

CONGRESS/LEGISLATIVE BEHAVIOR
Government 604, Graduate Seminar (CRN 16858)
George Mason University
Mondays 7:10pm – 10:00pm
Robinson Hall A123
Spring 2014
(updated January 17, 2014)

Instructor: Jennifer Nicoll Victor, Ph.D.
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Office: Robinson Hall A 218A
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00am – 12:00pm, or by appointment
Course Website: Available on Blackboard via courses.gmu.edu

I. Course Description

This graduate seminar on legislative behavior is designed to provide advanced graduate students an opportunity to begin to explore the literature, methodology, and theories about legislative processes. The class is organized in two sections. In the first portion of the class we will learn about the primary theories for understanding congressional institutions (spatial models, roll call voting, parties, committees, etc.) In the second portion of the course, we will examine the electoral connections of members of congress (elections, campaigning, campaign finance, decision making, careerism, etc.) For the most part, we will use the United States Congress as a lens through which to learn about general legislative issues. We begin with the national U.S. case because most of the advanced theory and methodology in this sub-discipline originates there. Students are of course encouraged to think about and apply the general U.S. case to other national legislatures, parliaments, or state-level analysis. The literature in this area is vast and we cannot hope to cover it all in one semester. We will touch on the most important topics and diverge when it seems appropriate. This course is designed to help students prepare for advanced research in legislative process and graduate-level exams in this field.

II. Course Goals

There are two primary goals for this course. First, students should gain a working familiarity with the literature on legislative process, and the U.S. Congress. Students planning to research and teach in this field should gain a fundamental grasp of substance of research in this vast field. Second, students will practice and improve their critical thinking, writing, and research skills in this class. Students will have a heavy reading load, which is necessary to begin to dissect the voluminous literature in this field. Students will also actively engage with one another in research, presentations, and writing assignments.

III. Course Components

There are three graded components to this course.

Class Presentation (10%) Each week, one student will be responsible for presenting the required readings. The student presenter should circulate discussion questions to the rest of the class prior to the start of class (no later than Sundays at 4:00pm). The presenter will provide a brief oral summary of the readings and help to start discussion about the day's topics. The presenter should note points of interest, confusion, or controversy in the readings and provide a thoughtful criticism.

Weekly Reaction Papers (40%) Each week each student must write a one page memo that provides a reaction to the week's readings. Students may choose to write about one, some, or all of the week's readings. The memos should not be thought of as summaries or book reports; rather, in addition to providing some summary, students should feel free to pose questions, raise criticisms, or explain how a piece fits into the broader literature. There are 14 class meetings, and each student must write 10 reaction memos (meaning you get 4 optional bye-weeks, to be selected at your choosing).

Research paper (50%) Each student is responsible for writing one journal or conference quality research paper. Use the literature to guide a creative thought process and to help you develop a reasonable research question. These papers will be completed in three stages. First, you will complete a 1-page introduction that states a thesis, or research question, and provides a basic outline of your paper (**due March 3**). Second, you will write a literature review and research design (**due April 14**). Third, you will hand in your completed project during our assigned final examination period on **Monday, May 12 at 7:10pm**. Late assignments will result in a reduced score.

IV. Logistics

Incompletes. I am not inclined to offer incomplete grades. I strongly advise you to organize yourself to complete the coursework in a timely fashion. I am open to helping you with your assignments, of course, and will do my best to help you develop projects of a reasonable scale. Students rarely start the semester planning to take an incomplete, but it is easy to get behind. Know that I will not be comfortable offering incomplete grades.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Integrity. Students in this course will be expected to comply with the George Mason University Honor Code (see <http://honorcode.gmu.edu/>). There are three simple guidelines to follow with respect to academic integrity: (1) all work you submit must be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the expectations for any assignment, ask for clarification. Any student engaged in any academic misconduct *will receive an F on the offending exam or assignment*. Egregious violations will result in an F grade for the course and will be reported to the appropriate Dean's office. These violations include cheating on an exam, using someone else's work as your own, and plagiarizing the written word. Plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without providing credit or citation) is a serious offense. *If you have any questions at all about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, or academic misconduct, please ask the instructor.*

Students with Disabilities. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, please let me (the instructor) know and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at (703) 993-2474 or <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All discussions with me regarding disabilities are confidential.

Grading. In this course, I will use a grading scale that is typical of Ph.D.-level courses that includes a four-part scale. You can think of the scale as being: high-pass, pass, low-pass, or fail. The grade scale and its interpretation is the following:

Grade	Interpretation
A	Excellent work; high pass.
A-	Good work; pass.
B+	Work needs some improvement; low-pass. If you plan to take Ph.D.-level exams in American politics, you need to do some additional review of the material presented in this course.
B or lower	Your work has not demonstrated mastery of the material that would be appropriate for a career in academia as a professor. Alternative career paths may be a better option for you.

V. Required Texts

The following texts are available at the campus bookstore and are required reading for this course.

Adler, E. Scott and John D. Wilkerson. 2013. *Congress and the Politics of Problem Solving*. Cambridge UP.

Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives*. Cambridge UP.

Dodd, Lawrence C. and Bruce I. Oppenheimer. 2013. *Congress Reconsidered*, 10th ed. CQ Press.

Jacobson, Gary C. 2012. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, 8th ed. Pearson.

Koger, Gregory. 2010. *Filibustering*. Chicago UP.

Mayhew, David. 2004. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*, 2nd ed. Yale UP.

