS, II</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisher, Ch. 8. <i>Treaties and Executive Agreements.</i> • Thurber, Ch. 10. <i>“Ending a Transatlantic Trade War: The Art of Coalition Building on Capitol Hill”</i> 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> Lee Hamilton.

SESSION 14 (April 28)	<p>IN CONCLUSION</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collier, Ch. 11. <i>Conclusion</i>.• Fisher, Ch. 10. <i>Conclusions</i>.• Thurber, Ch. 12, "Conclusions about Congressional-Presidential Rivalries." James Thurber.
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