

About the Instructor

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Office Hours (online only): Monday and Wednesday, 1500-1600, Central Time, and by appointment.

Bio

Kenneth W. Moffett is Professor of Political Science and serves as the Department's Chair at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He received his B.A. in political science (with a minor in economics) from California State University, Fresno in 2000. He received his M.A. in 2001, and his Ph.D. in 2006 from The University of Iowa in political science. As a social scientist, he analyzes data to perform research in American politics and policy.

Dr. Moffett coauthored a book entitled *Web 2.0 and the Political Mobilization of College Students* in 2016. He has published academic articles in *American Politics Research*, *Climatic Change, Environment and Behavior*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Party Politics*, *Social Science Computer Review*, and others. He has written essays that have appeared in places like *The Washington Post's* Monkey Cage Blog, *The Hill*, *The Huffington Post*, *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and the *Edwardsville Intelligencer*. Dr. Moffett has provided analysis and commentary for numerous broadcast and print media outlets including the *National Journal*, National Public Radio, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, KSDK, KMOV, KMOX, and KTVI.

Communicating with the instructor

How to Access Office Hours: Performed via Zoom Videoconferencing Software. Must be logged into Zoom to access scheduled office hours. Office hours by appointment will be handed on a case by case basis, using a separate Zoom meeting. Accessibility information is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://siue.zoom.us/j/9908157064>

Meeting ID: 990 815 7064

It is recommended you test your connection to Zoom, including your microphone and camera settings (if applicable), at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Copy and paste this URL into your browser to test your system:

<https://zoom.us/test>

On the day of the meeting, join 10-15 minutes before the scheduled start time to ensure proper connection and setup.

Other ways to join:

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,9908157064# US (New York)

+16699006833,,9908157064# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 990 815 7064

Find your local number: <https://siue.zoom.us/j/9908157064>

Join by Skype for Business

<https://siue.zoom.us/j/9908157064>

Meeting ID is 990-815-7064.

E-Mail Hours: I respond to student e-mails within 24 hours of the time and date that they were sent. If you do not receive a reply within this time frame, please follow-up with me.

Course Discussion Boards: Students are also encouraged to use the discussion boards on the course website to ask questions about varying modules in the course. If one student has questions about the course, others likely have that same question. I check the course discussion boards daily and respond to student inquiries through that forum.

About the Course

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to explain why Congress operates in the manner that it does. Doing so requires that we examine four facets: the evolution of Congress, elections, institutional structure of Congress, and the interaction between Congress and the other branches of government. We will learn how Congress was created and how has changed throughout American history. In addition, we will learn how Congressional elections operate, why they operate in the manner that we observe today, and the implications of these events. In the final portion of the course, we will learn how Congress operates as an institution, both on its own terms and in concert with other political institutions.

Course goals and objectives

- 1) Explain how Congress was created, and how it has changed over time;
- 2) Analyze the dynamics of Congressional elections;
- 3) Describe the ways in which both houses of Congress operate as an institution;
- 4) Analyze the relationship between Congress and the other branches of government; and
- 5) Communicate research findings in writing to broader audiences

Course textbooks

Jacobson, Gary C. and Jamie L. Carson 2019. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*. 10th Edition. Landham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Smith, Steven S.; Jason M. Roberts and Ryan Vander Wielen 2019. *The American Congress*. 10th Edition. Landham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Undergraduate students can rent both textbooks from SIUE. Please visit the [Textbook Service website](#) for more information. For off-campus classes, the textbook may be shipped to you. Look for the option “Off-Campus Classes have special instructions, click here for these.” Note: shipping time may take up to two weeks.

Other course materials

There are several academic articles that you will be required to read. All of these articles will be accessible through the course website.