Stewart, Charles III. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*, 2nd ed. Norton.

This syllabus has hyperlinks to articles that are available via the Internet, but many of the links are behind paywalls or subscription services, to which George Mason belongs. You'll need to access articles from an on-campus connection or using the SSL VPN from off-campus. Most

articles can be found on [JSTOR](#). I also recommend the library's subject guide for your research: <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/polisci>.

Book chapters or other assigned required readings listed below that are not electronic will be available on the course Blackboard website.

VI. Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

* Indicates readings that will be emphasized in class discussions

Monday, January 27

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF CONGRESS

Required Readings:

- Dodd, Lawrence C. and Bruce I. Oppenheimer. 2013. *Congress Reconsidered*, 10th ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. **Chs. 1-3.**
- Stewart, Charles. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*, 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton: **Chs. 2-3.**
- Weingast, Barry R. and William J. Marshall. 1988. "[The Industrial Organization of Congress; or, Why Legislatures, Like Firms, Are Not Organized as Markets.](#)" *The Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 96, No. 1 (Feb., 1988), pp. 132-163.

PART I: CONGRESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Monday, February 3

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Required Readings:

- *Dodd, Lawrence C. and Bruce I. Oppenheimer. 2009. *Congress Reconsidered*, 9th ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. **Chs. 12, 13*, 14, 16.**
- *Koger, Gregory. 2010. *Filibustering*. Chicago UP.
- Madonna, Anthony J. 2011. "[Winning Coalition Formation in the U.S. Senate: The Effects of Legislative Decision Rules and Agenda Change.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 55(2): 276-288.
- Schickler, Eric and Gregory Wawro. 2004. "[Where's the Pivot? Obstruction and Lawmaking in the Pre-Cloture Senate.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 48(4): 758.
- Schiller, Wendy J. 1995. "[Senators as Political Entrepreneurs: Using Bill Sponsorship to Shape Legislative Agendas.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 39:1 (pp. 186-203).
- *Stewart, Charles. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*, 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton: **Ch. 9 (pp. 336-392).**
- *Woon, Jonathan. 2009. "[Issue Attention and Legislative Proposals in the U.S. Senate.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 34(1): 29-54..

Recommended Readings:

- Binder, Sarah A. 1999. "[The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-1996.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 93:3.

- Binder, Sarah A. 1996. "[The Partisan Basis of Procedural Choice: Allocating Parliamentary Rights in the House, 1789-1990.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 90:1 (pp. 8-20).
- Binder, Sarah A. and Steven S. Smith. 1997. *Politics or Principle: Filibustering in the United States Senate*. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution.
- Kessler, Daniel and Keith Krehbiel. 1996. "[Dynamics of Cosponsorship.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 90:3 (pp. 555-566).
- Mayhew, David R. 1991. *Divided we Govern: Party Control, Lawmaking, and Investigations, 1946-1990*.
- Oleszek, Walter. 2013. *Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process*, 9th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Patty, John W. 2007. "[The House Discharge Procedure and Majoritarian Politics](#)" *Journal of Politics*, 69(3): 678.
- Redman, Eric. 1973. *The Dance of Legislation*. New York: Simon & Schuster Inc.
- Sinclair, Barbara. 1997. *Unorthodox Lawmaking: New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress*. C.Q. Press.
- Smith, Steven S. 1989. *Call to Order: Floor Politics in the House and Senate*. Washington: Brookings.

Monday, February 10

INTRODUCTION TO SPATIAL MODELING

Required Readings:

- *Brady, David W. and Craig Volden. 2006. *Revolving Gridlock: Politics and Policy from Jimmy Carter to George W. Bush*, 2nd ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. **Chs. 1-2**.
- Hinich, Melvin J. and Michael C. Munger. 1997. *Analytical Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP: **Ch. 1** (pp. 3-20).
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-2.
- Riker, William. 1980. "[Implications from the Disequilibrium of Majority Rule for the Study of Institutions.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 74(2): 432-446.
- Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Barry R. Weingast, eds. 1995. *Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press: pp. 5-35.
- Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Mark S. Bonchek. 1997. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton: **pp. 5-35; 312-344**
- *Stewart, Charles. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*, 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton: **Ch. 1**.
- Woon, Jonathan. 2009. "Change We Can Believe In? Using Political Science to Predict Policy Change in the Obama Presidency." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, April 2009. Available: http://www.pitt.edu/~woon/papers/ps_change.pdf

Recommended Readings

- Arrow, Kenneth J. 1963. *Social Choice and Individual Values*, 2nd ed. New Haven: Yale UP.
- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins.
- Enelow, James M. & Melvin J. Hinich. 1984. *The Spatial Theory of Voting: an introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

- Hinich, Melvin J. and Michael C. Munger. 1997. *Analytical Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP: Ch. 2 (pp. 21-49).
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1988. "[Spatial Models of Legislative Choice.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, XIII:3.
- Riker, William. 1982. *Liberalism Against Populism*. San Francisco: Freeman Press.
- Shepsle, Kenneth A. 1979. "[Institutional Arrangements and Equilibrium in Multidimensional Voting Models.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 23:1 (pp. 27-59).

