Political Science 318/518 and History 342/442  
Spring 2009  
Emergence of the Modern Congress  

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Office hours: Thursday mornings, 10:00–11:30  

Through reading and research, this course examines major issues in congressional history and legislative organization. This course is appropriate for graduate students as well as qualified undergraduates with permission of the instructor.  

Requirements  
Informed participation in weekly discussions (60%). Students are required to attend all scheduled class meetings, having read the assigned material. Each week students in the class will offer brief oral presentations and analyses of the readings, preparing and distributing written handouts for the rest of the class.  
Research paper (40%). Students are required to research and write an original paper, which for graduate students might form the basis of their second-year paper or other future work. The paper should identify an interesting question in congressional politics, present a basic theory and hypotheses, and offer evidence to test this theory. The paper should be 12–20 pages in length. The paper is due by April 27; incompletes are strongly discouraged and will not be given without good cause. By February 27, students must meet with me and receive approval on their topic and approach.  

There is no exam.
Jan. 16 Introduction

Jan. 19 No class—Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Jan. 26 Careers and Seniority


Feb. 2 The Electoral Connection


Feb. 9 Committees


Feb. 16 Congressional Government


Feb. 23 Leaders and Insurgents


Mar. 2 Rules


Mar. 9 No class—Spring Break

Mar. 16 Reform


Mar. 23 The President and the Legislative Agenda


Mar. 30 The Senate: Electoral Institutions


Apr. 6 The Senate: Leaders, Committees, and Rules


Apr. 13 War Powers


Apr. 20 Civil War and Reconstruction


Apr. 27 Divided Government


