

POLS 4211: Legislative Politics and Behavior

Dr. Keith E. Lee Jr.

Fall 2019

E-mail: keith.lee@gcsu.edu

Office Hours: MWF 8:00 - 9:45 am or by appt.

Office: A & S 2-09

Web: keitheleejr.com

Class Hours: MWF 11:00-11:50 am

Class Room: A & S 2-74

Course Description

Many people disapprove of the way Congress handles its job, but very few fully understand or appreciate the complexity of Congress. Hence, most people love their individual member of Congress, but disapprove of the institution as a whole (Fenno's Paradox). This course will explore how Congress as an institution functions in our political system so that you can better understand and articulate this paradox and hopefully develop a greater appreciation for such a spectacular institution. At its core, Congress embodies the American tradition of rugged individualism coupled with collective action.

Books

E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan. 2019. *The United States Congress*. W.W. Norton & Company

Charles Stewart III. 2012. *Analyzing Congress* W.W. Norton & Company

Julian E. Zelizer. 2004. *The American Congress: The Building of Democracy* Houghton Mifflin Company

Course Objectives

1. Recognize the collective action dilemma Congress faces and how it contributes to Fenno's Paradox
2. Compare a member of Congress's "Home Style" and "Hill Style"

3. Hypothesize about the future of Congress by analyzing Congressional history
4. Synthesize Congress's role in our federal system and describe the relationship between Congress, public opinion, and organized interests

Course Assignments

Three Exams (Dates on Calendar Below)

Comprehensive Final Exam (Friday December 13)

[Legislative History Paper](#) (November 15)

In-Class Group Assignments (Dates Vary)

Specification Grading

Bundle	Satisfactory Grade on:
A	80% Exam Average, 80% Final Exam, Legislative History Paper, 10 In-Class Group Assignments
B	70% Exam Average, 70% Final Exam, Legislative History Paper, 7 In-Class Group Assignments
C	60% Exam Average, 60% Final Exam, 4 In-Class Group Assignments
D	50% Exam Average
F	None of the above

Course Policies:

- **Office Hours and Contact:** Office hours are stated on the front page of the syllabus. Students should use my email address on the first page of the syllabus to contact me.
- **Late Policy:** No assignments will be accepted after the due date.
- **Attendance and Absences:** There is not an attendance policy for this course, however it is the student's responsibility to keep up with the course schedule.
- **Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating, including plagiarism, will result in an "F" in the course. This class will use plagiarism detection via GeorgiaView.

- **Changes to the Syllabus:** I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. Students will be notified when changes are made.
- **Classroom Behavior:** Disruptive behavior will be handled immediately. The first offense will be a warning and you will be asked to leave the class. The second offense will result in a reduction in your final letter grade.
- Please read these additional [common syllabus statements](#) provided by Georgia College.

Class Schedule

*** Note: “Deep Dive” readings are not required readings and you do not need to purchase any books. These are lectures covering important research on Congress. ***

Part I

Week 01, 08/19 - 08/23: New Institutionalism, American Political Development, and the Study of Congress

Monday: Course Introduction

- Syllabus
- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* Chapter 1

Wednesday: New Institutionalism

- James G. March and Johan P. Olsen, “Elaborating the ‘New Institutionalism’ ” in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* [GaView]
- Kenneth Shepsle, “Rational Choice Institutionalism” in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* [GaView]
- Elizabeth Sanders, “Historical Institutionalism” in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* [GaView]

Friday: American Political Development

- Suzanne Mettler and Richard M. Valelly, “Introduction: The Distinctiveness and Necessity of American Political Development” in *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development* [GaView]
- Jeffrey A. Jenkins, “APD and Rational Choice” in *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development* [GaView]
- Eric Schickler and Ruth Bloch Rubin, “Congress and American Political Development” in *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development* [GaView]

Week 02, 08/26 - 08/30: Analyzing Congress

Monday: Spatial Voting Theory in One Dimension

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 3-23

Wednesday: Spatial Voting Theory in One Dimension (Cont'd)

Friday: Spatial Voting Theory in One Dimension (Cont'd)

Week 03, 09/02 - 09/06: Constitutional Origins

Monday

- Labor Day

Wednesday: The Multidimensional Spatial Voting Model

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 23-36

Friday: Salience and Sophistication

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 36-49

Week 04, 09/09 - 09/13: American Legislative Development, 1780s-1900s

Monday: Constitutional Origins

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 20-24
- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 58-88

