

Legislative Politics

Ohio State University

Syllabus: Autumn 2016

Instructor: William Minozzi
Office: 2137 Derby Hall
Email: *william.minozzi@gmail.com*

Class location: 0080 Derby Hall
Class time: Th 2:30p-5:15p
Office hours: By appointment

Description

The goal of this course is to introduce doctoral students to the literature on legislative (read congressional) politics, from the major theories, through the empirical strategies, and finally to the best work being done today. At the same time, the course aims to develop students' aptitude with the scholarly process, including identifying theoretical lacunae, articulating research questions, and designing empirical tests.

Assignments & grading

Assessment will be broken into three equal parts: participation in class discussion, completion of short assignments, and a final paper. No late work will be accepted, barring truly horrific circumstances. Don't do incompletes. They are the devil.

Short assignments will consist first of reviews (\approx 1200 words¹) that summarize the readings for the day prepared in advance of classes and distributed via Slack. The review should include mention of important items outside of those listed on the syllabus, utilizing citation search tool to identify classic literature and modern innovations. We will assign dates on the first day of class, with everyone selecting one date. Second, to prepare for each class, students should generate a research memo, based on the ideas in the readings for the day, with each student completing one memo per class period. These memos should be short (\approx 300 words), identify a research question, articulate why the answer to the question matters, and speculate about how to find that answer. These should also show up on Slack, at least by Tuesday evening (before 11:59p). Finally, students should critique each others' work. That is, for every class, each student should read each others' stuff, and comment on it (you guessed it, using Slack). Each student should comment on at least two other students' work. And, please, if you notice somebody else's stuff has gone orphaned and not generated any comments, pick up the...slack, I guess. Hopefully, these comments will generate further discussion (online and IRL) and even grow into actionable research!

The final paper should be an expanded version of a research memo (\approx 2500 words). The topic can either be based on a research memo you really liked (preferably one you wrote), or a totally new one.

¹All word counts should exclude references, etc.

Topic schedule

All readings in plain text will be distributed electronically. All in italics are books to purchase (sorry!).

Introduction and the Spatial Model

Krehbiel (1988)

Legislative Decisionmaking

Mayhew (1974)

Kingdon (1977)

Masket (2008)

Roll Call Voting

Clinton, Jackman, and Rivers (2004)

Roberts (2007)

Jones (2010)

Theories of Parties in Legislatures

Krehbiel (1993)

Cox and McCubbins (2005)

Aldrich and Rohde (2000)

Testing Theories of Parties in Legislatures

Carson et al. (2010)

Jenkins and Monroe (2012)

Minozzi and Volden (2013)

Legislative Committees

Fenno (1973)

Grimmer and Powell (2013)

Berry and Fowler (2016)

Legislative Accountability

Miller and Stokes (1963)

Fenno (1977)

Ansolabehere, Snyder Jr, and Stewart III (2000)

Legislative Institutionalization

Polsby (1968)

Schickler (2000)

Jenkins and Stewart (2016)

Legislative Development

Gamm and Shepsle (1989)

Gailmard and Jenkins (2009)

Massengill, et al. (2016)

Interest Groups

Austen-Smith and Wright (1994)

Baumgartner and Leech (1996)

Hall and Deardorff (2006)

Legislative Networks

Cho and Fowler (2010)

Kirkland (2011)

Rogowski and Sinclair (2012)

Legislative Effectiveness

Volden and Wiseman (2014)

Two more TBD

Legislative Capacity

Bolton and Thrower (2016)

