# American Public University System

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**School of Arts and Humanities**
**POLS 510**
**Presidency, Congress, and the Bureaucracy**
3 Credit Hours
8 Week
Prerequisites: None

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## Course Description (Catalog)

**POLS 510  Presidency, Congress, and the Bureaucracy (3 hours)**

This course is a critical examination of the presidency, Congress, and the federal bureaucracy.  We will study the operation and interaction of each institution.  The focus of the course is power and public policy.

## Course Scope

This course will assess the development of public policy and the roles of the executive branch and Congress. The course covers both theory and application.

## Course Objectives

**1:** Evaluate the constitutional roles of the executive branch and Congress in establishing public policy.

**2:** Assess the role of interest groups, political parties, and the media in the exercise of presidential power.

**3:** Analyze the factors which contribute to successful presidential leadership.

**4:** Assess the constitutional and historical context of Congress' lawmaking and representation functions.

**5:** Critique the congressional budgeting process.

**6:** Analyze how individual members of Congress exert power and influence.

**7**: Evaluate the "open systems" model regarding the political environment of a governmental agency.

**8**: Analyze the effectiveness of various approaches to controlling bureaucracy.


## Forums

There will be eight forums (one per week for eight weeks). Each week's forum post is worth five percent of the final grade. Every student is expected to post an initial discussion and at least two substantive replies to other posts. (Saying "great post" to another student does not count.) The first forum response is due each week by 11:55 pm Eastern time on Friday, while the minimum two replies to your classmates are due by 11:55 pm Eastern time on Sunday.


## Course Materials

There are two books for the course:

-Michael Nelson, editor, *The Presidency and the Political System*, tenth edition. CQ Press, 2013 ISBN: 978-1452240435

-Steven S. Smith, Jason M. Roberts, and Ryan J. Vander Wielen, *The American Congress*, eighth edition. Cambridge University Press, 2013 ISBN: 978-1107618244

Other course materials for POLS 510 are provided online. You may access course materials through the APUS Online Library. To access readings: sign into APUS. Go to Online Library. Under the **Book/E-Book Page** section, click on the *Open Source (free) E-book link*. Scroll down to the *E-Books Sites--Public Domain/Open Source Collections* on the **Open Web** section. Click on the **Online Books Page link**. Based on what is given (i.e., title, serial number, author, etc.), enter the information, and click on the URL. If you have any difficulty, please let me know.

Also, please be certain to look at the "Lessons" section. The "concepts" section contains a list of important terms to know from the readings. The "Resources" section contains the course Rubric and links to important web sites.

The Political Science Department uses the *Chicago Manual of Style* format as its standard. A guide to *Chicago Manual of Style* format is provided in the APUS online library:
http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm

## Evaluation Procedures

| Requirement | Points |
|---|---|
| Forum Discussions (8) | 400 points |
| Research Paper | 300 points |
| Final Exam | 300 points |
| | 1,000 points |

## Grading – Graduate

Please see the student handbook for the University's grading scale.

**RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS**

Each student will write a 10-12 page paper concerning the presidency, Congress, or the bureaucracy.  Paper topics must be approved by the professor. Possible topics include:

-War Powers Act

-Executive privilege

-Executive orders

-Divided government

-White House Staff

-The Cabinet

-Congressional supremacy

-Congressional committee structure

-The Speakership

-Congressional leadership

-Legislative veto

-Legislative controls on the bureaucracy

-Congressional budget process

-Government corporations

-Regulatory agencies

## COURSE SCHEDULE

| WEEK | TOPIC | READING | ASSIGNMENT |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |

| 1 | Presidency: Institutional Powers | *The Presidency and the Political System* | Introduction Forum |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | | Chapter 1: "The Two Constitutional Presidencies" | Week 1 Forum |
| | | Chapter 2: "Studying the Presidency" | |
| | | Chapter 12: The President And Institutional Powers" | |
| | | Chapter 14: "The President And Congress" | |
| 2 | Presidential Leadership | *The Presidency and the Political System* | Week 2 Forum |
| | | Chapter 3: "The Eye of The Storm" | |
| | | Chapter 4: "Presidential Competence" | |
| | | Chapter 5: "The Psychological Presidency" | |
| | | Chapter 8: "The Presidential Spectacle" | |
| 3 | The President and Politics | *The Presidency and the Political System* | Week 3 Forum |
| | | Chapter 9: "The Presidency | |

And the Press"

Chapter 10: "The Presidency
And Interest Groups"

Chapter 11: "The Presidency
And Political Parties"

| 4 | Congress: History, The Constitution, And Members | *The American Congress* Chapter 1: "The American Congress: Modern Trends"<br><br>Chapter 2: "Representation And Lawmaking in Congress: The Constitutional and Historical Context"<br><br>Chapter 3: "Congressional Elections and Policy Alignments"<br><br>Chapter 4: "Members, Goals, Resources, and Strategies" | Week 4 Forum |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | Congressional Operations | *The American Congress* Chapter 5: "Parties and Leaders"<br><br>Chapter 6: "The Standing Committees"<br><br>Chapter 7: "The Rules of the Legislative Game"<br><br>Chapter 8: "The Floor and Voting" | Week 5 Forum |
| 6 | Congress and Governance | *The American Congress* Chapter 9: "Congress and The President" | Week 6 Forum |