Wednesday: The Formative and Partisan Eras, 1780s-1850s

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 95-111
- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 25-30
- Joel H. Silbey, "Congress and the Partisan Era" in *The American Congress*, ed. Julian N. Zelizer
- Michael F. Holt, "The Slavery Issue" in *The American Congress*, ed. Julian N. Zelizer

Friday: Post-Bellum Partisan Era, 1860s-1900s

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 111-117
- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 30-38
- Brooks D. Simpson, "Reconstruction" in *The American Congress*, ed. Julian N. Zelizer
- Richard Bense, "Industrialization" in *The American Congress*, ed. Julian N. Zelizer

Week 05, 09/16 - 09/20: American Legislative Development, 1910s-Present

Monday: The Committee Era, 1910s-1970s

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 117-125
- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 38-50
- Eric Rauchway, “The Transformation of Congressional Experience” in *The American Congress*, ed. Julian N. Zelizer
- Patrick Maney, “The Forgotten New Deal Congress” in *The American Congress*, ed. Julian N. Zelizer
- Edward D. Berkowitz, “The Great Society” in *The American Congress*, ed. Julian N. Zelizer

Wednesday: The Post-Reform Period, 1970s-Present

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 125-131
- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 50-65
- Barbara Sinclair, “Congressional Reform” in *The American Congress*, ed. Julian N. Zelizer
- Donald T. Critchlow, “When Republicans Become Revolutionaries: Conservatives in Congress” in *The American Congress*, ed. Julian N. Zelizer

Friday

- Exam 1

Part II

Week 06, 09/23 - 09/27: Elections

Monday: Overview

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 102-128
- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 205-209

Wednesday: Election Admin

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 210-226

Friday: Redistricting and Gerrymandering

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 226-244

Week 07, 09/30 - 10/04: Candidates, Voters, and Representation

Monday: Candidates

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 129-149
- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* Chapter 4

Wednesday: Voters

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* Chapter 5

Friday: Representation

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* Chapter 3

Week 08, 10/07 - 10/11: Parties and Leaders

Monday

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* Chapter 7

Wednesday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 196-225

Friday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 225-235

Week 09, 10/14 - 10/18: CPG and Cartel Theory

Monday

- Fall Break

Wednesday: Conditional Party Government

- **Deep Dive** David Rhode, *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House*

Friday: Cartel Theory

- **Deep Dive** Gary W. Cox and Matthew D. McCubbins, *Legislative Leviathan*

Week 10, 10/21 - 10/25: Committees

Monday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 150-171
- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 294-320

Wednesday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 171-185
- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 320-339

Friday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* pp. 216-223
- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* pp. 339-352

Week 11, 10/28 - 11/01: Policymaking

Monday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* Chapter 7

Wednesday

- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* Chapter 9

Friday

- Part II Review

Week 12, 11/04 - 11/08: GPSA

Monday

- Exam 2

Wednesday

- TBD / GPSA

Friday

- TBD / GPSA

Part III

Week 13, 11/11 - 11/15: Separation of Powers I

Monday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* Chapter 9

Wednesday

- Group Assignment

Friday

- Group Assignment

Week 14, 11/18 - 11/22: Separation of Powers II

Monday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* Chapter 10

Wednesday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* Chapter 11

Friday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* Chapter 12

Week 15, 11/25 - 11/29: Legislative Effectiveness

Monday

- E. Scott Adler, Jeffrey A. Jenkins, and Charles R. Shipan, *The United States Congress* Chapter 8

Wednesday

- Thanksgiving Break

Friday

- Thanksgiving Break

Week 16, 12/02 - 12/06: Legislative Effectiveness

Monday

- **Deep Dive** Barbara Sinclair, *Unorthodox Lawmaking*
- **Deep Dive** Sarah Binder, *Stalemate: Causes and Consequences of Legislative Gridlock*
- **Deep Dive** David Mayhew, *Divide We Govern: Party Control, Lawmaking, and Investigations, 1946-2002*

Wednesday

- Part III Review

Friday

- Exam 3

Week 17, 12/09 - 12/13:

Monday

- Course Review

Friday

- Final Exam 10:30 - 12:45