

Advanced Legislative Procedures  
Fall Semester 2021

Graduate School of Political Management  
Professor Martin B. Gold  
Hall of States: Tuesdays 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Course Description:

This course provides a detailed study of the rules, procedures, traditions, and constitutional underpinnings that govern the work of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Attached is an outline of the topics of each class session. At the conclusion of the course, the student should understand the structures and mechanisms by which Congress operates and through which it fulfills its responsibilities within the American political system.

Course Requirements:

There will be substantial use throughout this course of reading matter I will post on Blackboard. I will draw these materials from texts on Congress, from documents related to the formation and evolution of the Constitution, Congressional Research Service studies, postings from Senate and House websites, excerpts from the Congressional Record and committee reports, as well as from popular literature. In addition, a reading list is included below. I will add postings throughout the semester, taking care that you will have timely access to them.

In each class, I will offer a PowerPoint presentation, often containing video presentations of Congress in action. Many will contain case studies. I will post these PowerPoints on Blackboard for your review and reference.

Class attendance is very important. I am eager for your participation and your questions.

There will be take-home mid-term and final exams. I will post the mid-term online in the evening right after the seventh class. It will be due an hour before the eighth class. I will post the final an hour after the fourteenth class. It will be due by 5:00 PM on Monday of the following week. The mid-term will cover materials presented through the first seven classes and the final will cover the last seven. Each exam will count for 30% of the grade. You will also be asked to complete a paper, which will be due by 5:00 PM on Monday, November 22, 2021. It may be on a topic of your choosing, and should approximate 15 double-spaced pages in length. As this is a class in Congressional procedures, the paper may focus entirely on process or, if it takes the form of a case study or legislative history, you must take care to describe relevant procedural considerations. Please secure my written approval for your paper topics no later than Monday, September 20, 2021. Papers will not be graded unless this requirement has been satisfied. The paper will count 40% toward the grade.

## Office Hours and Availability:

I do not have an office at George Washington University, so I am unable to keep regular office hours. That said, I will be as accessible as possible to you throughout the semester. I can be reached via email at [mgold@capitolcounsel.com](mailto:mgold@capitolcounsel.com) and by telephone at 202-415-4099. I will be pleased to arrange times for us to meet virtually. I am also glad to respond to your emails.

## Course Readings:

Senate Procedure and Practice, by Martin B. Gold (Rowman and Littlefield 4th ed. 2018)

Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process, by Walter Oleszek, (CQ Press, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. 2016)

These books should be available from the publisher, also from Barnes and Noble as well as Amazon websites.

## Recommended additional reading:

Congress and its Members, by Roger Davidson, Walter Oleszek, Francis Lee (CQ Press, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. 2012)

Congressional Deskbook, by Judy Schneider, Michael Koempel, and Robert Keith (theCapitol.net 6<sup>th</sup> ed. 2012)

The House by Robert Remini (Smithsonian Books, 2006)

The Senate Syndrome by Steven S. Smith (University of Oklahoma Press) 2014

Minority Rights Majority Rule, by Sarah Binder (Cambridge University Press. 1997)

Unorthodox Lawmaking, by Barbara Sinclair (CQ Press. 2012)

## Informational Websites from Congress:

The rules of the House of Representatives:

[http://rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF\\_112\\_1/legislativetext/112th%20Rules%20Pamphlet.pdf](http://rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF_112_1/legislativetext/112th%20Rules%20Pamphlet.pdf)

“Parliamentary Bootcamp” from the House Rules Committee:

<http://www.rules.house.gov/Resources/ParliamentaryBootcamp.aspx>

Senate rules and procedures, from the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration:

<http://rules.senate.gov/public/>

Historical information about the Senate is available at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov), then click on the Art & History tab at the top.

Historical information about the House is available at <http://artandhistory.house.gov/>