Monday, February 17

ROLL CALL VOTING

Required Readings

- Clinton, Joshua D. 2006. "[Representation in Congress: Constituents and Roll Calls in the 106th House.](#)" *Journal of Politics* 68(2): 397-409.
- Clinton, Joshua D. 2007. "[Lawmaking and Roll Calls.](#)" *Journal of Politics* 69(2): 457-469.
- *Clinton, Joshua, Simon Jackman and Douglas Rivers. 2004. "[The Statistical Analysis of Roll Call Data.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 98 (2): 355-370.
- *Londregan, John. 1999. "Estimating Legislators' Preferred Points." *Political Analysis* 8:35-56.
- Poole, Keith. Website: <http://voteview.com>
- *Poole, Keith T. 1999. "[NOMINATE: A Short Intellectual History.](#)" *The Political Methodologist* 9:1-6.
- Snyder, James M. Jr., 1992. "[Artificial Extremism in Interest Group Ratings.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 17(3): 319-345.
- *Snyder, James M. and Timothy Groseclose. 2000. "[Estimating Party Influence in Congressional Roll-Call Voting.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, vol. 44 (pp. 193-211).
- *Stewart, Charles. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*, 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton: **Ch. 9 (esp. pp. 403-407)**.
- Weisberg, Herbert F. 1978. "[Evaluating Theories of Congressional Roll-Call Voting.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 22:3 (554-577).

Recommended Readings:

- Krehbiel, Keith. 2003. "[The Coefficient of Party Influence.](#)" *Political Analysis* 11: 95-103.
- Groseclose, Timothy and James Snyder. 2003. "[Interpreting the Coefficient of Party Influence.](#)" *Political Analysis*, 11: 104-7.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 2003. "[Asymmetry in party Influence: Reply.](#)" *Political Analysis* 11: 108-9.
- Poole, Keith T. 1998. "[Recovering a Basic Space from a Set of Issue Scales.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science* 42:954-993.
- Poole, Keith T. and Howard Rosenthal. 2007. *Ideology & Congress*. Transaction Publishers.
- Poole, Keith T. 2005. *Spatial Models of Parliamentary Voting*. NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Poole, Keith T. and Steven Daniels. 1985. "[Ideology, Party, and Voting in the U.S. Congress, 1959-1980.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 79:2 (pp. 373-399).

- Poole, Keith T. and Howard Rosenthal. 1985. "[A Spatial Model for Legislative Roll Call Analysis.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 29:1 (pp. 357-384).
- Poole, Keith T. and Howard Rosenthal. 1991. "[Patterns of Congressional Voting.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 35:1 (pp. 228-278).
- Poole, Keith T. and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Poole, Keith T. Howard Rosenthal, and Kenneth Koford. 1991. "[On Dimensionalizing Roll Call Votes in the U.S. Congress.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 85:3 (pp. 955-976).

Monday, February 24

STRATEGIES IN LEGISLATIVE VOTING

Required Readings:

- Calvert, Randall L. and Richard F. Fenno, Jr. 1994. "[Strategy and Sophisticated Voting in the Senate.](#)" *The Journal of Politics*, 56:2 (349-376).
- Denzau, Arthur, William Riker, and Kenneth Shepsle. 1985. "[Farquharson and Fenno: Sophisticated Voting and Home Style.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 79:4 (pp. 1117-1134).
- *Ferejohn, John. 1986. "[Logrolling in an Institutional Context: A Case Study of Food Stamp Legislation.](#)" in *Congress and Policy Change*, Gerald C. Wright, Jr., Leroy N. Rieselbach, and Lawrence C. Dodd, eds. New York: Agathon Press, Inc.
- *Jenkins, Jeffery A., and Michael C. Munger. 2003. "[Investigating the Incidence of Killer Amendments in Congress.](#)" *Journal of Politics*, 65(2): 498-517.
- *Kingdon, John W. 1977. "[Models of Legislative Voting.](#)" *Journal of Politics*, 39.

Recommended Readings

- Buchanan, William. 1963. *Legislative Partisanship: The Deviant Case of California*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: The University of California Press.
- Kingdon, John W. 1973. *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*. New York: Harper & Row.
- Krehbiel, Keith and Douglas Rivers. 1990. "[Sophisticated Voting in Congress: A Reconsideration.](#)" *The Journal of Politics*, 52:2 (pp. 548-578).
- Matthews, Donald R., and James A. Stimson. 1975. *Yeas and Nays: Normal Decision-Making in the U.S. House of Representatives*. New York: Wiley.
- Ordeshook, Peter C. and Thomas Palfrey. 1988. "[Agendas, Strategic Voting, and Signaling with Incomplete Information.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 32:2 (pp. 441-466).
- Stiglitz, Edward H. and Barry R. Weingast. 2010. "[Agenda Control in Congress: Evidence from Cutpoint Estimates and Ideal Point Uncertainty.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 35(2): 157-185.
- Wilkerson, John D. 1999. "[Killer' Amendments in Congress.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 93(3).

