Legislative Politics
Ohio State University
Syllabus: Autumn 2016

Instructor: William Minozzi
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Class location: 0080 Derby Hall
Class time: Th 2:30p-5:15p
Office hours: By appointment

Description
The goal of this course is to introduce doctoral students to the literature on legislative (read congressional) politics, from the major theories, through the empirical strategies, and finally to the best work being done today. At the same time, the course aims to develop students’ aptitude with the scholarly process, including identifying theoretical lacunae, articulating research questions, and designing empirical tests.

Assignments & grading
Assessment will be broken into three equal parts: participation in class discussion, completion of short assignments, and a final paper. No late work will be accepted, barring truly horrific circumstances. Don’t do incompletes. They are the devil.

Short assignments will consist first of reviews (≈ 1200 words\(^1\)) that summarize the readings for the day prepared in advance of classes and distributed via Slack. The review should include mention of important items outside of those listed on the syllabus, utilizing citation search tool to identify classic literature and modern innovations. We will assign dates on the first day of class, with everyone selecting one date. Second, to prepare for each class, students should generate a research memo, based on the ideas in the readings for the day, with each student completing one memo per class period. These memos should be short (≈ 300 words), identify a research question, articulate why the answer to the question matters, and speculate about how to find that answer. These should also show up on Slack, at least by Tuesday evening (before 11:59p). Finally, students should critique each others’ work. That is, for every class, each student should read each others’ stuff, and comment on it (you guessed it, using Slack). Each student should comment on at least two other students’ work. And, please, if you notice somebody else’s stuff has gone orphaned and not generated any comments, pick up the...slack, I guess. Hopefully, these comments will generate further discussion (online and IRL) and even grow into actionable research!

The final paper should be an expanded version of a research memo (≈ 2500 words). The topic can either be based on a research memo you really liked (preferably one you wrote), or a totally new one.

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\(^1\)All word counts should exclude references, etc.
Topic schedule

All readings in plain text will be distributed electronically. All in italics are books to purchase (sorry!).

Introduction and the Spatial Model

Krehbiel (1988)

Legislative Decisionmaking

Mayhew (1974)
Kingdon (1977)
Masket (2008)

Roll Call Voting

Roberts (2007)
Jones (2010)

Theories of Parties in Legislatures

Krehbiel (1993)
Cox and McCubbins (2005)
Aldrich and Rohde (2000)

Testing Theories of Parties in Legislatures

Carson et al. (2010)
Jenkins and Monroe (2012)
Minozzi and Volden (2013)
Legislative Politics (A16) Minozzi

Legislative Committees

Fenno (1973)
Grimmer and Powell (2013)
Berry and Fowler (2016)

Legislative Accountability

Miller and Stokes (1963)
Fenno (1977)

Legislative Institutionalization

Polsby (1968)
Schickler (2000)
Jenkins and Stewart (2016)

Legislative Development

Gamm and Shepsle (1989)
Gailmard and Jenkins (2009)
Massengill, et al. (2016)

Interest Groups

Austen-Smith and Wright (1994)
Baumgartner and Leech (1996)
Hall and Deardorff (2006)

Legislative Networks

Cho and Fowler (2010)
Kirkland (2011)
Rogowski and Sinclair (2012)
Legislative Effectiveness

*Volden and Wiseman (2014)*

Two more TBD

Legislative Capacity

Bolton and Thrower (2016)

Two more TBD
References


