

Political Science 517N

Lecture 1:

The Constitutional Foundations of Congress

1. Administrative Tasks: Roll Call, Books, Online Reserve, etc.
2. The Lecture
 - A) Goals:
 - 1) To understand the Construction of the Constitution
 - a) From where did it evolve?
 - b) Upon what beliefs was it founded?
 - c) Why does the legislative branch play a predominant role?
 - 2) To understand the significance of the Constitution
 - a) Why is it unique?
 - b) What is particularly interesting about the legislature?
 - c) What does a Federal system do for us?
 - 3) How is the legislative branch empowered?
 - a) Unique versus shared powers
 - b) Delineating Article I, Section 8—what can Congress do?
 - c) What can't Congress do?
 - 4) The Boundaries of Congress
 - a) Separation of Powers—I hate limitations!
 - b) The power of the states in all of this.
 - c) The President, the Courts, and the bureaucrats, oh my!
 - 5) Bicameralism
 - a) Why even bother (Nebraska didn't!)
 - 6) The Modern Congress
 - a) The institutionalization of Congress
 - 1) Workload
 - 2) Staffing
 - 3) Committees
 - b) A Congress too close to the people and the interests of the people?

- 1) Campaign Finance
- 2) Representation
- 3) Congressional Careers
- 4) The Importance of the Party