Course requirements

Your grade is based on a combination of assignments, a term paper, and weekly discussion posts and responses. Your grade breaks down as follows:

Two Assignments (50 Points, First Assignment; 150 Points, Final Assignment)	200 Points
Weekly Discussion Posts and Responses (10 Points per Week)	140 Points
<u>Term Paper</u>	<u>160 Points</u>
Total	500 Points

You are expected to do all of the assigned readings and assignments and be ready to actively contribute to course discussions. It is vital that you keep up in this class because much of the material builds upon that which you have previously learned. It is impossible to do your assignments and readings at the last minute and expect to do well in this class. A good grade in this course is unattainable if you do not regularly keep up with the course, fail to complete one or more homework assignments, or regularly submit these assignments late.

Term Paper

Your term paper will be 10-12 pages on a topic to be announced. I will provide more information about this paper in a separate handout.

Two Assignments

The first written assignment will be approximately 4-6 pages on topics to be announced. The second written assignment will be approximately 12-15 pages on topics to be announced. I will provide more information about these assignments in separate handouts.

Weekly Discussion Posts and Responses

You will be expected to provide meaningful responses to the readings and to your other classmates during each week of this course. I will provide more information about these weekly discussion posts and responses in a separate handout.

Submitting work

The term paper and two written assignments will be submitted through Blackboard, using the Turnitin plagiarism detection software. A Turnitin link will be available anywhere written work is to be submitted in the course. [Find out more about using Turnitin.](#)

Online class behavior

- **Reflect** before you post an emotional response and reread what you have written to be sure it is professional. Communicate as if your comments are printed in a newspaper.
- **Communicate** effectively.
 - Do not use all caps or multiple punctuation marks (!!!, ???, etc.).
 - Be sure to define or explain acronyms, jargon or uncommon terms so everyone can understand and participate in the discussion.
- **Sign your name.** Take responsibility for your comments in order to build a strong classroom community.
- **Foster community.** Share your ideas and contribute to ongoing discussions. Make comments that add to, not detract from, a positive learning environment for the course.
- **Be constructive.** Challenge ideas and the course content, but do so in positive ways. It's fine to disagree, but when done politely you stimulate and encourage helpful discussion, and you maintain positive relationships with fellow students.
- **Keep the conversation on topic.** Online dialogue is like conversation. If there is a particular dialogue going on, please add to it, but if you have something new to say, start a new thread.

Technology requirements

At a minimum, you will need the following software/hardware to participate in this course:

- Computer with an updated operating system (e.g. [Windows](#), [Mac](#), [Linux](#))
- Latest Version of Zoom (available at <https://www.siu.edu/its/zoom/>).
- Updated Internet browsers ([Apple Safari](#), [Google Chrome](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#)). See [Blackboard's Browser Checker page](#) to see if your browser and operating system are compatible with Blackboard.
- DSL or Cable Internet connection or a connection speed no less than 6 Mbps.
- Media player such as, QuickTime or Windows Media Player.
- [Adobe Reader or alternative PDF reader](#) (free)
- [Java plugin](#) (free)
- Any other specialized software or basic software (e.g., Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop). SIUE students can [download MS Office](#) at no charge.

Technology capabilities

Students in an online course should be able to:

- Use a word processor, such as MS Word, to compose assignments and communicate with others in class
- Attach files to emails or course areas
- Navigate websites and course materials
- Reach out to tech support staff when issues arise and troubleshoot to resolve problems

Course and University policies

Academic and Other Student Services

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

- [Lovejoy Library Resources](#)
- [Academic Success Sessions](#)
- [Tutoring Resource Center](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)

- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Campus Events](#)
- [Counseling Services](#)

If you find that you need additional support, please reach out to me as I am happy to help.

Academic Misconduct

Students are responsible for knowing when and learning how to cite material using the *Style Manual for Political Science* (APSA Style) for all assignments. A student is expected to appropriately cite whenever s/he uses content or ideas that come from a source other than oneself. This expectation includes anything that comes from class notes, PowerPoint slides, or the course website, as these materials are the instructor's intellectual property. For more information, please refer to the Plagiarism Frequently Asked Questions handout.

The APSA style is the only accepted method of citing material in this course. Failure to abide by course or university policies with respect to academic integrity may constitute cheating and/or plagiarism.

I have zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism and will deal with every instance to the maximum extent allowed by university policies and procedures. Normally, this means that someone who cheats and/or plagiarizes will fail the course and be reported to the Provost for additional disciplinary action.

