I. COURSE MEETINGS  
Mon & Wed: 2:00-3:15 p.m. (Leutze Hall 110)

II. OFFICE HOURS  
Mon & Wed, 3:30-5:00 p.m. or By Appointment (seoj@uncw.edu)

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION  
The aim of this course is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how the presidency and Congress cooperate and compete with each other in the American democracy. While academic tradition has followed constitutional framework by teaching Congress and the presidency separately, a new consensus is also emerging on the demand to integrate our understanding of how legislative and executive branches interact. In studying the American presidency and US Congress, the course will place emphases on diverse perspectives; constitutional, historical, institutional, and strategic. Other topics will include separation and delegation of powers; electoral connections; policy-making processes over foreign, economic, and domestic issues; and legislative-executive interaction in the era of polarization. This is a demanding course, with a substantial amount of reading. It is imperative that you read all assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned.

IV. COURSE READING

- One textbook is required and available in the university book store.  


- All other readings (#) will be available at blackboard.
V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Midterm Exam (Oct 11) (25%) and Final Exam (Dec 8) (25%)
- Congressional Election Campaign Memo (10%) & Presentation (5%)
- Presidential History Paper (10%) & Presentation (5%)
- Reporting Newspaper Article (5%)
- Attendance and Participation (15%)

1) Two In-Class Exams (25% each)
   - There will be one midterm (25%) and a final exam (25%).
   - Format is a combination of multiple choice, short identification and essay.
   - All readings and lectures will be fair game on the exams (50-50!).

2) Congressional Campaign Memo (10%) & Presentation (5%)
   - For the upcoming congressional midterm elections in November, you are hired as a campaign manager for a senator or a representative or a challenger of your choosing.
   - Your job is to write for your boss a 3-page, single-spaced campaign memo (10%) on how to win this election by focusing on the constituency, policy issues, and opponent. Then, present the memo (5%) before campaign headquarters (i.e. class).
   - Choose your boss (i.e. candidate) and inform the instructor on September 1st (W), right before the Labor Day kickoff for campaigns. More details will be provided in class.

3) Presidential History Report (10%) & Presentation (5%)
   - Students are expected to write a 3-page, single-spaced report (10%) on a president of their choosing and then present (5%) it before class.
   - Choose one president and write a paper about three dimensions of the presidency: person, politics, and policy.
   - You are expected to inform the instructor of your president on September 29th (W). More details will be provided in class.

4) Reporting Newspaper Article (5%)
   - Pick up ANY newspaper article during the week to cover ANY aspect of president or Congress and then report it to your classmates (5%).
   - Basically, tell your classmates 1) what your article is about and 2) why you think the report is interesting and important for understanding American politics.

5) Attendance (8%) and Debate Participation (7%)
   - Attendance (10%) and class participation (5%) will be checked.
   - Instructor will offer debate questions and check participation on the regular basis.
Letter grades will be assigned according to the following point totals:

A=92.5 or more  A-=89.5-92.49  B+=87.5-89.49  B=82.5-87.49  
B-=79.5-82.49  C+=77.5-79.49  C=69.5-77.49  D = 59.5-69.49  
F= less than 59.5

According to University of North Carolina Bulletin and the Student Handbook, you are advised that: (1) Do not commit plagiarism. (2) Do not receive unauthorized assistance during the exams. (3) Violations of these rules in any assignment may be subject to a minimum penalty of failing grade for the assignment and could result in a grade of “F” for the course. Students with diagnosed disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services (962-7555). If you require accommodation for test-taking please make sure I have the referral letter no less than three days before the test.

I reserve the right to randomly assign articles that all students will be responsible for reading and knowing for the exams. I will make you aware of when I put these articles on blackboard.

VI. READINGS BY CLASS SESSION

Aug 18 (W)  
Course Introduction


I. The United States Congress

Aug 23 (M) – 25 (W)  
U.S. Congress: Modern Trends and Approaches

The Broken Branch and Campaigns American Style?

# Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein. 2008. The Broken Branch: How Congress is failing America and How To Get It Back on Track (Oxford University Press), pp. 1-13


Aug 30 (M) – Sep 8 (W) Evolution of US Congress and Theories of Lawmaking

- **Constitutional Foundations, Historical Development, and Legislative Theories**
  
  
  
  

Sep 6 (M) Labor Day Holiday

Sep 13 (M) – Sep 15 (W) Electoral Connection and Members of Congress

- **Getting Elected Through Getting Strategic**
  
  
  
  

Sep 20 (M) – Sep 22 (W) Inside Congress: Institutions of Congress

- **Committees, Rules, Parties, and Legislative Processes**
  
  LeLoup and Shull, Ch 4. “Congress and Policymaking”
  
  
Sep 27 (M) – Sep 29 (W) Party Polarization

- Causes and Consequences of Polarized Parties in US Congress

Oct 4 (M) – Oct 6 (W) Fall Break and Poli-sci Day


Oct 11 (M) Midterm Exam (Congress)

II. The American Presidency

Oct 13 (W) Approaches to Studying Presidency I

LeLoup and Shull, Ch 2. “The Constitution and Shared Governance”


Oct 18 (M) – Oct 20 (W) Approaches to Studying Presidency II

- Historical, Constitutional, Psychological, and Rational-choice Approach


## Oct 25 (M) – Oct 27 (W) Presidential Power

- **"Power-to-persuade" vs. "Unilateral power" vs. "Two-presidencies"**
  
  
  
  

## Nov 1 (M) – Nov 3 (W) Presidential Election

- **The Nomination Process and Election Strategy**
  
  
  
  
  - # Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. “Not the People’s Choice: How to Democratize America,” American Prospect, October 25, 2002
Nov 8 (M) – Nov 10 (W)  
**Power Sources and Constraints**

*Public Opinion, the Media, and the Bureaucracy*


Nov 15 (M) – Nov 17 (W)  
**The Presidency and Policymaking**


**III. “Congress, the President, and Policymaking”**

Nov 22 (M)  
**Foreign and Economic Policymaking**

LeLoup and Shull. Ch 5. “Foreign Policy”

LeLoup and Shull. Ch 7. “Economic and Budget Policy”

Nov 24 (W)  
**Thanksgiving Holiday**

Nov 29 (M)  
**Social and Domestic Policymaking**

LeLoup and Shull. Ch 6. “Civil Rights Policy”


Dec 1 (W)  
**Last Class Day**

Dec 8 (W), 3-6 pm  
**Final Exam (Presidency and Policymaking)**