Monday, March 3

Research Paper Introduction DUE Today

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Required Readings

- *Adler, E. Scott and John S. Lapinski. 1997. "[Demand-Side Theory and Congressional Committee Composition.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 41.
- Gilligan, Thomas W. and Keith Krehbiel. 1990. "[Organization of Informative Committees by a Rational Legislature.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 34(2): 531-564.
- Hall, Richard L. 1987. "[Participation and Purpose in Committee Decision Making.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 81:1 (pp. 105-128).
- Jones, Bryan D., Frank R. Baumgartner and Jeffery C. Talbert. 1993. "[The Destruction of Issue Monopolies in Congress.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 87:3.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1990. "[Are Committees Composed of Preference Outliers?](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 84:1.
- *Pearson, Kathryn, and Eric Schickler. 2009. "[Discharge Petitions, Agenda Control, and the Congressional Committee System, 1929-76.](#)" *The Journal of Politics*, 71(4): 1238-1256.
- *Richman, Jesse. 2008. "[Uncertainty and the Prevalence of Committee Outliers.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 33(2): 323-47.
- Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Barry R. Weingast. 1987. "[The Institutional Foundations of Committee Power.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 81:1 (pp. 85-104).
- *Stewart, Charles. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*, 2nd ed.. New York: W.W. Norton: **Ch. 8.**

Recommended Readings:

- Fenno, Richard. *Congressmen and Committees*. Boston: Little, Brown.
- Fiorina, Morris and Charles R. Plott. 1978. "[Committee Decisions Under Majority Rule: An Experimental Study.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 72.
- Gilligan, Thomas W. and Keith Krehbiel. 1989. "[Asymmetric Information and Legislative Rules with a Heterogeneous Committee.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 33:2 (pp. 459-490).
- Groseclose, Tim and Charles Stewart III. 1998. "[The Value of Committee Seats in the House, 1947-91.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 42(2): 453-474.
- Hall, Richard L. and Bernard Grofman. 1990. "[The Committee Assignment Process and the Conditional Nature of Committee Bias.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 84:4.
- King, David C. 1997. *Turf Wars: How Congressional Committees Claim Jurisdiction*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Krehbiel, Keith and Douglas Rivers. 1988. "[The Analysis of Committee Power: An Application to Senate Voting on the Minimum Wage.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 32:4 (pp. 1151-1174).
- McKelvey, Richard D. and Peter C. Ordeshook. 1984. "[An Experimental Study of the Effects of Procedural Rules on Committee Behavior.](#)" *Journal of Politics*. Vol. 46.
- Miller, Gary J. and Joe A. Oppenheimer. 1982. "[Universalism in Experimental Committees.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 76:3 (pp. 561-574).
- Smith, Steven S. and Christopher Deering. 1984. *Committees in Congress*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Monday March 10 Spring Break

Monday, March 17

PARTIES IN CONGRESS: PART I

Required Readings:

- Cox, Gary and Mathew D. McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP. (esp. Chs. 1-5)
- Dodd, Lawrence C. and Bruce I. Oppenheimer. 2013. *Congress Reconsidered*, 10th ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. Chs. 7, 8
- Gailmard, Sean, and Jefery A. Jenkins. 2007. "[Negative Agenda Control in the Senate and House: fingerprints of Majority Party Power.](#)" *Journal of Politics* 69(3): 689-699.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. "[Where's the Party?](#)" *British Journal of Political Science*, 23, 235-266.
- Stein, Robert M. and Kenneth N. Bickers. 1996. "[The Electoral Dynamics of the Federal Pork Barrel.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 40:4 (pp. 1300-1326).
- Stewart, Charles. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*, 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton: Ch. 7.
- Snyder, James M., Jr. and Timothy Groseclose. 2000. "[Estimating Party Influence in Congressional Roll Call Voting.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 44: 193-211.

Recommended Readings:

- Ansolabehere, Stephen, James M. Snyder, and Charles Stewart III. 2001. "[The Effects of Party and Preferences on Congressional Roll Call Voting.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 26:533-72.
- Binder, Sarah, Eric D. Lawrence, and Forrest Maltzman. 1999. "[Uncovering the Hidden Effect of Party.](#)" *Journal of Politics*, 61: 815-831.
- Covington, Cary R. and Andrew A. Bargen. 2004. "[Comparing Floor-Dominated and Party-Dominated Explanations of Policy Change in the House of Representatives.](#)" *Journal of Politics* 66(4): 1069-1088.
- Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1997. "[Toward a theory of Legislative Rules Change: Assessing Schickler and Rich's Evidence.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 41: 1376-1386.
- Cox, Gary and Keith T. Poole. 2002. "[On Measuring Partisanship in Roll Call Voting: The U.S. House of Representatives, 1877-1999.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 46(3): 477-489.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1995. "[Cosponsors and Wafflers from A to Z.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 41: 958-964.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 2000. "[Party Discipline and Measure of Partisanship.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*," 44.
- Lawrence Eric D., Forrest Maltzman and Steven S. Smith. 2006. "[Who Wins? Party Effects in Legislative Voting.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 31(1): 33.
- McCarty, Nolan, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 2001. "[The Hunt for Party Discipline in Congress.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 95.
- Schickler, Eric and Andrew Rich. 1997. "[Controlling the Floor: Parties as Procedural Coalitions in the House.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 41: 1340-1375.

PARTIES IN CONGRESS: PART II

Monday, March 24

Required Readings:

- Cox, Gary and Mathew D. McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP. (esp. Chs. 6-11)
- Finocchiaro, Charles J. and David W. Rohde. 2008. "[War for the Floor: Partisan Theory and Agenda Control in the U.S. House of Representatives.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 33(1): 35-61.
- Jenkins, Jeffrey A., Michael H. Crespin, and Jamie L. Carson. 2005. "[Parties as Procedural Coalitions in Congress: An Examination of Differing Career Tracks.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 30(3): 365.
- Smith, Steven S., Ian Ostrander, and Christopher M. Pope. 2013. "[Majority Party Power and Procedural Motions in the U.S. Senate.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 38(2): 205-236.
- Clark, Jennifer Hayes. 2012. "[Examining Parties as Procedural Cartels: Evidence from the U.S. States.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 37(4): 491-507.

