Instructor – Dr. Scot Schraufnagel
Class Time – 6:30–9:10 p.m. Wednesday
Class Location – DuSable Hall 464
Office Hours – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 2:00 to 4:30 (and by appointment)
Office Location – Zulauf 415
Office Phone Number – (815) 753-7040
E-mail – sschrauf@niu.edu

Note: E-mail should NOT be used as a primary mode of communication for critical information. There is no guarantee that I will receive the correspondence in a timely manner. You should plan to talk to me in person, before and after class, or in office hours regarding planned absences and other important matters. Phone calls, especially during office hours, are a good way to communicate with me as well. No Grades will be given out over the phone or by e-mail.

Required Texts:


Recommended Text:
Required Articles:


Seminar Outline/Objectives – The primary objective of the seminar is to expose students to important academic works on the subject of Congress and encourage students to think critically about the arguments made in these literatures. A second objective is to promote an understanding of the way in which the modern Congress is organized and conducts business. Third, the seminar will ask students to formulate an academic research question and develop a research design capable of answering the question. In the process, students will need to determine the relevant body of existing research related to their question. The objective of this project will be for students to learn the process of initiating a legitimate research program.

Evaluation Process – The course will be graded on a total points system and there will be a possible 500 points for the course. There will be 12 homework assignments, three paper assignments (Introduction, Literature Review, and Research Design), and a participation grade. Each homework assignment will be worth twenty (20) points; however, the two lowest scores from the 12 assignments are dropped. Hence, there will be 200 points attributed to the homework assignments. The Introduction paper will be worth 50 points; the Literature Review paper 50 points; the final Research Design paper 100 points, and the participation grade will be worth 100 points. The research design paper will serve as a final exam and will be due the evening that the university has scheduled for the final exam.

Homework: There are twelve (12) homework assignments, however as noted above, only scores on the 10 best assignments will count toward your final grade. Assignments should be submitted on Blackboard in the designated space. The assignments will ask you to respond to questions posed by the Instructor. The answers will be found in the assigned readings. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the schedule below. Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with font Times New Roman-12. Margins should be 1¼ inches left and right and 1-inch top and bottom. Answers can be formatted in a bulleted manner and students must include a reference to the question they are answering. See the Grading Criteria sheet at the end of the syllabus for more details.

Introduction Paper: This paper is submitted electronically to the professor’s email address (sschrauf@niu.edu) by 6:30 p. on the date specified in the class schedule below. This paper should detail your research question and explain to the reader why this is an important question and worthy of the reader’s attention.
**Literature Review:** This paper should also be submitted electronically to the professor’s e-mail address by 6:30 p. on the date specified in the class schedule. There is no predetermined number of references. At minimum, you will want to cite all the major works in your research arena from the top political science journals and university presses.

**Research Design Paper:** Specifics regarding this assignment are provided in the grading rubric below. The best research design papers will include an Appendix, which communicates progress made toward actually conducting the research. For instance, the Appendix might include a survey instrument or an interview script and perhaps a pretest of the research tool. If you are using archival data, your Appendix might include the sources where the data can be obtained and a descriptive table; perhaps a display of values on the dependent variable.

**Participation Grade:** There are four parts to the participation grade. First, each week select students may receive a request from the instructor to be prepared to provide a lead on some subject matter related to the assigned reading for the following week. Second, the grade will be based on student’s extemporaneous comments made during class periods (these do not have to come in the form of answers, as good questions are equally valued). Third, the student will be expected to discuss their research program during class periods. Last, the participation grade will reflect your attendance and punctuality on class days. Students missing three or more class periods, for any reason, will receive a one letter grade deduction, regardless of performance on the writing assignments.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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| 01/17/2018 | Course Introduction  
Discuss Paper Topics & Fiorina | Fiorina                  |
| 01/24/2018 | Legislative Process                      | Krehbiel                 |
| 01/31/2018 | Legislative Process                      | D&O – Chapters 1, 2, & 13 +  
Articles 1, 2, & 3          |
| 02/07/2018 | Congressional Elections                  | Mayhew                   |
| 02/14/2018 | Congressional Elections                  | D&O – Chapters 3 &4 +  
Articles 4 & 5              |
| 02/21/2018 | **Introduction paper due**  
– Discuss Paper Topics | Independent              |
| 02/28/2018 | Political Parties and Congress           | Articles 6, 7, 8, & 9    |
| 03/07/2018 | Political Parties and Congress           | D&O – Chapters 5, 7, 8 & 9 |
| 03/14/2018 | SPRING BREAK                             | Independent              |
| 03/21/2018 | Committees and Policy Making             | Arnold                   |
| 03/28/2018 | Committees and Policy Making             | Cox and McCubbins        |
| 04/04/2018 | Member Behavior                          | Kingdon                  |
| 04/11/2018 | **Literature Review paper due** –       | Independent              |
## Discuss Paper Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/18/2018</td>
<td>Member Behavior</td>
<td>D&amp;O – Chapters 6, 11, &amp; 12 + Articles 10, 11, &amp; 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/25/2018</td>
<td>Congress and the President</td>
<td>D&amp;O – Chapters 15, 16, 17, &amp; 18 + Article 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/02/2018</td>
<td>Congress and the President</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>05/09/2018</td>
<td><strong>Research Design Paper Due</strong></td>
<td>Independent</td>
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### Disclaimer
Test times, class schedules and reading assignments are all subject to change. Regular attendance in class will assure that students have all the needed information to successfully complete the course.

