

Political Science 4140 Congress and Legislative Policy

Professor: P. Squire
Office:
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This course examines the U.S. Congress, using the 50 state legislatures as a basis of comparison. Although this is not a class on current events, by the end of the semester students should have attained a sophisticated understanding of legislative behavior and process.

Grading Policy: Grades are based on three examinations, each worth 33 percent of the final grade. Examinations are composed of essay questions and cover materials from the readings and lectures. Plus and minus grades will be used.

Academic Integrity: Breaches of academic integrity rules are regarded as serious matters. Any student caught cheating on an examination will receive a score of zero for that examination.

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 Texts:

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, *The American Congress*, 10th ed.
Squire and Moncrief, *State Legislatures Today: Politics under the Domes*, 3rd ed.

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments:

January 21: Introductory Meeting

January 23: Introduction to Legislatures

January 28–30: Historical Perspectives on American Legislatures

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, chapter 2
Squire and Moncrief, pages 1-9
US Constitution

February 4: American Legislatures in Comparison

Squire and Moncrief, pages 9-28

February 6–13: The Context of Congressional Elections

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, pages 61-73

Masket, Winburn, and Wright. 2012. "The Gerrymanderers Are Coming! Legislative Redistricting Won't Affect Competition or Polarization Much, No Matter Who Does It." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 45: 39–43

February 18–27: Congressional Elections

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, pages 73-83

Squire. 1995. "Field Essay: Candidates, Money, and Voters—Assessing the State of Congressional Elections Research." *Political Research Quarterly* 48:891-917.

March 3: Comparisons with State Legislative Elections

Squire and Moncrief, chapter 2

March 5: First Examination

March 10–12: Legislative Careers

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, chapter 1, pages 85-93

Squire and Moncrief, chapter 3

Polsby. 1968. "The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives." *American Political Science Review* 62:144-68.

March 17–31: Organization, Leadership, and Party

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, chapter 5

Squire and Moncrief, pages 98-110

April 2–7: Committees and Staff

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, pages 93-101, chapter 6

Squire and Moncrief, pages 110-120

April 9: Second Examination

April 14–16: External Relations—the Executive, Bureaucracy, and Interest Groups

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, chapters 10, 11 and 12

Squire and Moncrief, chapter 6

April 21–28: Budgetary Politics

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, chapter 8

April 30–May 5: The Legislative Process

Smith, Roberts and Vander Wielen, pages 101-115, chapters 7 and 9

Squire and Moncrief, chapter 5

• **May 7: Third Examination**