This policy applies regardless of course modality or location. University policies about academic misconduct are available at <https://www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml> and <https://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

Draft Copies of Student Work

I am willing to read a single, *complete* draft of each student's assignment or redo prior to submission for a grade provided that it is submitted three days prior to the relevant due date. Multiple draft copies of the same assignment or redo from a student will not be read. Draft copies must be e-mailed to me.

E-Mail Expectations

Students are expected to regularly check their SIUE e-mail accounts, as important information about the course is disseminated in this fashion.

E-Mail Limitations

I do not answer questions via e-mail about expected grades in this course. Federal privacy laws and university policies do not allow me to e-mail any information about your grade in the class to you.

Grade Grievances

During the semester, you may disagree with a grade that you have received on an assessment (e.g., an assignment or exam). You have the opportunity to discuss and possibly contest this grade. You must follow the following procedure, should you decide to dispute a grade:

- 1) Within five calendar days after an assessment is returned, you must provide a *written* explanation of why you believe your grade is incorrect. This complaint must cite relevant sources from the course materials, readings, the syllabus, or University policy that support your complaint. You must also provide a copy of the originally graded assignment along with your written complaint.
- 2) I will review your complaint, regrade your *entire* assignment (and not just the portion in dispute), and will deliver my written response to you within five calendar days after receiving your grievance. Please note that any new grade will not be lower than your original grade.

Grading complaints will be evaluated based on preponderance of the evidence. Failure to follow this procedure will result in your complaint being denied. Further, grade grievances on the final course assessment (e.g., assignment or exam) are solely governed by University policy rather than this provision of the syllabus.

Grading Policy

I will use the following cutoffs to determine letter grades for the course: 450 points and above, "A;" 400-449 Points, "B;" 350-399 points, "C;" 300-349 points, "D;" below 300 points, "F." All students who have completed thirteen weeks of the course and do not satisfy the requirements for the grades of "NS," "WR," "I," or "UW," will receive one of the aforementioned letter grades for their performance in the class.

"NS" or "no show" grades will only be assigned if a student: 1) was never in class during the semester; or 2) logged into class on the first week, but at no point thereafter.

"WR" (or "withdrawal by registrar") grades will only be assigned if all of the following criteria are satisfied: 1) a student ceases participation in the course at some point during the semester; 2) the student, his or her designee, or the Dean of Students (or his/her designee) notifies me *prior* to the end of the semester of mitigating circumstances that are beyond the student's direct control; and 3) these circumstances exist such that a grade of "I" (or "Incomplete") is not an appropriate option. I reserve the right to require appropriate documentation of mitigating circumstances prior to issuing a grade of "WR." Students who do not produce this documentation, when requested, will receive a grade of "UW." I reserve full discretion to determine whether the mitigating circumstances are sufficient to warrant the WR grade.

A grade of "I" (or "Incomplete") will only be assigned if a student has completed, "...most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the course requirements" (SIUE Grading Policy 2012, available at <http://www.siu.edu/registrar/class/grading.shtml>). Before the grade of incomplete is assigned, I require all of the following: 1) the student has completed at least 50% of the course requirements; 2) appropriate written documentation of the circumstances surrounding a request for a grade of "I;" 3) s/he meets with me to determine the timeframe in which the remaining requirements will be satisfied; and 4) s/he signs a written agreement agreeing to this timeframe. Copies of this agreement will be forwarded to the Registrar and to the Chair of the Department of Political Science. Students who do not meet all of these requirements will not be eligible for this grade.

A grade of "UW" (or "unauthorized withdrawal") will be assigned if both conditions are satisfied: 1) the student has attended more than one day of the course, but stopped participating prior to the end of the thirteenth week of the semester; and 2) s/he did not withdraw from the course prior to the end of the thirteenth week of the semester.

Feedback and Grading Timeline

Students will receive grades on their assignments no more than one week after they are due. You can find your grade by clicking the My Grades link on the left menu of the Blackboard course.