Recommended Readings:

- Aldrich, John. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*. University of Chicago Press.
- Bianco, William T. and Itai Sened. 2005. "[Uncovering Evidence of Conditional Party Government: Reassessing Majority Party Influence in Congress and State Legislatures.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 99(3): 361.
- Brady, David W. 1985. "[A Reevaluation of Realignment in American Politics: Evidence From the House of Representatives.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 79.
- Cooper, Joseph and David Brady. 1981. "[Institutional Context and Leadership Style: The House from Cannon to Rayburn.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 75.
- Cox, Gary and Mathew McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan: Party Government in the House*. University of California Press.
- Evans, C. Lawrence. 1991. *Leadership in Committee: A Comparative Analysis of Leadership Behavior in the United States Senate*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Froman, Lewis, and Randall B. Ripley. 1965. "[Conditions for Party Leadership: The Case of the House Democrats.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 59(1): 52-63.
- Jones, Charles O. 1968. "[Joseph G. Cannon and Howard W. Smith: An Essay on the Limits of Leadership in the House of Representatives.](#)" *Journal of Politics*, 30.
- Nelson, Garrison. 1977. "[Partisan Patterns of House Leadership Change, 1789-1977.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 71.
- Rhode, David. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House*. University of Chicago Press.
- Sinclair, Barbara. 1999. "[Transformational Leader or Faithful Agent? Principal-Agent Theory and House Majority Party Leadership.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 24.
- Smith, Steven. 2007. *Party Influence in Congress*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Smith, Steven S. 2000. "[Positive Theories of Congressional Parties.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 25.

PART II: ELECTIONS AND CANDIDATES

Monday, March 31

CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

Required Readings:

- *Abramowitz, Alan I., Brad Alexander, and Matthew Gunning. 2006. "[Incumbency, Redistricting, and the Decline of Competition in U.S. House Elections.](#)" *Journal of Politics* 68(1) 75-88.
- Ansolabehere, Stephen, James M. Snyder, Jr. and Charles Stewart III. 2001. "[Candidate positioning in U.S. House elections.](#)," *American Journal of Political Science*, 45: 136-59.
- *Carson, Jamie L., Erik J. Engstrom, Jason M. Roberts. 2007. "[Candidate Quality, the Personal Vote, and the Incumbency Advantage in Congress.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 101(2): 289.
- *Dodd, Lawrence C. and Bruce I. Oppenheimer. 2013. *Congress Reconsidered*, 10th ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. **Chs. 4, 5, 6**
- Fiorina, Morris P. 1981. *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*. New Haven: Yale UP: **Chs. 1 & 10.**
- *Friedman, John N., and Richard T. Holden. 2009. "[The Rising Incumbent Reelection Rate: What's Gerrymandering Got to Do With It?](#)" *The Journal of Politics*, 71(2): 593-611.
- *Jacobson, Gary C. 2012. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, 8th ed. Pearson.
- Stewart, Charles. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*, 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton: **Ch. 4.**

Recommended Readings:

- Cox, Gary and Jonathan Katz. 1996. "[Why Did the Incumbency Advantage in U.S. House Elections Grow?](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 40.
- Erikson, Robert. 1972. "[Malapportionment, Gerrymandering, and party Fortunes in Congressional Elections.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, vol. 66.
- Erikson, Robert and Thomas Palfrey. 1998. "[Campaign Spending and Incumbency.](#)" *Journal of Politics*, vol. 60.
- Erikson, Robert and Thomas Palfrey. 2000. "[Equilibria in Campaign Spending Games: Theory and Data.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, vol. 94.
- Ferejohn, John A. 1977. "[On the Decline of Competition in Congressional Elections.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 71:1 (pp. 166-176).
- Fiorina, Morris. 1989. *Congress: Keystone to the Washington Establishment*. 2nd ed. New Have: Yale University Press.
- Gerber, Alan. 1998. "[Estimating the Effect of Campaign Spending on Senate Election Outcomes Using Instrumental Variables.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 92:2.
- Jacobson, Gary C. 1990. "[The Effects of Campaign Spending in House Elections: New Evidence for Old Arguments.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 34:2.
- Jacobson, Gary C. 1989. "[Strategic Politicians and the Dynamics of U.S. House Elections, 1946-1986.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 83:3.
- Jacobson, Gary C. 1987. "[The Marginals Never Vanished: Incumbency and Competition in Elections to the U.S. House of Representatives, 1952-1982.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 31:1.

- Jacobson, Gary C. 1978. "[The Effects of Campaign Spending in Congressional Elections.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 72:2.
- Mayhew, David. 1974. "[Congressional Elections: The Case of the Vanishing Marginals.](#)" *Polity*, vol. 6.

Monday, April 7

ELECTORAL MOTIVATIONS AND CONGRESSIONAL DECISION MAKING

Required Readings

- Adler, E. Scott and John D. Wilkerson. 2013. *Congress and the Politics of Problem Solving*. Cambridge UP.
- Ansolabehere, Stephen and Philip Edwards Jones. 2010. "[Constituents' Responses to Congressional Roll-Call Voting.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(3): 583-597.
- Lewis, Daniel C. 2012. "[Legislative Term Limits and Fiscal Policy Performance.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 37(2): 305-328.
- Martin, Paul S. and Michele P. Claibourn. 2013. "[Citizen Participation and Congressional Responsiveness: New Evidence that Participation Matters.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 38(1): 59-81.
- Mayhew, David. 2004. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*, 2nd ed. Yale UP.

