

Graduate School of American Studies
Doshisha University
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Prof. Taylor Dark
Office Phone: (075) 251-3927
E-mail: td@taylordark.com
Internet home page: <http://taylordark.com>

CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY DURING WAR AND PEACE (2 units)

This course will examine the workings of the Congress and the presidency, and analyze the relationship between these two rival institutions. Among the questions we shall consider: How does Congress actually work? Why do members of Congress behave as they do? What is the role of the political parties? How much power does the president actually have? Should he have more? Or less? How much does presidential personality matter in producing success or failure? Does either branch really control the federal bureaucracy effectively? Does the American system of “separated institutions sharing powers” really work very well anymore?

The impact of war on congressional-presidential relations, specifically after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, will be addressed throughout the course. Overall, the course should be especially useful for any student contemplating doing research on the policymaking process in the United States.

Course Requirements: All students must keep up with the assigned readings, attend all class meetings, and complete two paper assignments (each of which will be between 7 and 10 pages in length). Instructions on how to complete these assignments will be provided as the course proceeds, and may be altered depending on student interest and performance. Participation in class discussion will also have a positive impact on the final evaluation. The final grade will be calculated in the following way: 40% for each paper, and 20% for classroom participation.

The core reading will be selections from the textbook by James Thurber, but in addition we will read selected classic essays and articles written by professors for a scholarly audience. These selections will be distributed in class or made available for you to copy. Students will be required on a regular basis to write brief outlines and make verbal presentations to the class on parts of the assigned readings.

Textbook: James A. Thurber, ed. Rivals for Power: Presidential-Congressional Relations, Second Edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2001). ISBN: 0742509915

Although a copy of the book will be on reserve in the GSAS library, students are encouraged to purchase the textbook via <http://www.bookfinder.com/> if they have sufficient financial resources. If you purchase a used copy, be sure to get the right edition.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

Course content, procedures and requirements; discussion of American politics.

Week 2: A Tradition of Conflict

Read: James A. Thurber, "An Introduction to Presidential-Congressional Rivalry"

Week 3: Structural Sources of Conflict

Read: James P. Pfiffner, "The President and Congress at the Turn of the Century: Structural Sources of Conflict"

Week 4: Origins of the Presidential Leadership Role

Read: Stephen J. Wayne, "Presidential Leadership of Congress: A Functional and Institutional History"

Week 5: The President and the Congressional Leadership

Read: Roger H. Davidson, "The Presidency and Congressional Leadership"

Week 6: The Impact of Campaigns

Read: Richard E. Cohen, "The Impact of Campaigns on Presidential-Congressional Relations"

Week 7: Recent Efforts at Presidential Influence

Read: Nathan Dietz, "Presidential Influence on Congress: New Solutions to Old Problems"

Week 8: Cases of Successful Influence

Read: Gary Andres and Patrick J. Griffin, "Successful Influence: Managing Legislative Affairs in the Twenty-first Century"

Week 9: The President and the Senate

Read: C. Lawrence Evans and Walter J. Oleszek, "Herding Cats: Presidential Coalition Building in the Senate"

Week 10: The Politics of the Budget: An Insider's View

Read: Leon E. Panetta, "Politics of the Federal Budget Process"

Week 11: The Making of Foreign Policy: An Insider's View

Read: Lee H. Hamilton, "The Making of U.S. Foreign Policy: The Roles of the President and Congress over Four Decades"

Week 12: The President and the Use of Armed Force

Read: Louis Fisher, "Clinton's Military Actions: No Rivals in Sight"

Week 13: The Future of Congressional-Presidential Relations

Read: James A. Thurber, "Conclusions about Congressional-Presidential Rivalries"