Two more TBD

References

- Aldrich, John H, and David W Rohde. 2000. *The logic of conditional party government: Revisiting the electoral connection*. PIPC.
- Ansolabehere, Stephen, James M Snyder Jr, and Charles Stewart III. 2000. "Old voters, new voters, and the personal vote: Using redistricting to measure the incumbency advantage." *American Journal of Political Science* pp. 17–34.
- Austen-Smith, David, and John R Wright. 1994. "Counteractive lobbying." *American Journal of Political Science* pp. 25–44.
- Baumgartner, Frank R, and Beth L Leech. 1996. "The multiple ambiguities of counteractive lobbying." *American Journal of Political Science* pp. 521–542.
- Berry, Christopher R., and Anthony Fowler. 2016. "Cardinals or Clerics? Congressional Committees and the Distribution of Pork." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(3): 692–708.
- Bolton, Alexander, and Sharece Thrower. 2016. "Legislative Capacity and Executive Unilateralism." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(3): 649–663.
- Carson, Jamie L, Gregory Koger, Matthew J Lebo, and Everett Young. 2010. "The electoral costs of party loyalty in Congress." *American Journal of Political Science* 54(3): 598–616.
- Cho, Wendy K Tam, and James H Fowler. 2010. "Legislative success in a small world: Social network analysis and the dynamics of congressional legislation." *The Journal of Politics* 72(01): 124–135.
- Clinton, Joshua, Simon Jackman, and Douglas Rivers. 2004. "The statistical analysis of roll call data." *American Political Science Review* 98(02): 355–370.
- Cox, Gary W, and Mathew D McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the agenda: Responsible party government in the US House of Representatives*. Cambridge University Press.
- Fenno, Richard F. 1973. *Congressmen in committees*. Little, Brown.
- Fenno, Richard F. 1977. "US House members in their constituencies: An exploration." *American Political Science Review* 71(03): 883–917.
- Gailmard, Sean, and Jeffery A Jenkins. 2009. "Agency Problems, the 17th Amendment, and Representation in the Senate." *American Journal of Political Science* 53(2): 324–342.
- Gamm, Gerald, and Kenneth Shepsle. 1989. "Emergence of legislative institutions: Standing committees in the House and Senate, 1810-1825." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* pp. 39–66.
- Grimmer, Justin, and Eleanor Neff Powell. 2013. "Congressmen in exile: The politics and consequences of involuntary committee removal." *The Journal of Politics* 75(04): 907–920.

- Hall, Richard L, and Alan V Deardorff. 2006. "Lobbying as legislative subsidy." *American Political Science Review* 100(01): 69–84.
- Jenkins, Jeffery A, and Nathan W Monroe. 2012. "Buying negative agenda control in the us house." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(4): 897–912.
- Jones, David R. 2010. "Partisan polarization and Congressional accountability in House elections." *American Journal of Political Science* 54(2): 323–337.
- Kingdon, John W. 1977. "Models of legislative voting." *The Journal of Politics* 39(03): 562–595.
- Kirkland, Justin H. 2011. "The Relational Determinants of Legislative Outcomes: Strong and Weak Ties Between Legislators." *The Journal of Politics* 73(3): 887–898.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1988. "Spatial models of legislative choice." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* pp. 259–319.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. "Where's the Party?" *British Journal of Political Science* 23(02): 235–266.
- Masket, Seth E. 2008. "Where you sit is where you stand: The impact of seating proximity on legislative cue-taking." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 3: 301–311.
- Mayhew, David R. 1974. *Congress: The electoral connection*. Yale University Press.
- Miller, Warren E, and Donald E Stokes. 1963. "Constituency influence in Congress." *American political science review* 57(01): 45–56.
- Minozzi, William, and Craig Volden. 2013. "Who Heeds the Call of the Party in Congress?" *The Journal of Politics* 75(03): 787–802.
- Polsby, Nelson W. 1968. "The institutionalization of the US House of Representatives." *American Political Science Review* 62(01): 144–168.
- Roberts, Jason M. 2007. "The Statistical Analysis Of Roll-Call Data: A Cautionary Tale." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 32(3): 341–360.
- Rogowski, Jon C, and Betsy Sinclair. 2012. "Estimating the causal effects of social interaction with endogenous networks." *Political Analysis* p. mps016.
- Schickler, Eric. 2000. "Institutional change in the House of Representatives, 1867–1998: a test of partisan and ideological power balance models." *American Political Science Review* 94(02): 269–288.
- Volden, Craig, and Alan E Wiseman. 2014. *Legislative Effectiveness in the United States Congress: The Lawmakers*. Cambridge University Press.