Recommended Readings:

- Adler, E. Scott. 2002. *Why Congressional Reforms Fail: Reelection and the House Committee System*. University of Chicago Press.
- Arnold, R. Douglas. 1990. *The Logic of Congressional Action*. New Haven: Yale U.P.
- Clausen, Aage. 1973. *How Congressmen Decide*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Katz, Jonathan N. and Brian R. Sala. 1996. "[Careerism, Committee Assignments, and the Electoral Connection.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 90:1.
- Kingdon, John W. 1989. *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*, 3rd ed. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Lupia, Arthur and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1994. "[Who Controls? Information and the Structure of Legislative Decision Making.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, XIX:3.

Monday, April 14 **Research paper literature review and research design DUE today**

POLARIZATION IN CONGRESS

Required Readings:

- *Carson, Jamie L., Gregory Koger, Matthew J. Lebo, and Everett Young. 2010. "[The Electoral Costs of Party Loyalty in Congress.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(3): 598-616.
- Jones, David R. 2010. "[Partisan Polarization and Congressional Accountability in House Elections.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(2): 323-337.
- Lazarus, Jeffrey. 2010. "[Giving the People What They Want? The Distribution of Earmarks in the U.S. House of Representatives.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(2): 338-353.

- *Lebo, Matthew J., Adam J. McGlynn, and Gregory Koger. 2007. "[Strategic Party Government: Party Influence in Congress, 1789-2000.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 51(3): 464-481.
- *Lee, Frances. 2009. *Beyond Ideology: Politics, Principles, and Partisanship in the U. S. Senate*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. **Ch. 1**
- Miller, Gary and Norman Schofield. 2003. "[Activists and Partisan Realignment in the United States.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 92(2): 245.
- Patty, John W. 2008. "[Equilibrium Party Government.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 52(3): 636-655.

Recommended Readings:

- Bartels, Larry M. 2008. *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*. Princeton UP.
- Gelman, Andrew. 2010. *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why American Vote the Way They Do*. Princeton UP.
- McCarty, Nolan, Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 2006. *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches*. Boston, MA: MIT Press.
- Theriault, Sean. 2008. *Party Polarization in Congress*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

PART III: REPRESENTATION AND CONSTITUENTS

Monday, April 21

REPRESENTATION ISSUES: RACE, GENDER, AND...

Required Readings:

- Anzia, Sarah F. and Christopher R. Berry. 2011. "[The Jackie \(and Jill\) Robinson Effect: Why Do Congresswomen Outperform Congressmen?](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 55(3): 478-493.
- Barreto, Matt A., Gary M. Segura, and Nathan D. Woods. 2004. "[The Mobilizing Effect of Majority-Minority Districts on Latino Turnout.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 98(1): 65-75.
- Cameron, Charles, David Epstein, and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1996. "[Do Majority-Minority Districts Maximize Substance Black Representation in Congress?](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 90: 794-812.
- Carnes, Nicholas. 2012. "[Does the Numerical Underrepresentation of the Working Class in Congress Matter?](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 37(1): 5-34.
- Carson, Jamie L. Michael H. Crespin, Carrie P. Eaves, and Emily Wanless. 2011. "[Constituency Congruency and Candidate Competition in U.S. House Elections.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 36(3): 461-482.
- Fenno, Richard F, Jr. 1977. "[U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 71:3 (pp. 883-917).
- Griffin, John D. and Brian Newman. 2013. "[Voting Power, Policy Representation, and Disparities in Voting's Rewards.](#)" *The Journal of Politics*, 75(1): 52-64.
- Griffin, John D. and Brian Newman. 2005. "[Are Voters Better Represented?](#)" *Journal of Politics* 67(4): 1206-1227.

- Griffin, John D., Brian Newman, and Christina Wolbrecht. 2012. "[A Gender Gap in Policy Representation in the U.S. Congress?](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 37(1): 35-66.
- Hayes, Danny and Seth C. McKee. 2012. "[The Intersection of Redistricting, Race, and Participation.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 56(1): 115-130.
- Hill, Kim Quaile and Patricia A. Hurley. 1999. "[Dyadic Representation Reappraised.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, vol. 45 (pp. 109-137).
- Hutchings, Vincent L. Harwood K. McClerking and Guy-Uriel Charles. 2004. "[Congressional Representation of Black Interests: Recognizing the Importance of Stability.](#)" *Journal of Politics* 66(2): 450-468.
- Lublin, David. 1999. "[Racial Redistricting and African-American Representation: A Critique of 'Do Majority-Minority Districts Maximize Substance Black Representation in Congress?'](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 93:1.
- Miller, Warren E. and Donald E. Stokes. 1963. "[Constituency Influence in Congress.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, vol. 57.

