This course is designed to help prepare you for the comprehensive exam in the field of American Politics. We shall concentrate on two institutional terrains – Congress and the presidency with passing consideration of courts, the bureaucracy and political parties. Class requirements consist of one or two reports to class accompanied by single-page précis distributed to class; two 5-6 page essays (you have the option of revising one and submitting with final); and a take home final exam. Finally, active participation well-informed by readings is essential. (If you are dispositionally shy or quiet, no problem; I’ll call on you, but please contribute when I do.) Please let me know promptly if any of the materials below can’t be located. I assume that JSTOR and other library online resources will provide the required articles. If, by chance, you missed or have forgotten your undergraduate course work on any of these topics, read appropriate chapters of Logic of American Politics (4e); this is important since much of the literature is substantive.

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT BOOKSTORE

John Aldrich Why Parties?
Charles Cameron, Veto Bargaining
Gary Cox and Mathew McCubbins, Legislative Leviathan
Samuel Kernell, Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership
David Mayhew, Congress: The Electoral Connection
Richard Neustadt, Presidential Power
Steve Skowronek, Building the New American State

TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

January 15. Institutions and the Pluralist Tradition.

READING:
Madison, The Federalist, Nos. 10, 51 (n.b. outline both and commit argument to memory)
Terry Moe, (2005) “Power and Institutions” Perspectives on Politics

New material
(I) Rakove, Jack. Original Meanings:Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution
(R) Robert Dahl, (1956) Preface to Democratic Theory
(R) Woodrow Wilson, (1885) Congressional Government.
(I) Bryce, James. The American Commonwealth
January 22. Congress: The Electoral Foundation and Its Implications for Congressional Organization

The Electoral Connection
(C) David Mayhew, Congress: The Electoral Connection
(R) Richard Fenno, (1978) Homestyle: House Members in their Districts

Implications for Legislative Organization
(R) Douglas Arnold, The Logic of Congressional Action
(R) Francis Lee and Bruce Oppenheimer (1999) Sizing Up the Senate


(C) Gary Cox and Mathew McCubbins, Legislative Leviathan
(R) Schattschneider, Party Government

February 5. The Bureaucracy and Logic of Delegation.

Placing Bureaucracy in Separation of Powers System.

(I) Graham Allison, "Conceptual Models of the Cuban Missile Crisis,” APSR

Competition for Control

February 12. Presentation of Research Reports on Congressional Delegation (and catch up)

February 19. Congressional-presidential relations.

(R) Matthew Beckmann (2010) Pushing the Agenda: Presidential Leadership in U.S. Lawmaking

February 26 The Presidency

(C) Richard Neustadt, Presidential Power, chs. 1-7. These chapters include all that was in the original 1960 edition; read as much of the later stuff as you find interesting.
(I) Baum, Matthew and Kernell (1999), “Has Cable Ended the Golden Age of Presidential Television?” APSR
(C) Brandice Canes-Wrone (2001), “The President’s Legislative Influence from Public Appeals,” AJPS.
(R) Jeffrey Cohen The Presidency in an Era of 24-Hour News (2008)
March 5. Courts
(R) Lee Epstein and Walker, *Choices Judges Make* (2001)
(C) Donald Songer, Segal and Cameron, “The Hierarchy of Justice: Testing a Principal-Agent Model of Supreme Court -- Circuit Court Interactions, *AJPS*
(I) Martin Shapiro, *Who Guards the Guardians?*
(R) Segal, Jeffrey A., Charles M. Cameron, and Albert D. Cover. 1992. “A Spatial Model of Roll Call Voting: Senators, Constituents, Presidents, and Interest Groups in Supreme Court Confirmations.” *AJPS.*
(C) Segal, Jeffrey A., and Harold J. Spaeth. 1996. “The Influence of Stare Decisis on the Votes of United States Supreme Court Justices.” *AJPS.*
(R) Brisbin, Richard A., Jr. 1996. “Slaying the Dragon: Segal, Spaeth and the Function of Law in Supreme Court Decision Making.” *AJP.*
(R) Brenner, Saul, and Marc Stier. 1996. “Retesting Segal and Spaeth’s Stare Decisis Model.” *APSR.*
(C) Songer, Donald R., Jeffrey A. Segal, and Charles M. Cameron. 1994. “The Hierarchy of Justice: Testing a Principal-Agent Model of Supreme Court-Circuit Court Interactions.” *AJP.*

March 12. Second paper presentations. This paper will offer an argument, hypotheses and research design extending state of knowledge on some topic covered in class.

March 19. American Political History and Development
(C) Stephen Skowronek, *Building a New American State* (1982), chs. 1, 2 and either 3 & 6, or 4 & 7, or 5 & 8
(I) Samuel Kernell, (1977) "Towards Understanding 19th Century Congressional Career Patterns: Ambition, Competition, and Rotation," *AJPS.*
(C) Erik Engstrom and Samuel Kernell (2005). “Manufactured Responsiveness.” *AJPS*

I’ll give out brief version of rehearsal exam at class.