Chapter 10: "Congress and The Courts"

Chapter 11: "Congress, Lobbyists, And Interest Groups"

Chapter 12: "Congress and Budget Politics"

| 7 | Bureaucracy: Structure, Power, and Public Policy | Chapter 3, "Bureaucratic Power and its Causes," in Kenneth J. Meier, and John Bolte, *Politics and the Bureaucracy* | Research paper due: Sunday, 11:55 pm Eastern time |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Bureaucracy: Control and Reform | Kozinski and Bentz, Week 8 "Privatization and its Discontents," Emory Law Journal, November 1, 2013 | |
| | | | Final exam Due Sunday, 11:55 pm Eastern time |

## Polices

Please see the student handbook for all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy
Plagiarism Policy
Extension Process and Policy

**WRITING EXPECTATIONS**

   All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

   -Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).

   -Arial 12-point font.

   -Page margins: top, bottom, left side, and right side margins should be 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.

   -Writing will be graded on a standard grading rubric, including quality of presentation, discussion of relevant concepts, insight, analysis, and reasoning. Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, with correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure.

   -Learning at the master's level is different from learning at the undergraduate level.  Graduate-level study focuses on analyzing concepts and theories, rather than learning facts.

**CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE**

   Assignments must follow Chicago Manual of Style guidelines, using Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.  7th ed. Rev. (Chicago:  University of Chicago Press, 2007).  A CMS Style Sheet is available in the Course Materials. Students are expected to practice good citation and reference style in all written assignments.

**EXTENSION POLICY**

   Course extensions will be very rare in this class.  You are expected to complete your work in a timely manner.  Therefore, there should be no need to request an extension.  Please read the student handbook for the standards that must be met before considering submitting an extension request.  In addition to these standards, I will not approve extension requests except under extraordinary circumstances. The following are **not** extraordinary circumstances: too busy at

work, last minute work out-of-town (or country), too busy with life issues, or got behind in the assignments. There are very few acceptable excuses and all will require documentation.

The reason for this policy is simple: students who are granted extensions rarely finish the course successfully. I want you to be successful and have the best possible experience. Therefore, I expect you to keep up with your assignments and be "present" in the classroom. If you do have an extraordinary circumstance arise that you feel qualifies you for an extension, you must contact me immediately to determine if it meets the aforementioned criteria.

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Submission of late assignments without prior approval is unacceptable and will result in a five-percent deduction for every day the assignment is late. **Repeated late submission of assignments may result in failure of the course.**

## PLAGIARISM POLICY

The instructor has the option of awarding any assignment that has been found to have been plagiarized a zero. Subsequent violations may result in an F in the class.

## NETIQUETTE

Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate, both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting. Basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must prevail.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers:  ;-),  : ),  ☺

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**Academic Services**

**ONLINE LIBRARY RESEARCH CENTER & LEARNING RESOURCES.**
The online library resource center is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources. In addition, the center provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- *Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:* The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publications, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

- *Electronic Books:* You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

- *Electronic Journals:* The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

- *Turnitin.com:* **Turnitin.com** is a tool to improve student research skills that also detect plagiarism. Turnitin.com provides resources on developing topics and assignments that encourage and guide students in producing papers that are intellectually honest, original in thought, and clear in expression. This tool helps ensure a culture of adherence to the University's standards for intellectual honesty. Turnitin.com also reviews students' papers for matches with Internet materials and with thousands of student papers in its database, and returns an Originality Report to instructors and/or students. Typically the course professor will establish a Turnitin.com access code for his/her classes. If the code has not been established, those who wish to use Turnitin.com may ask their professor to establish the code.

**-Request a Library Guide for your course:**
(**http://apus.libguides.com/index.php**)

- The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:
    - ⦿ Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.

    - ⦿ Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., POLS510), or class name.

    - ⦿ If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

## Bibliography
*Presidency*

-Barber, James David Barber. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1972).

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-Kernell, Samuel. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*, 3rd edition (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1997).

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-Skoronek, Stephen. *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership From John Adams to Bill Clinton* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997).

-Tulis, Jeffrey K. *The Rhetorical Presidency* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987).

## *Congress*

-Brady, David. *Critical Elections and Congressional Policy Making* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988).

-Fenno, Richard. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts* (Boston: Little Brown, 1978).

-Fiorina, Morris. *Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989).

-Jacobsen, Gary C. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, 6th edition (New York: Longman, 2004).

-Mann, Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein. *The Broken Branch: How Congress is Failing America and How to Get Back on Track* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

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## *Bureaucracy*

-*An Economic Theory of Democracy* (New York: Harper and Row, 1957).

-Downs, Anthony. *Inside Bureaucracy* (Boston: Little Brown, 1967).

-Heclo, Hugh. *Government of Strangers* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1977).

-Mitnik, Barry M. *The Political Economy of Regulation* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1980).

-Slowronek, Stephen. *Building a New American State: The Expansion of National Administrative Capacities, 1887-1920* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982).

-Waldo, Dwight. *Public Administration in a Time of Turbulence* (Scranton, Pennsylvania: Chandler Publications, 1971).

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