This course is an advanced graduate seminar designed to acquaint students with the scholarly literature on the evolution of American legislatures. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to pursue their own original research project. The research project may be on the evolution of any legislative body or any aspect of legislative organization or behavior. Most of the semester will be devoted to discussion of the relevant literature. During the final seminar meeting students will present their research project. Students are expected to attend the weekly seminar prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Grades will be based on the quality of the research paper and participation in the seminar. I will assign plus and minus grades.

**Academic Integrity:** Breaches of academic integrity rules are regarded as serious matters.

**Provisions for Students with Disabilities:** If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the Disability Center (http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

**Intellectual Pluralism:** The University welcomes intellectual diversity. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class may address concerns to either the Department Chair or Division leader or Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (http://osrr.missouri.edu). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the course.

**Assigned Text:**

**Discussion Topics and Assigned Readings:**

**January 22:** The Establishment of American Legislatures from a Comparative Perspective
Squire, *Evolution,* chapter 1
Squire, *The Rise of the Representative: Lawmakers and Constituents in Colonial America,* chapter 1

*Suggested Additional Readings*

**January 29:** An Overview of the Evolution of Colonial Legislatures
Squire, *Rise of the Representative,* chapter 2

Suggested Additional Readings

February 4: Organization and Parliamentary Procedures in American Colonial Assemblies
Squire, Evolution, chapter 2

Suggested Additional Readings

February 11: Instructions and Representation in Colonial Assemblies
Squire. Rise of the Representative, chapters 7 and 8
Suggested Additional Readings


February 18: The First State Legislatures and the Congress under the Articles of Confederation

Squire. Evolution, chapter 3


Suggested Additional Readings


February 25: The Rise of Political Parties in Congress and State Legislatures


Suggested Additional Readings


March 4: The Early Congress and Organizational Change

Suggested Additional Readings

March 11: State Legislative Change in the 18th and 19th centuries
Squire. Evolution, chapters 4 and 5
March 18: Legislative Institutionalization and Explanations of Organizational Change in Legislatures
Squire. Evolution, chapter 6
Hibbing. 1988. “Legislative Institutionalization with Illustrations from the British House of Commons.”
AJPS 32:681-712.
Nelson Polsby's 'The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives' at Fifty.” Studies in
American Political Development 32: 166-187.
1054.

Suggested Additional Readings
Argersinger. 1992. “No Rights on This Floor: Third Parties and the Institutionalization of Congress.” JIH
22:655-690.
38:497-516.

March 25: Professionalization and Change in the 20th Century Congress
Ornstein.
24:489-510

Suggested Additional Readings


April 8: Alternative Perspectives on Institutional Change in the 20th Century Congress


Suggested Additional Readings


April 15: Professionalization and Change in 20th Century State Legislatures

Squire, Evolution, chapters 7 and 8

Suggested Additional Readings


April 22: Membership Turnover Over Time and Legislative Careers


Suggested Additional Readings


April 29: Presentation of Research
May 6: Research Paper Due