

Political Science 251  
Winter Quarter 2010  
Wednesday 3-5:50

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## AMERICAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

This course is designed to help prepare graduate students to pass the comprehensive exam in the field of American Politics. Students are required to prepare short discussion papers on the readings and to take a final examination with questions similar to those asked on comprehensive exams.

Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, *The Federalist* (any edition)  
S. Kernell, *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*, 4th. ed. (2006)  
Stephen Skowronek, *Building a New American State*, Cambridge (1982)  
James Q. Wilson, *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It* (1989)  
David R. Mayhew, *Congress: The Electoral Connection* (1974; 2004)  
Herbert Weissberg, Eric S. Heberlig, and Lisa M. Campbell, *Classics in Congressional Politics* (Longman, 1999.)

### INTRODUCTION

#### *January 6*

*The Federalist*, Nos. 10, 51, and 70

### CONGRESS

#### *January 13 - History and Development*

\*Nelson W. Polsby, "The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives," *American Political Science Review* 62 (March, 1968), 144-68  
Nelson Polsby, Miriam Gallaher, and Barry Rundquist, "The Growth of the Seniority System in the U.S. House of Representatives," *American Political Science Review* 63 (1969):787-807.  
Jeffrey Jenkins, "Property Rights and the Emergence of Standing Committee Dominance in the Nineteenth Century House," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 23 (November 1998): 493-519  
David Brady, Kara Buckley, and Douglas Rivers, "The Roots of Careerism in the U.S. House of Representatives," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 24 (November 1999): 489-510.  
Samuel Kernell and Michael McDonald, "Congress and America's Political Development: The Transformation of the Post Office from Patronage to Civil Service," *American Journal of Political Science* 43 (July 1999):792-811.  
\*David R. Mayhew, *Congress: The Electoral Connection*, 1974 (2004).  
Jason Roberts and Steven Smith, "The Evolution of Agenda-Setting Institutions in Congress: Path Dependency in House and Senate Institutional Development," in David Brady and Mathew McCubbins, ed., *Party, Process and Political Change in Congress*. Vol. 2 (2007)

#### *January 20 - Elections and Constituents*

\*Richard F. Fenno, Jr. "U.S. House Members and their Constituencies: An Exploration," *American Political Science Review* (1977):883-917; also *Classics*, Ch. 7. For the full account see *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts.*);

- \*David R. Mayhew, "Congressional Elections: The Case of the Vanishing Marginals," *Polity* 6(1974):295-217
- Morris P. Fiorina, "The Case of the Vanishing Marginals: the Bureaucracy Did It," *American Political Science Review* 71 (March 1977):177-81.
- John Johannes and John C. McAdams, "The Congressional Incumbency Effect: Is it Casework Policy Compatibility, or Something Else?" *American Journal of Political Science* 25 (1981):512-542.
- Morris P. Fiorina, "Some Problems in Studying the Effects of Resource Allocation in Congressional Elections," *American Journal of Political Science* 25 (1981):543-567.
- John R. Johannes and John C. McAdams, "Does Casework Matter? A Reply to Fiorina," *American Journal of Political Science* 25 (August 1981):581-604.
- Gary W. Cox and Jonathan N. Katz, "Why Did the Incumbency Advantage in U.S. House Elections Grow?" *American Journal of Political Science* 40 (May 1996):478-497.
- David Rohde, "Risk Bearing and Progressive Ambition," *American Journal of Political Science* 23 (1979):1-26; also *Classics*, ch. 9.
- Marcus Prior, "The Incumbent in the Living Room: The Rise of Television and the Incumbency Advantage in U.S. House Elections," *Journal of Politics* 68 (2006): 657-673.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Deficit Cutting Politics and Congressional Elections," *Political Science Quarterly* 108 (1993):375-402.

### **January 27 - Congressional Parties and Committees**

- \*Barbara Sinclair, "Parties and Leadership in the House," in Paul Quirk and Sarah Binder, *The Legislative Branch* (Oxford, 2004), ch 8.
- \*Steven Smith, "Parties and Leadership in the Senate," in Paul Quirk and Sarah Binder, *The Legislative Branch*, ch 9.
- Gary Cox and Mathew McCubbins, "Controlling the Legislative Agenda," *Legislative Leviathan Party Government in the House* (1993), 99. 253-73; also in *Classics*, ch. 19.
- David Rohde and Kenneth Shepsle, "Democratic Committee Assignments in the House of Representatives: Strategic Aspects of a Social Choice Process," *American Political Science Review* 67 (September 1973):889-905
- Kenneth A. Shepsle and Barry W. Weingast, "Positive Theories of Democratic Institutions," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 19 (1994):149-179.
- Sarah H. Binder, "The Partisan Basis of Procedural Choice: Allocating Parliamentary Rights in the House, 1789-1990," *American Political Science Review* 90 (March 1996):8-20.
- Eric Schickler and Andrew Rich, "Controlling the Floor: Parties as Procedural Coalitions in the House," *American Journal of Political Science* 41(October 1997):1340-1375.
- Gary W. Cox and Mathew D. McCubbins, "Toward a Theory of Legislative Rules Changes: Assessing Schickler and Rich's Evidence," *American Journal of Political Science* 41(October 1997):1376-1386.
- Eric Schickler and Andrew Rich, "Party Government in the House Reconsidered: A Response to Cox and McCubbins," *American Journal of Political Science* 41(October 1997):1387-1394.
- Kathleen Bawn, "Congressional Party Leadership: Utilitarian versus Majoritarian Incentives," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 23 (May 1998):219-243.

