

PSC 319/519 - American Legislative Institutions

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Time: Monday, 3:25-6:05

Course Description:

The United States Congress has always dominated the modern study of legislatures. In recent years, however, legislative scholars have paid increasing attention to the value of comparative studies. American state legislatures, in particular, offer a rich field for examining the impact (and origins) of institutional differences. In this course, we will look side-by-side at the U.S. House, the U.S. Senate, and the 99 state legislative chambers. We will consider the major institutions within a legislative chamber, including the role of committees, leaders, parties, and rules in legislative organization. But, taking advantage of this comparative approach, we will also gain insight into the effects of term limits, bicameralism, party competition, seniority systems, professionalization, careerism, ideological heterogeneity, money in politics, and links between campaigns and governance.

Week 1: Overview (January 29)

- [1] Oleszek, Walter J. (2004). *Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process*. Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press. Chapters 4 and 5.
- [2] Smith, Steven S. (1989). *Call to Order: Floor Politics in the House and Senate*. Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press. Chapter 4.
- [3] Little, Thomas H., and David B. Ogle (2006). *The Legislative Branch of State Government*. Chapter 3.

Week 2: Incumbency and Redistricting (February 5)

- [1] Cox, Gary W., and Jonathan N. Katz (2002). *Elbridge Gerry's Salamander*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 7, 8, and 9.
- [2] Gelman, Andrew, and Gary King (1990). "Estimating the Incumbency Advantage without Bias". *American Political Science Review* 34:1142-1164.
- [2] Ansolabehere, Stephen, and James M.

Week 3: Ideal Point Estimation (February 12)

- [1] Poole, Keith T., and Howard Rosenthal (1997). *Congress: A Political Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 3.
- [2] Groseclose, Timothy J., Steven D. Levitt, and James M. Snyder, Jr. (1999). “Comparing Interest Group Ratings Over Time and Chambers: Adjusted ADA Ratings for the U.S. Congress”. *American Political Science Review* 93:33-50.
- [3] Martin, Andrew D. and Kevin M. Quinn (2002). “Dynamic Ideal Point Estimation via Markov Chain Monte Carlo for the U.S. Supreme Court, 1953-1999”. *Political Analysis* 1:134-153.
- [4] Poole, Keith T. (1998). “Estimating a Basic Space from a Set of Issue Scales”. *American Journal of Political Science* 42:954-993.
- [5] Krehbiel, Keith (2000). “Party Discipline and Measures of Partisanship”. *American Journal of Political Science* 44:212-227.

Week 4: Representation I (February 19)

- [1] Miller, Warren E., and Donald E. Stokes (1963). “Constituency Influence in Congress”. *American Political Science Review* 1:45-56.
- [2] Achen, Christopher H. (1978). “Measuring Representation”. *American Journal of Political Science* 3:475-510.
- [3] Powell, Lynda (1982). “Issue Representation in Congress”. *Journal of Politics* 44:658-678.

- [4] Erikson, Robert S., Gerald C. Wright, and John P. McIver (1994). *Statehouse Democracy: Public Opinion and the American States*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 4, 5, and 6.

Week 5: Representation II (February 26)

- [1] Levendusky, Matthew S., Jeremy C. Pope, and Simon Jackman (2005). “Measuring District Level Preferences for the Analysis of U.S. Elections”. Working Paper.
- [2] Bishin, Benjamin J. (2000). “Constituency Influence in Congress: Does Sub-constituency Matter?”. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 25:389-415.
- [3] Ansolabehere, Stephen, James M. Snyder, Jr., and Charles Stewart, III (2001). “Candidate Positioning in U.S. House Elections”. *American Journal of Political Science* 45:136-149.
- [4] Canes-Wrone, Brandice, David W. Brady, and John F. Cogan (2002). “Out of Step, Out of Office: Electoral Accountability and House Member’s Voting”. *American Political Science Review* 96:127-140.
- [5] Adams, James F., and Samuel Merrill III (2004). “Candidate Equilibrium and the Behavioral Model of Voter Choice and Turnout: Theoretical Results and an Empirical Model”. Working Paper.

Weeks 6 through 13: To Be Announced