Late Assignments and Papers

There are two written assignments and one term paper throughout the semester that are worth a total of 400 points. These assignments will require you to answer questions that require you to summarize the academic literature on a particular topic or analyze a congressional race.

Each assignment is due on the assigned date and time as indicated both in this document and in the relevant Turnitin module on Blackboard. All late assignment submissions will incur a substantial penalty. The number of lost points is calculated as follows: 10 points for one calendar day late; 20 points for the second calendar day late, 30 points for the third calendar day late, and so on. Using this formula, you will lose 60 points for an assignment that you submit three days late. You will continue to lose points until you have no points remaining for that assignment. Students are exempt from the aforementioned policy if submitting the assignment late was due to university-authorized reasons. Late submissions of the final assignment are not accepted, except for university-authorized reasons.

Late Discussion Posts and Responses

There are weekly discussion posts and responses throughout the semester that are worth a total of 150 points. Except for the first week, each subsequent discussion post requires you to react to each week's reading. In addition, each response to another student's post requires a meaningful reaction to that post.

Each set of posts and responses is due on the assigned date and time as indicated in this document. The first and second late post or response can be submitted up to seven calendar days after its due date without penalty. All late initial posts and responses thereafter will incur a substantial penalty. A discussion post or response that is one day late will lose five points, and one that is two or more days late will receive no credit for that week. Students are exempt from the aforementioned policy if submitting the discussion post or response late was due to university-authorized reasons.

Sexual Harassment

I do not tolerate any such conduct as it is prohibited by law in addition to university policies and procedures. For more information, please see Southern Illinois University's Policy on Sexual Harassment (at <http://www.siu.edu/policies/2c5.shtml>).

Services for Students Needing Accommodations

Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. Students who believe they have a diagnosis, but do not have documentation, should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618-650-3726.

Student Conduct

Pursuant to university policies and procedures, I reserve the right to remove from class, reduce the course grade, and/or assign an "F" for the course to any student who defies directions from the instructor and/or commits behaviors that manifest a lack of respect for others or their learning objectives in this course. Examples of such behaviors include, but are not limited to, disrespectful, hostile, racist, sexist, discriminatory, homophobic, disruptive, or demeaning behavior in the course. For a more complete discussion of what constitutes such behavior, please refer to the Cougar Creed (at <http://www.siu.edu/parents/cougar-creed.shtml>), Student Conduct Code (at <http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>), and the Student Academic Code (at <http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>).

Technical Support

Since this is an online course, you are expected to have reliable Internet access on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to address any computer problems that might occur. Such problems are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations or for missing course deadlines.

Contact ITS at [618-650-5500](tel:618-650-5500) or at help@siue.edu with any technical concerns. You can also check the functionality of University systems, including Blackboard, at the [ITS System Status page](#), or search the [ITS Knowledge Base](#) for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.

Tips for Taking Online Assessments

- Set up a wired (Ethernet) Internet connection on your computer
- Do not use a mobile device, such as a phone or tablet
- Read the instructions and directions carefully
- Be prepared to complete the assessment in the allotted time

User-Edited Websites

Students are not allowed to use any user-edited, mirror, information aggregating, or social networking websites as a source on any assignment. Examples of such sources include, but are not limited to, Answers.com, Congresspedia, Diffen.com, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Wikipedia. Students are responsible for knowing whether an internet-based resource is prohibited under this policy, and are strongly encouraged to ask me about any specific website that might fall under the auspices of this policy. Any student who uses such sources will receive a 20% grade penalty on that assignment and/or paper, if s/he cites the material in question.

Health and Safety

Consistent with the Illinois Board of Higher Education guidance contained in “Safely Launching Academic Year 2020” released on June 23, 2020 and guidelines established by Governor J. B. Pritzker and *Restore Illinois*, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has implemented a new policy to help ensure the safety of all students, faculty and employees during the pandemic. The measures outlined below are required and any student who does not comply may be in violation of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy*, as well as the University’s *Student Code of Conduct*.

The full text of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* can be found here:
<https://www.siu.edu/policies/Covid.shtml>.