### **February 3 - Making Decisions and Policy**

- \*R. Douglas Arnold, *The Logic of Congressional Action* (1990), pp. 88-118.

- \*John W. Kingdon, "Models of Legislative Voting," in *Classics*, ch. 25 or in *Journal of Politics* 39 (1977):563-595.
- Richard L. Hall and Frank W. Wayman, "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees," *American Political Science Review* 84 (September 1990):797-820.
- Richard A. Smith, "Interest Group Influence in the U.S. Congress," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 20 (February 1995):89-139.
- John R. Wright, "PACs, Contributions, and Roll Calls: An Organizational Perspective," *American Political Science Review* 79 (1985):400-414.
- Joshua Clinton, "Representation in Congress: Constituents and Roll Calls in the 106<sup>th</sup> House," *Journal of Politics* 68 (2006):397-409.
- Gary C. Jacobson, "Partisan Polarization in Presidential Support: The Electoral Connection," *Congress and the Presidency* 30 (Spring 2003), pp. 1-36; updated version reprinted in *Readings in Presidential Politics*, ed. George W. Edwards III (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2006), pp. 69-108.

## **THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### ***February 10 - The Presidency***

- Charles. Cameron, *Veto Bargaining*, 2000.
- Brandice Canes-Wrone, "The President's Legislative Influence from Public Appeals," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 45, No. 2. (Apr., 2001):313-329.
- \*Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power* (any edition), chs. 1-7. These chapters include all that was in the original 1960 edition; read as much as the later stuff as you find interesting.
- \*Samuel Kernell, *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed..
- George Edwards, *The Strategic President: Persuasion and Opportunity in Presidential Leadership*, 2009.

### ***February 17 - Bureaucratic Politics***

- \*Stephen Skowronek, *Building a New American State*, Cambridge (1982)
- James Q. Wilson, *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It* (1989)
- Hugh Heclo, *A Government of Strangers: Executive Politics in Washington* (1977), chs. 1, 5, and 6.
- Harold Seidman, *Politics, Position, and Power: The Dynamic of Federal Organization*, 5th. edition, chs. 1-3.
- Terry Moe, "The Political Presidency," in John Chubb and Paul Peterson, *New Directions in American Politics* (1984), pp. 235-272.
- R. Douglas Arnold, *Congress and the Bureaucracy* (1979).

### ***February 24 - Executive-Congressional Relations***

- Gary Cox and Samuel Kernell, *The Politics of Divided Government*, chs. 1, 4-7, 9-10.
- \*Mathew McCubbins and Thomas Schwartz, "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols vs. Fire Alarms," *American Journal of Political Science* 28 (February 1984):165-179.
- D. Roderick Kiewiet and Mathew McCubbins, "Appropriations Decisions as a Bilateral Bargaining Game Between President and Congress," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 10 (1985):181-201.

- \*Terry Moe, "Congressional Control of the Bureaucracy: An Assessment of the Positive Theory of 'Congressional Dominance,'" *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 12 (1987):475-520.
- Gary Jacobson, "Partisan Polarization in Presidential Support: The Electoral Connection," *Congress and the Presidency* 30 (Spring 2003):1-36.
- John T. Stolz and B. Dan Wood, "Controlling the IRS: Principals, Principles, and Public Administration," *American Journal of Political Science* 42 (January 1998):141-162.
- Charles Shipan, "Congress and the Bureaucracy," in Paul Quirk and Sarah Binder, *The Legislative Branch*, Ch 15.

## THE COURTS

### *March 3*

- Martin Shapiro, *Who Guards the Guardians?* (1988)
- David M. O'Brien, *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics*.
- Donald R. Songer, Jeffrey A. Segal, and Charles M. Cameron, "The Hierarchy of Justice: Testing a Principal-Agent Model of Supreme Court-Circuit Court Interactions," *American Journal of Political Science* 38 (August 1994):673-96.
- Lori Hausegger and Lawrence Baum, "Inviting Congressional Action: A Study of Supreme Court Motivations in Statutory Interpretation," *American Journal of Political Science* 43 (January 1999):162-185.
- Donald L. Horowitz, *The Courts and Social Policy* (1977), chs. 1, 2, and 7.
- Martin Shapiro, "Courts," ch. 5 in Vol. 5 of Greenstein and Polsby, eds., *Handbook of Political Science* (1975).

## OVERVIEWS

### *March 10*

- Theodore Lowi, *The End of Liberalism*, 2nd ed. (1979).
- C. Wright Mills, *The Power Elite* (1956).
- E.E. Schattschneider, *The Semisovereign People* (1960).
- Robert Dahl, *A Preface to Democratic Theory* (1956).