

LSU Department of Political Science  
POLI 7935  
**Legislative Politics: Institutional Approaches**  
Fall Semester, 2015

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Professor: Dr. Johanna Dunaway  
Office: 212A Stubbs Hall  
Phone: 578-2553  
E-mail: [jdunaway@lsu.edu](mailto:jdunaway@lsu.edu)  
Office hours: Friday, 1:30 – 4:30; and by appointment.

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**Overview**

This class focuses on legislative politics with an institutional lens. That is, we will concentrate on the literature on legislative politics that examines how the structure, rules, and organization of legislatures influences political behaviors and outcomes. This is a vast literature, so I've hand-picked a mixture of seminal works and debates and peppered-in new things as possible. I have also included long lists of recommended readings that may be of help in your research or in preparing for your comprehensive exams. Even with my efforts to include a lot of material, several areas are badly neglected. If you are interested in pursuing legislative politics as a research area please see me to talk about areas left untouched by this syllabus. Unfortunately, it is impossible to include all the material in one (or even two) semesters' time.

**Evaluation**

Your grade for the course will be measured by your weekly writing assignments (**50%**) related to the readings, your class participation (**25%**) and a final paper (**25%**). Letter grades will be assigned (and translated numerically) for final grading.

LSU Recently Adopted a Plus/Minus Grading System; I will apply the following in your final grade calculation:

96.5 and above           A+

93.50 – 96.49 G(1)TJ:01(e a[G{102 317.57 Tm{GA(1)}TJ:01(e a[G{18 5937.57 Tm{G(1)}TJ:01ETBT1 0 0 1 19



double spaced with page numbers, (2) written in accordance with the APSR style manual, (3) proofread for mistakes, and (4) neat and professionally presented.









- Rich's Evidence," *AJPS* (October 1997: 1376-86).
- Schickler and Rich, "Party Government in the House Reconsidered: A Response to Cox and McCubbins," *AJPS* (October 1997: 1387-94).
- Nye, "Party Support in the U.S. House of Representatives: Generational Replacement, Seniority, or Member Conversion" *APQ* (April 1994: 175-89).
- Leyden and Borrelli, "An Investment in Goodwill: Party Contributions and Party Unity Among U.S. House Members in the 1980s," *APQ* (October 1994: 421-52).
- Kolodny and Dwyre, "Party-Orchestrated Activities for Legislative Party Goals: Campaigns for Majorities in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 1990s," *Party Politics* (July 1998: 275-96).
- Bianco, "Party Campaign Committees and the Distribution of Tally Program Funds," *LSQ* (August 1999: 451-69).
- Wright, "The Caucus Reelection Requirement and the Transformation of House Committee Chairs, 1959-94," *LSQ* (August 2000: 469-80).
- Krehbiel, "Paradoxes of Parties in Congress,"



Recommended:

Rohde. *Parties and Leaders in the Post Reform House.*

Groseclose and Stewart, "The Value of Committee Seats in the House, 1947-91," *AJPS* (April 1998: 453-74).

Parker, "The Selection of Committee Leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives," *APQ* (January 1979: 71-93).

Collie and Roberts, "Trading Places: Choice and Committee Chairs in the U.S. Senate, 1950-1986," *JOP* (February 1992: 231-45).

Deering, "Career Advancement and Subcommittee Chairs in the U.S. House of Representatives: 86<sup>th</sup> to 101st Congress," *APQ* (January 1996: 3-23).

Binder and Smith, *Politics or Principle? Filibustering in the United States Senate*.

Alter and McGranahan, "Reexamining the Filibuster and Proposal Powers in the Senate," *LSQ* (May 2000: 259-84).

Huber, "Restrictive Legislative Procedures in France and the United States," *APSR* (September 1992: 675-87).

Sinclair, "House Special Rules and the Institutional Design Controversy," *LSQ* (1994:477-94).

Dion and Huber, 1996. "Procedural Choice and the House Committee on Rules," *JOP* (pp.25-53).

Shepsle, *The Changing Textbook Congress*.

Frechette, Kagel, and Lehrer, "Bargaining in Legislatures: An Experimental Investigation of Open versus Closed Amendment Rules," *APSR* (May 2003: 221-

Motion to Recommit," *LSQ* (May 2002: 191-217).

Hixon and Marshall, "Examining Claims about Procedural Choice: The Use of Floor Waivers in the U.S. House," *PRQ* (December 2002: 923-38).

### **Week 9 (October 23) Universalism and the Pork Barrel in Congress**

Emerson M.S. Niou and Peter C. Ordeshook (1985) "Universalism in Congress." *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 29, No. 2 (May, 1985), pp. 246-258.

Stein, Robert M. and Kenneth N. Bickers, "Universalism and the Electoral Connection: A Test and Some Doubts," *Political Research Quarterly* (June 1994: 295-318).

Weingast, Barry R. "Reflections on Distributive Politics and Universalism," *Political Research Quarterly* (June 1994: 319-28).

Bickers, Kenneth N. and Robert M Stein, "Response to Barry Weingast's Reflections," *Political Research Quarterly* (June 1994: 329-34).

Bickers, Kenneth N. and Robert M. Stein, "The Electoral Dynamics of the Federal Pork Barrel," *American Journal of Political Science* (November 1996:1300-26).