Classrooms, Labs, Studios, and Other Academic Spaces

While in the classroom, lab, studio, or other academic spaces, students shall practice social distancing measures by maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others in the classroom and wearing a face covering. Extra care should be taken upon entering and leaving the classroom spaces. Classroom furniture should not be rearranged, and furniture that has been taped off or covered should not be used.

Students who forget to wear a face mask or face shield will be reminded of their obligation to comply with SIUE’s *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* and temporarily asked to leave the class until they are able to conform to the policy. Students who forget or lose their face coverings may be able to obtain replacements from a friend, a faculty member, or a nearby departmental office. Face coverings are also available for purchase in the Cougar Store (MUC).

Students who refuse to wear a face covering will be asked to leave the classroom and referred to the Dean of Students for non-compliance with community health and safety protocols. Repeated non-compliance may result in disciplinary actions, including the student being administratively dropped from an on-ground/face-to-face course or courses without refund if no alternative course format is available.

If a student has a documented health condition which makes wearing a face covering medically intolerable, that student should contact ACCESS to explore options with the understanding that ACCESS will not grant accommodations which excuse the need for a face covering while on campus or in the classroom. ACCESS will work with qualifying individuals to find reasonable alternatives, whenever such solutions are available. Please call or contact the ACCESS Office via email to schedule an online appointment to discuss potential alternatives. ACCESS office (Student Success Center, Room 1203, 618-650-3726, and myaccess@siue.edu).

General Health Measures

At all times, students should engage in recommended health and safety measures, which include:

- Conducting a daily health assessment. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, but not yet tested positive, have had COVID-19 close contact exposure, or are COVID-19 diagnosed as presumptive or confirmed positive, stay home and contact your health provider or SIUE Health Service at cougarcare@siue.edu or 618-650-2842. More information is available on the [SIUE COVID-19 website](#).

- Frequent washing or disinfecting of hands.
- Social distancing by maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others.
- Face masks or face coverings that cover the nose and mouth are required in indoor public spaces regardless of the ability to maintain social distance. Indoor public spaces include common spaces or community settings that anyone can access, such as reception areas with walk-in access, restrooms, hallways, classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, as well as common spaces in residence halls, conference rooms, lobbies, and break rooms.
- Adhere to directional signs and traffic flow patterns in buildings and offices. Doors for entering and exiting buildings will be designated. Where multiple doors exist, in and out doors will be marked with “Entrance” and “Exit” signs. Plans that consider traffic flow in and out of buildings, and within buildings (i.e. stairs, hallways, etc. where possible) will be marked.

Recordings of Class Content

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University’s Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

Potential for Changes in Course Schedule or Modality

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, there remains a possibility that planned classroom activities will need to be adjusted. Depending on circumstances and following state-issued recommendations, potential changes include changes in course modality (e.g., transition from face-to-face to online) or in course scheduled meetings. These changes would be implemented to ensure the successful completion of the course. In these cases, students will be provided with an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version.

Course Schedule:

Week	Readings	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1 Introduction and Constitutional Foundations of Congress	Federalists 10, 51, 62 and 63 The Constitution Course Introductory Video How to Succeed in Online Courses Video How to Read Social Science Journal Articles Video Term Paper Handout and Video	1) Weekly Discussion Post to Select Term Paper Contest to Examine 2) Do All Readings 3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week	1) Discussion Post about your term paper topic is due by no later than Saturday, 8/29 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time

Week	Readings	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 2 Evolution of Congress	Cooper and Brady Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Polsby Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Chapter Two	1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response 2) Do All Readings 3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week	1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 9/2 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 9/5 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time
Week 3 Context of Congressional Elections	Ellis Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Jacobson and Carson, Chapter Two	1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response 2) Do All Readings 3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week	1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 9/9 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 9/12 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time
Week 4 Incumbency, Competitiveness, and Congressional Elections	Hassell and Visalvanich Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Jacobson Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Jacobson and Carson, Chapters Three and Six	1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response 2) Do All Readings 3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week	1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 9/16 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 9/19 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time
Week 5 Rules of Congressional Elections	Kang Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Chapter Three	1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response 2) Do All Readings 3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week	1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 9/23 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 9/26 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time

