

Winter 2016
Political Science 364
Legislative Process
Prof. Sidlow
601C Pray Harrold
Office Hours M & W 9a-10:30a, 12:30-1:30p
and by Appt.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

This course is primarily concerned with the United States Congress although there will be some discussion of state legislatures where comparisons and contrasts are relevant. It is intended that the course provide an understanding of Congress as both a political and policy-making institution.

READINGS:

Davidson, *Congress & Its Members* (15th Edition), CQ PRESS, 2015

Bell, *Slingshot: The Defeat of Eric Cantor*, CQ PRESS, 2015

Sidlow, *Challenging the Incumbent*, CQ PRESS, 2004 (This should be available used, very inexpensively, on-line.)

Daily Paper:

You should also remain abreast of current American politics. To that end, the *New York Times* provides a nice discount program for college and university students. Details can be found at newyorktimes.com/student, or by phone, 888-nyt-coll (698-2655). There are also complementary copies of the Times available at several locations (including this building) on campus.

Assignments

There will be an essay type, in class, midterm exam. The midterm is scheduled for Feb. 17, 2016 and is worth 100 points. There will also be three short 3-5 page double spaced papers, each worth 33 points. Paper topics will

be distributed by the instructor, and due dates are indicated on this syllabus. There will also be an optional final exam, worth (100 points) scheduled for 9:30 am, Mon. 4/25/2016. More details will be provided in class regarding the exams.

**** I do not accept emailed papers. The reason for this is quite practical. We do not necessarily use the same word processing programs. When I did allow emailed papers, I always had difficulty opening some of them, and my computer froze from others. Consequently, I expect to receive a hard copy of your papers, stapled in the upper left hand corner of the title page, pages in order, no binders, folders, petrochemical plastic covers, etc. You will properly cite material in your papers. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source.**

Communication and comportment issues.

Email.

If you would like me to read your email, please use your emich address to communicate with me. Please put the Course # and meeting time in the Subject Line of your Email—and your name, first and last, at the bottom of your email. I have a strange desire to know who I am “talking” to, and who is “talking” to me. Feel free to call that a personality disorder. Do not continuously hit reply in a “conversation” with me. Renew the subject, which is a polite way of letting me know what we are talking about. Please do not make or receive phone calls or texts during class. If your phone rings, I reserve the right to answer it and leave you with the consequences of whatever I tell the person calling you. (If you have a legitimate need to make or receive a call, family or health matter, call from family over-seas on military deployment, etc, please let me know that to be the case and, as inconspicuously as possible, leave the room and conduct your conversation.)

It would be great if you also kept the following in mind:

Our classroom is not,

1. An Internet café
2. A piano bar
3. A place to snooze
4. A place to do work for other classes

READING SCHEDULE: *

1/6- Congress Historically
1/20 Davidson, Ch 1 & 2

Begin reading *Slingshot* and *Challenging the Incumbent* now. Both are short and both are absolutely critical for your midterm exam.

1/25 - Recruitment and Elections
2/3 Davidson, Ch. 3 & 4

First Paper Due 2/10

2/8 - The Nature of Representation
2/15 Davidson, Ch. 5

2/18 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Winter Break 2/22 & - 2/25

3/2- Leadership and Adaptation of Members
3/14 Davidson Ch 6

Second Paper Due 3/30

3/16- Committees and the Legislative Process
4/4 Davidson, Ch. 7-9

4/6- Policy Making
4/18 Davidson, Ch. 10-15

Third Paper Due 4/20

4/25 **Optional FINAL EXAM 9:30am**

* Dates are approximate

Addendum (material the university administration wants on the syllabus) aka the small print.

In addition to the articulated course specific policies and expectations, students are responsible for understanding all applicable University guidelines, policies, and procedures. The EMU Student Handbook is the primary resource provided to students to ensure that they have access to all University policies, support resources, and students' rights and responsibilities. Changes may be made to the EMU Student Handbook whenever necessary, and shall be effective immediately, and/or as of the date on which a policy is formally adopted, and/or on the date specified in the amendment. *Please note:* Electing not to access the link provided below does not absolve a student of responsibility. For questions about any university policy, procedure, practice, or resource, please contact the Office of the Ombuds: 248 Student Center, [734.487.0074](tel:734.487.0074), emu_ombuds@emich.edu, or visit the website: www.emich.edu/ombuds

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

115 Halle Library

734-487-0694

<http://www.emich.edu/uwc>

WINTER 2016 SYLLABUS TEXT

The **University Writing Center** (115 Halle Library; 487-0694) offers one-to-one writing consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students can make appointments or drop in between the hours of **10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays**. The UWC opens for the Winter 2016 semester on **Monday, January 11** and will close on **Tuesday, April 19**. Students are encouraged to come to the UWC at any stage of the writing process.

The UWC also has several satellite locations across campus (in Owen, Marshall, Pray-Harrold, and Mark Jefferson). These satellites provide drop-in writing support to students in various colleges and programs. **Satellite locations and hours can be found on the UWC web site:** <http://www.emich.edu/uwc>.

UWC writing consultants also work in the **Academic Projects Center** (116 Halle Library), which offers drop-in consulting for students on writing, research, and technology-related issues. The APC is open **11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays**. Additional information about the APC can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/apc>.

Students seeking writing support at any location of the University Writing Center should bring a draft of their writing (along with any relevant instructions or rubrics) to work on during the consultation. Go to <http://www.emich.edu/uwc> for information about the university writing center.

Key Dates:

January 6: classes begin

January 12: last day to add a class on line (after that until March 7 requires department permission)

January 15: deadline to submit proposals to be included in the April 1 [Undergraduate Symposium](#)

January 18: MLK Holiday (campus events; no classes)
February 22-28: winter break (no classes)
March 23: last day to withdraw from a class with a "W" grade
March 25-27: spring recess (university closed)
April 19: last day of classes
April 21-26: final exams
April 24: commencement

Deadlines

1/12/16 Last date to add courses via the web (a)
3/7/16 Last date to add courses with departmental authorization
1/15/16 Last date for 100% tuition refund (individual or total withdraw from term)
3/23/16 Last date for individual class withdrawal (with W grades) - No Refund
2/2/16 (b) Last date for 50% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades
3/7/16 (b) Last date for 25% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades
4/19/16 (b) Last date for total withdrawal from term (with W grades) - No Refund
1/15/16 Last date to declare pass/fail grading option or select to audit a course
4/19/16 Last date to remove pass/fail grading option and receive letter grade

Codes

(a) Initial registration occurring on or after the Part of Term start date will incur a one-time \$140 late registration fee

(b) Date applicable only if student's classes are ALL within the same Part of Term and/or a later starting Part of Term (**). A written request must be faxed to the Office of Records and Registration at 734.487.6808 before midnight.