

STUDY GUIDE FOR FINAL EXAM, JUNE 11, 2009 **POLITICAL SCIENCE 517: LEGISLATIVE POLITICS**

Note: The final exam will cover the entire course. The material you should review includes the three required books, reading you have done on current developments in the second session of the 111th Congress [2009], presentations in class, and class discussions. This study guide also indicates the design of the final exam. You should also review the study guide for the midterm.

DESIGN OF FINAL EXAM [1 hour, 50 minutes]

The final exam will have three questions, each of which will count for 1/3 of the exam grade. The exam itself will count for 40% of the grade in the course.

Question A is an essay [chosen from three questions].

Question B is a required essay that focuses on major congressional activity thus far in the first session of the 111th Congress [2009].

Question C is eight short identification items [chosen from a list of sixteen].

MAJOR THEMES

- Congressional relations with the President and institutional presidency.
- Congressional relations with the federal bureaucracy.
- The nature of public opinion about Congress and reasons for it.
- General features of congressional behavior illustrated by examples of the most important congressional activity to date in 2009.
- How individual members of the House and Senate decide what positions to take on the business before them.
- The interaction between Congress and interest groups.
- The essential similarities and differences between the House and the Senate.
- The interaction between Congress and constituents.
- Congressional relations with the federal judicial system.
- The role of Congress in making different types of domestic policy.
- The role of Congress in making different types of foreign and defense policy.
- Budgeting/taxing/appropriating in Congress.
- Mann/Ornstein critique of Congress, suggestions for change, and assessment of 2007 session.
- Strengths and weaknesses of the contemporary Congress.

TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Nuclear option/“gang of 14”

Earmarks

Burke’s theory of representation [representative vs. delegate]

Government Accountability Office

Membership turnover

Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 [McCain-Feingold]

Voter turnout in congressional elections

Reapportionment

Pivotal voter theory of congressional leadership

Cooper-Brady thesis on the influence of party government

“Fire alarm” and “police patrol” forms of congressional oversight

Party committees in the House

Party committees in the Senate

Senate Judiciary Committee

House Energy and Commerce Committee

Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee

Types of congressional responsiveness to the public [Eulau and Karps]

Caucuses

Congressional staff

State delegations

Suspension of the rules [House]

Cue-giving and cue-taking

Backdoor spending techniques

Divided government/unified government

Blue slip process (for presidential judicial nominations)

Senatorial courtesy (for presidential judicial nominations)

The “two presidencies” perspective

Presidential veto

Legislative veto

Base Realignment and Closing Commission

Discretionary/mandatory spending in the federal budget

Distributive domestic policy

Protective regulatory domestic policy

Redistributive domestic policy

Structural foreign and defense policy

Strategic foreign and defense policy

Crisis foreign and defense policy

War Powers Resolution

INDIVIDUALS

Joe Cannon

Newt Gingrich

Dennis Hastert

Steny Hoyer

Peter Orszag

Rahm Emanuel

John Boehner

Sherrod Brown and George Voinovich

Charles Rangel

James Clyburn

Arlen Specter