Week	Readings	Assignments	Due Dates
<p>Week 6</p> <p>Money and Congressional Elections</p>	<p>Grumbach and Sahn Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Hansen, Rocca, and Ortiz Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Jacobson and Carson, Chapter Four</p> <p>Miller et al Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p>	<p>1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response</p> <p>2) First Assignment Due!</p> <p>3) Do All Readings</p> <p>4) Watch all assigned course videos for this week</p>	<p>1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 9/30 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 10/3 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time</p> <p>2) First Assignment due by no later than Monday, September 28 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time</p>
<p>Week 7</p> <p>Descriptive and Substantive Representation</p>	<p>Bonica Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Fraga, Jeunke and Shah Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Hansen and Treul Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Jeunke and Shah Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Shah Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Thomsen (2014) Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Thomsen (2019) Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p>	<p>1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response</p> <p>2) Do All Readings</p> <p>3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week</p>	<p>1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 10/7 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 10/10 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time</p>

Week	Readings	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 8 Representation and Legislative Responsiveness	Barbera et al Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Becher and Stegmuller Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Fowler and Hall Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Jacobson and Carson, Chapter Seven Lowande, Ritchie, and Lauterbach Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Minta and Sinclair-Shapman Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)	1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response 2) Do All Readings 3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week	1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 10/14 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 10/17 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time
Week 9 Parties and Leaders in Congress	Jenkins and Monroe Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Moffett Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Chapter Five	1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response 2) Do All Readings 3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week	1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 10/21 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 10/24 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time
Week 10 Congress and Committees	Lewallen, Chapters One through Four (on Reserve at the Library) Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, Chapter Six	1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response 2) Do All Readings 3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week	1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 10/28 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 10/31 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time

Week	Readings	Assignments	Due Dates
<p>Week 11</p> <p>The Legislative Process</p>	<p>Sinclair, Chapters Two, Three, and Six (on Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Chapters Seven and Eight</p>	<p>1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response</p> <p>2) Term Paper Due!</p> <p>3) Do All Readings</p> <p>4) Watch all assigned course videos for this week</p>	<p>1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 11/4 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 11/7 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time</p> <p>2) Term Paper due by no later than Monday, 11/2 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time</p>
<p>Week 12</p> <p>Voting on Legislation</p>	<p>Fong Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Chapter Nine</p>	<p>1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response</p> <p>2) Do All Readings</p> <p>3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week</p>	<p>1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 11/11 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 11/14 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time</p>
<p>Week 13</p> <p>Congress and the Presidency</p>	<p>Acs Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Bolton and Thrower Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Moe and Howell Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Chapter Ten</p>	<p>1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response</p> <p>2) Do All Readings</p> <p>3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week</p>	<p>1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 11/18 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 11/21 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time</p>
<p>Week 14</p> <p>Congress and the Courts</p>	<p>Gelman Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Maltzman, Mark, Shipan and Zillis Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Mark and Zillis Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)</p> <p>Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Chapter Eleven</p>	<p>1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response</p> <p>2) Do All Readings</p> <p>3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week</p>	<p>1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 12/2 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 12/5 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time</p>

Week	Readings	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 15 Congress and Interest Groups	Smith, Roberts, and Vander Wielen, Chapter Twelve Lorenz Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library) Minta Article (on Electronic Reserve at the Library)	1) Weekly Discussion Post and Response 2) Do All Readings 3) Watch all assigned course videos for this week	1) Discussion Post due by no later than Wednesday, 12/9 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; Response to Two other Discussion Posts due by no later than Saturday, 12/12 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time
Week 16 Final Exam Week	No Reading	1)Final Assignment Due!	1)Final Assignment Due by no later than Monday, December 14 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. No late final assignments accepted.

Final Considerations

The schedule presented in this document is tentative. Accordingly, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus and will post any changes on the course website. You are responsible for all of the information presented in this document, and anything discussed during class, on the course website, as well as, any information that is posted to the course website. If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this class, please contact me as soon as possible. We can more easily resolve such matters sooner rather than later.