Dynes, Adam M. and Gregory A. Huber. 2015. "Partisanship and the Allocation of Federal spending." *American Political Science Review*. 109(1): 172-186. doi:10.1017/S000305541400063X.

#### Recommended:

Richard Hall. 1996. *Participation in Congress*.

Ferejohn, *Pork Barrel Politics*.

Arnold, *Congress and the Bureaucracy*.

Stein and Bickers, *Perpetuating the Pork Barrel: Policy Subsystems and American Democracy*.

Collie, "The Legislature and Distributive Policy Making in Formal Perspective," *LSQ* (November 1988: 427-58).

Ferejohn, "Logrolling in an Institutional Context: A Case Study of Food Stamp Legislation," in Wright, Rieselbach, and Dodd (eds.), *Congress and Policy Change*.

Wilson, "An Empirical Test of Preferences for the Political Pork Barrel: District Level Appropriations for River and Harbor Legislation, 1889-1913," *AJPS* (November 1986: 729-54).

Hamman, "Universalism, Program Development, and the Distribution of Federal Assistance," *LSQ* (November 1993: 553-68).

Alvarez and Saving, "Deficits, Democrats, and Distributive Benefits: Congressional Elections and the Pork Barrel in the 1980s," *PRQ* (December 1997: 809-32).

- Rundquist, Lee, and Rhee, "The Distributive Politics of Cold War Defense Spending: Some State Level Evidence," *LSQ* (May 1996: 265-82).
- Lee, "Representation and Public Policy: The Consequences of Senate Apportionment for the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds," *JOP* (February 1998: 34-62).
- Moore and Hibbing, "Length of Congressional Tenure and Federal Spending: Were the Voters of Washington State Correct?" *APQ* (April 1996: 131-49).
- Carsey and Rundquist, "Party and Committee in Distributive Politics: Evidence from Defense Spending," *JOP* (November 1999: 1156-69).
- Lee, "Senate Representation and Coalition Building in Distributive Politics," *APSR* (March 2000: 59-72).
- Hurwitz, Moiles, and Rohde, "Distributive and Partisan Issues in Agriculture Policy in the 104<sup>th</sup> House," *APSR* (December 2001: 911-22).
- Martin, "Voting's Rewards: Voter Turnout, Attentive Publics, and Congressional Allocation of Federal Money," *AJPS*





Calcagno and Jackson, "Political Action Committee Spending and Senate Roll-Call Voting," *Public Choice* (December 1998: 569-

- Committees," *AJPS* (April 1997: 519-44).
- Hojnacki and Kimball, "Organizational Interests and the Decision of Whom to Lobby in Congress," *APSR* (December 1998: 775-90).
- Hojnacki and Kimball, "The Who and How of Organizations' Lobbying Strategies in Committee," *JOP* (November 1999: 999-1024).
- Flemming, MacLeod, and Talbert, "Witnesses at the Confirmation? The Appearance of Organized Interests at Senate Hearings on Federal Judicial Appointments, 1945-1992," *PRQ* (September 1998: 617-32).
- Nownes, "Solicited Advice and Lobbyist Power: Evidence from Three American States," *LSQ* (February 1999: 113-124).
- Wolak, Newmark, McNoldy, Lowery, and Gray, "Much of Politics Is Still Local: Multi-State Lobbying in State Interest Communities," *LSQ* (November 2002: 527-55).
- Heitshusen, "Interest Group Lobbying and U.S. House Decentralization: Linking Informational Focus to Committee Hearing Appearances," *PRQ* (March 2000: 151-76).
- Kenny, McBurnett, and Bordua, "The Impact of Political Interests in the 1994 Elections: The Role of the National Rifle Association," unpublished paper, 1999.
- Balla and Wright, "Interest Groups, Advisory Committees, and Congressional Control of the Bureaucracy," *AJPS* (October 2001: 799-812).
- Brunell, Koetzle, Dinardo, Grofman, and Feld, "The  $R^2 = .93$ : Where Then Do They Differ? Comparing Liberal and Conservative Interest Group Ratings," *LSQ* (February 1999: 87-101).
- Wright, "Interest Groups, Congressional Reform, and Party Government in the United States," *LSQ* (May 2000: 217-35).
- Berkman, "Legislative Professionalism and the Demand for Groups: The Institutional Context of Interest Population Density," *LSQ* (November 2001: 661-79).
- Krehbiel, "Deference, Extremism, and Interest Group Ratings," *LSQ* (February 1994: 61-78).
- Wright, "Interest Groups, Congressional Reform, and Party Government in the United States," *LSQ* (May 2000: 217-36).

*Recommended congress and the bureaucracy*

- Ogul, *Congress Oversees the Bureaucracy*, chapter 1.
- Ogul and Rockman, "Overseeing Oversight: New Departures and Old Problems," *LSQ* (February 1990: 5-24).



Dodd and Schott, *Congress and the Administrative State*, chapters 5-6.

Aberbach, *Keeping a Watchful Eye: The Politics of Congressional Oversight*, chapters 2-4.

Bibby, "Committee Characteristics and Legislative Oversight of Administration," *MWJPS* (February 1966: 78-98).

Johannes, "Casework as a Technique of U.S. Congressional Oversight," *LSQ* (August 1979: 325-51).

Aberbach, "Changes in Congressional Oversight," *American Behavioral Scientist* (May/June 1979: 493-515).

McCubbins and Schwarz, "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms," *AJPS* (February 1984: 165-79).