Recommended Readings:

- Cannon, David. 1999. *Race and Representation in Congress*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Carson, Jamie L. 2005. "[Strategy, Selection and Candidate Competition in U.S. House and Senate Elections.](#)" *Journal of Politics* 67(1): 1-28.
- Cox, Gary and Jonathan Katz. 2002. *Elbridge Gerry's Salamander*. Cambridge UP.
- Durr, Robert H, John B Gilmour, and Christina Wolbrecht. 1997. "[Explaining Congressional Approval.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 41:1 (pp. 175-207).
- Erikson, Robert S. 1978. "[Constituency Opinion and Congressional Behavior: A Reexamination of the Miller-Stokes Representation Data.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 22:3 (pp. 511-535).
- Erikson, Robert S., Michael B. Mackuen, and James A. Stimson. 1998. "[What Moves Macropartisanship? A Response to Green, Palmquist, and Schickler.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 92:4.
- Fenno, Richard. 1978. *Homestyle*. New York: Little Brown.
- Fowler, James. 2005. "[Dynamic Responsiveness in the U.S. Senate.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science* 49(2): 29-312.
- Hibbing, John R. and Elizabeth Theiss-Morse. 1995. *Congress as Public Enemy: Public Attitudes Toward American Political Institutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Kanthak, Kristin and George A. Krause. 2010. "[Valuing Diversity in Political Organizations: Gender and Token Minorities in the U.S. House of Representatives.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(4): 839-854.
- Leighley Jan. E. and Jonathan Nagler. 2014. *Who Votes Now? Demographics, Issues, Inequality and Turnout in the United States*. Princeton UP.
- Shotts, Kenneth W. 2003. "[Does Racial Redistricting Cause Conservative Policy Outcomes? Policy Preferences of Southern Representatives in the 1980s and 1990s](#) (in Research Notes)" *Journal of Politics*, 65(1): 216-226.
- Stimson, James A. Michael B. Mackuen, Robert S. Erikson. 1995. "[Dynamic Representation.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*. Vol. 89 (pp. 543-565).
- Weissberg, Robert. 1978. "[Collective vs. Dyadic Representation in Congress.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 72:2 (pp. 535-547).

Monday, April 28

LOBBYING AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Required Readings:

- Ainsworth, Scott. 1993. "[Regulating Lobbyists and Interest Group Influence.](#)" *The Journal of Politics*, 55:1 (pp. 41-56).
- Austen-Smith, David and John Wright. 1994. "[Counteractive Lobbying.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, (pp. 25-44).
- *Box-Steffensmeier, Janet, Peter M. Radcliffe, and Brandon L. Bartels. 2005. "[The Incidence and Timing of PAC Contributions to Incumbent U.S. House Members, 1993-94.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 30(4): 549.
- *Esterling, Kevin. 2007. "[Buying Expertise: Campaign Contributions and Attention to Policy Analysis in Congressional Committees.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 101(1): 93.
- *Hall, Richard L. and Alan V. Deardorff. 2006. "[Lobbying as Legislative Subsidy.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 100(1): 69-84.
- *Hall, Richard L. and Frank L. Wayman. 1990. "[Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 84: 797-820.
- Hojnacki, Marie and David C. Kimball. 1998. "[The Who and How of Organizations' Lobbying Strategies in Committee.](#)" *Journal of Politics*, 61: 999-1024.
- *Hojnacki, Marie and David C. Kimball. 1998. "[Organized Interests and the Decision of Whom to Lobby in Congress.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, vol. 92 (pp. 775-790).
- *Wright, John R. 1990. "[Contributions, Lobbying, and Committee Voting in the U.S House of Representatives.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 84:2 (pp. 417-438).

Recommended Readings:

- Ainsworth, Scott H. 1997. "[The Role of Legislators in the Determination of Interest Group Influence.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, vol. 22 (pp. 517-534).
- Ainsworth, Scott and Itai Sened. 1993. "[The Role of Lobbyists: Entrepreneurs with Two Audiences.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 37:3 (pp. 834-866).
- Austen-Smith, David. 1993. "[Information and Influence: Lobbying for Agendas and Votes.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 37:3 (pp. 799-833).
- Denzau, Arthur T. and Michael C. Munger. 1986. "[Legislators and Interest Groups: How Unorganized Interests get Represented.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 80:1 (pp. 89-106).
- Evans, Diana. 1996. "[Before the Roll Call: Interest Group Lobbying and Public Policy Outcomes in House Committees.](#)" *Political Research Quarterly*, (pp. 287-304).
- Wright, John R. 1985. "[PACS, Contributions, and Roll Calls: An Organizational Perspective.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 79: 400-414.
- Wright, John. 1996. *Interest Groups & Congress: Lobbying, Contributions, and Influence.* Allyn and Bacon.

Monday, May 5

SOCIAL NETWORKS IN CONGRESS

- *Bawn, Kathleen, Martin Cohen, David Karol, Seth Masket, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2012. "[A Theory of Political Parties: Groups, Policy Demands and Nominations in American Politics.](#)" *Perspectives on Politics*, 10(3): 571-597.
- *Bratton, Kathleen A. and Stella M. Rouse. 2011. "[Networks in the Legislative Arena: How Group Dynamics Affect Cosponsorship.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 36(3): 423-460.
- *Carpenter, Daniel P., Kevin M. Esterling and David M. Lazer. 2004. "[Friends, Brokers, and Transitivity: Who Informs Whom in Washington Politics?](#)" *Journal of Politics*, 66: 224-246.
- Cranmer, Skyler and Bruce A. Desmarais. 2011. "[Inferential Network Analysis with Exponential Random Graph Models.](#)" *Political Analysis*, 19: 66-86.
- *Fowler, James H. 2006. "[Connecting the Congress: A Study of Cosponsorship Networks.](#)" *Political Analysis*, 14: 456-87.
- Koger, Gregory, Seth E. Masket, and Hans Noel. 2009. "[Partisan Webs: Information Exchange and Party Networks.](#)" *British Journal of Political Science*, 39: 633-653.
- Koger, Gregory. 2003. "[Position Taking and Cosponsorship in the U.S. House.](#)" *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 28(2): 225-246.
- Masket, Seth E. 2008. "[Where You Sit is Where You Stand: The Impact of Seating Proximity of Legislative Cue-Taking.](#)" *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 3: 301-311.
- *Ringe, Nils, Jennifer Nicoll Victor and Justin H. Gross. 2013. "[Keeping Your Friends Close and Your Enemies Closer? Information Networks in Legislative Politics.](#)" *British Journal of Political Science*, 43(3): 601-628.
- Victor, Jennifer Nicoll and Nils Ringe. 2009. "[The Social Utility of Informal Institutions: Caucuses as Networks in the 110th U.S. House of Representatives.](#)" *American Politics Research*, 37(5): 742-766.

