In this course, we will intensively review the literature on Congress. Most of our readings and discussions will focus on the internal workings of Congress—the committee system, the party system, how members make roll call voting decisions, etc. We will also discuss how Congress has changed over time and some questions about representation. We will not cover topics such as congressional-bureaucratic relations or congressional elections. The course will consist of a mixture of short lectures and longer open discussions of class readings.

The course requirements are: (1) two short [2-4 pp] critical analyses of some aspect of the readings—due at 5:00 the day before class meeting in which we discuss the item; (2) a term paper, which may be either a research paper or a critical review and synthesis of the literature; and (3) participation in class discussions. The first response paper must be written during weeks 2-5; the second during weeks 6-9. They response papers should very briefly summarize the relevant bits of the reading(s), identify elements you find convincing or unconvincing and explain why; raise questions about the reading for discussion; and suggest a next step for research in this area. The last item, future research, is the most important and most difficult.

The two critical analysis papers will be worth 15% each; the term paper will be worth 50% each; participation will be worth 20%. I expect you to come to class having completed all the assigned readings for that meeting and being prepared to actively participate in the discussion.

The articles will all be posted on GauchoSpace. I will put the books on reserve at the library. The following books are available at the UCSB Bookstore:

- David Mayhew, *Congress the Electoral Connection*
- Douglas Arnold, *The Logic of Congressional Action* (assigned chapters are in Gauchospace)
- Gary Cox & Mathew McCubbins, *Setting the Agenda*
- Richard Hall, *Participation in Congress*
- Keith Krehbiel, *Pivotal Politics*
- Eric Schickler, *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress*

Readings marked with an asterisk are recommended. The following abbreviations are used for journals:

- APSR: American Political Science Review
- JOP: Journal of Politics
- * Recommended reading

**Weekly Readings**

**March 31. Introduction**

We will begin with a discussion/lecture covering the basics of how Congress is organized. If any of you wish, I will sign you up so that you can see the PS 155 online lectures. The schedule of topics is here: [http://smith.faculty.polsci.ucsb.edu/courses/ps155syl.pdf](http://smith.faculty.polsci.ucsb.edu/courses/ps155syl.pdf).

If you did not take an undergraduate course on Congress, you might consider buying a used copy of a basic text on Congress. You need not worry about getting the most current edition because Congress changes slowly. I will bring a few to class to hand out. Here are two well-known textbooks:
April 7. Theories of Legislators’ Behavior

David Mayhew, Congress: The Electoral Connection (1974), Introduction & chap 1
R. Douglas Arnold, The Logics of Congressional Action (1990), chaps 1-6
Charles Stewart, Analyzing Congress (2001), chap 1
Roberts, Smith, Haptonstahl, “The Dimensionality of Congressional Voting Reconsidered,”
American Politics Research (2016) 794–815

April 14. Congressional Committee Organization

Richard Fenno, Congressmen in Committees (1973), chaps 1-4
David Mayhew, Congress: The Electoral Connection, chap 2
Kenneth Shepsle & Barry Weingast, "The Institutional Foundations of Committee Power," APSR, 81:85-104 (March '87)
Keith Krehbiel, K. Shepsle and B. Weingast, "Why are Congressional Committees Powerful?" [An exchange] APSR, 81:929-45 (Sep '87)

* Keith Krehbiel, Information and Legislative Organization, chaps 1-3
* Christopher Deering and Steven Smith, Committees in Congress, 3rd ed
* Kenneth Shepsle, The Giant Jigsaw Puzzle

April 21. Power and Influence in Congressional Committees

Richard Hall, Participation in Congress
C. Lawrence Evans, “Influence in Congressional Committees.” In Christopher Deering (ed), Congressional Politics
Tim Groseclose and David King, “Committee Theories Reconsidered.” In Lawrence Dodd and Bruce Oppenheimer, eds., Congress Reconsidered, 7th ed
Richard Hall & Frank Wayman, "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." APSR, 84 (Sep '90):797-820

* Nicol Rae & Colton Campbell, New Majority or Old Minority, 4-7

April 28. Party Leadership

Cox and McCubbins, Setting the Agenda (reviewed Dec 2006 Perspectives on Politics)

* Cox and McCubbins, Legislative Leviathan
* John Kingdon, *Congressmen’s Voting Decisions*
* Kenneth Shepsle and Barry Weingast. 1995 “Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions,” in Kenneth Shepsle and Barry Weingast, eds, *Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions*
* David Rohde, *Parties and Leaders in the Post-Reform House*

**May 5. Pivotal Politics**

Keith Krehbiel, *Pivotal Politics*

* John Kingdon, *Congressional Voting Decisions*
* Keith Krehbiel, *Information and Legislative Organization*
* Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal *Congress : A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*
* Gary Cox and Keith Poole, 2002. “On Measuring Partisanship in Roll-Call Voting” *AJPS*

**May 12. Presidential-Congressional Relations**

James Sundquist, *The Decline and Resurgence of Congress*, chaps 1, 6, 13
Canes-Wrone and de Marchi, “Presidential Approval and Legislative Success,” *JOP* 64 (May, 2002)

* Charles Cameron, *Veto Bargaining*
* Steven Shull, *Presidential-Congressional Relations*
* James Thurber, *Rivals for Power: Presidential-Congressional Relations*

**May 19. Representation in Congress**

Warren Miller and Stokes, “Constituency Influence in Congress.”

**May 26. Race, Gender, and Representation**

Canon, Race, Redistricting and Representation, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 6
Michelle Swers, The Difference Women Make: The Policy Impact of Women in Congress, chaps

* Georgia Duerst-Lahti & Rita Mae Kelly, eds. Gender Power, Leadership, and Governance
* Sue Thomas, How Women Legislate
* Robert Singh, The Congressional Black Caucus

**June 2. Institutional Change and Development in Congress**

Eric Schickler, Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress (reviewed Sep 2002 APSR)
Joseph Cooper & David Brady, "Institutional Context and Leadership Style: The House from Cannon to Rayburn." APSR, 75:411-25

* Barbara Sinclair, The Transformation of the U.S. Senate
* Morris Fiorina, Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment