

# The Legislative Process

Political Science 4035

Fall 2015

Dr. Hogan  
TTH 1:30-2:50  
229 Tureaud Hall

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## Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of various aspects of the legislative process as practiced in the United States. A variety of topics are examined ranging from institutional development and candidate emergence to representation and the conditions that influence roll calling. Our goal is to better understand how the legislative process works and how this process produces public policies. While much of our focus is on the U.S. Congress, significant attention is also given to legislatures in the states where differences in institutional characteristics, electoral incentives, and political conditions provide analytical leverage for addressing important theoretical and practical questions. To the extent that the course has a theme, it is focused on how institutional rules and procedures, contextual features, and election practices shape what legislatures do and the policies they produce.

In addition to our substantive focus on legislatures, we will also give attention to the methods used by scholars to empirically answer questions about these institutions. One of our objectives is to assess the evidence uncovered by scholars. How do these findings compare with common perceptions or media accounts? While this is not a course on political science methodology, rigorous research design and analysis will play prominently in many of our class discussions.

## Time Requirements

30 HDVH NHHS LQ PLQG WKH XQLYHDDV FKH VFKV G H G L L W K I R R Q W R 1 Q Z R W U N D H M V T X L K  
lecture/classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-classroom work for each class hour. Given that this is a 3-hour course, this means that students are expected to devote a total of 9 hours of work each week (3 hours in the classroom and an additional 6 hours of course related work outside the classroom (for this class it means reading, writing, and other course assignments).

## Required Reading Materials

There is one textbook available for purchase at the bookstore: *Congress and Its Members* by Roger H. Davidson, Walter J. Oleszek, Frances E. Lee and Eric Schickel, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Budget Office, 2014. ISBN: 978-1-4175-4141-1. E.dition





Course Schedule

August 25 *Introduction to the Course*

f No reading assignment.

August 27 *Studying the Legislative Process in the United States*

f Text Davidson, et al Chapter 1.

f Reading # . OHLQ (JUD ' )RXUWHHQ 5HDVRQV :Washngtn Post 10/10/10

f

September22 *Financing Congressional Campaigns*

f Reading #7: Chapters1-4 (pp. 170):