Recommended Readings:

- Berardo, Ramiro and John T. Scholz. 2010. "[Self-Organizing Policy Networks: Risk, Partner Selection, and cooperation in Estuaries.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(3): 632-649.
- Christakis, Micholas A and James H. Fowler. 2009. *Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives*. New York: Little Brown.
- Porter, Mason A., Mucha, Peter J., Newman, M.E.J., Warmbrand, Casey M. 2005. "A Network Analysis of Committees in the U.S. House of Representatives." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 102:7057-7062.
- Ringe, Nils and Jennifer Nicoll Victor. 2013. *Bridging the Information Gap: Legislative Member Organizations as Social Networks in the United States and the European Union*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Rolfe, Meredith. 2012. *Voter Turnout: A Social Theory of Political Participation*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Sinclair, Betsy. 2012. *The Social Citizen: Peer Networks and Political Behavior*. Chicago: Chicago UP.

Wasserman, Stanley and Katherine Faust. 1994. *Social Network Analysis*. Cambridge University Press: New York, NY.

Van der Silk, Jack R. and Samuel J. Pernaciaro. 1979. "[Office Ambitions and Voting Behavior in the U.S. Senate: A Longitudinal Study](#)." *American Politics Quarterly* 7(2): 198-224.

Monday, May 12 In-class presentations of research projects. **Final paper DUE today.**

VII. The 20 most important books about Congress

- Aldrich, John. 2011. (1995). *Why Parties?* University of Chicago Press.
- Arnold, R. Douglas. 1990. *The Logic of Congressional Action*. New Haven: Yale U.P.
- Binder, Sarah. 1997. *Minority Rights, Majority Rule: Partisanship and the development of Congress*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Cannon, David. *Race and Representation in Congress*.
- Clausen, Aage. 1973. *How Congressmen Decide*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Cox, Gary and Jonathan Katz. 2002. *Eldridge Gerry's Salamander*. Cambridge UP.
- Cox, Gary W. and Mathew McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan: Party Government in the House*. University of California Press.
- Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *The Economic Theory of Democracy*.
- Fenno, Richard. 1973. *Congressmen and Committees*. Boston: Little, Brown.
- Fenno, Richard. 1978. *Homestyle*. Little Brown.
- Fiorina, Morris. 1989. *Congress: Keystone to the Washington Establishment*. 2nd ed. New Have: Yale University Press.
- Jacobson, Gary. 2012. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*. Longman Press.
- Kiewiet, D. Roderick and Mathew McCubbins. 1991. *The Logic of Delegation*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. University of Michigan Press.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Mayhew, David. 2004. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*, 2nd ed. Yale UP.
- Poole, Keith T. and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. Oxford: Oxford UP.
- Rhode, David. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House*. University of Chicago Press.
- Sinclair, Barbara. 2007. *Unorthodox Lawmaking: New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress*, 3rd ed. C.Q. Press.

VIII. Important Online Resources

CONGRESS

U.S. House

<http://www.house.gov>

U.S. Senate	http://www.senate.gov
Library of Congress	http://www.loc.gov
THOMAS- Legislative Information	http://beta.congress.gov/
Federal Election Commission	http://www.fec.gov
Federal Digital System (congressional hearings, Federal Register, Congressional Record, etc.)	http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/
CRS Reports	http://opencrs.com/
Congressional Budget Office	http://www.cbo.gov/
Congressional ProQuest (formerly Lexis-Nexis)	http://congressional.proquest.com/profiles/gis/search/basic/basicsearch
Congressional Biographical Directory	http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp
Legistorm	http://www.legistorm.com/index/about.html
Lobbying Disclosure	http://sopr.senate.gov/
MoneyLine	http://moneyline.cq.com/pml/home.do
Center for Responsive Politics	http://www.opensecrets.org/
The Redistricting Game	http://www.redistrictinggame.com/index.php

REFERENCE/RESEARCH

APSA Citation Guide	http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPSA.html
Vote View (Poole & Rosenthal scores)	http://www.voteview.com
Congressional Bills Project	http://www.congressionalbills.org/

NEWS

CQ Weekly Report	http://library.cqpress.com/cqweekly/index.php
National Journal	http://nationaljournal.com/pubs/congressdaily/
Roll Call	http://www.rollcall.com/
Washington Post	http://www.washingtonpost.com/
The Hill	http://www.thehill.com/
New York Times	http://www.nytimes.com
Politico	http://www.politico.com/
C-SPAN	http://www.c-span.org/
NPR	http://www.npr.org/