### Academic Honor Code

*Academic dishonesty:* In preparing for your work and meeting the requirements of this course, you are expected to adhere to all the rules, regulations, and standards set forth by the Department of Political Science, Northern Illinois University, and the scholarly community. This statement encompasses intentional and unintentional plagiarism; cheating on examinations; using, purchasing, or stealing others’ work; misusing library materials; and so forth. The NIU Undergraduate Catalog states:

> Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students guilty of, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university. ([Undergraduate Catalog](http://polisci.niu.edu/polisci/audience/plagiarism.shtml))

If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, ask. Ignorance will not be tolerated as an excuse. If you are unaware of how to cite properly, visit [http://polisci.niu.edu/polisci/audience/plagiarism.shtml](http://polisci.niu.edu/polisci/audience/plagiarism.shtml).

### Classroom Etiquette
Students are to arrive at class on time. Students are to remain for the entire session unless excused by the Instructor beforehand or confronted with a serious personal emergency. For instance, it is not acceptable for students to walk in and out of class to answer cell phones, take casual bathroom and smoking breaks, or attend to other personal matters. Cell phones, pagers, or any electronic devices that make noise must be turned off during class unless the instructor has been notified beforehand of a special circumstance (e.g., sick family member, pregnant wife, special childcare situation, etc.). No one should talk while someone else is talking; this includes comments meant for a classmate rather than the entire
group. What may seem like a whisper or a harmless remark to one person can be a distraction to someone else. Overall, classroom dialogue and behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** A student who believes that reasonable accommodations with respect to course work or other academic requirements may be appropriate in consideration of a disability must (1) provide the required verification of the disability to the Center for Access-Ability Resources, (2) meet with the Center for Access-Ability Resources to determine appropriate accommodations, and (3) inform the faculty in charge of the academic activity of the need for accommodation. Students are encouraged to inform the faculty of their requests for accommodations as early as possible in the semester, but must make the requests in a timely enough manner for accommodations to be appropriately considered and reviewed by the university. If contacted by the faculty member, the staff of the Center for Access-Ability Resources will provide advice about accommodations that may be indicated in the particular case. Students who make requests for reasonable accommodations are expected to follow the policies and procedures of the Center for Access-Ability Resources in this process, including but not limited to the Student Handbook.

A wide range of services can be obtained by students with disabilities, including housing, transportation, adaptation of printed materials, and advocacy with faculty and staff. Students with disabilities who need such services or want more information should contact the Center for Access-Ability Resources at 815-753-1303.

**Grading Rubric for Homework Assignments**

**Spring 2018**

There is no predetermined length for homework assignments. However, it is difficult to imagine an assignment less than 750 words being sufficiently complete to earn full credit. Any paper in excess of 3000 words will be returned without a grade (student will be expected to reformulate his/her responses to make them more concise).

All students start with a score of “20”:

A – minus 1 for each incomplete answer.
B – minus 1 for each entirely wrong answer.
C – minus 1 for each failure to follow guidelines spelled out in the syllabus.
D – minus 1 for multiple grammatical errors (including citation errors).
Grading Rubric for Participation  
Spring 2018  
The quality of your participation will largely be a subjective assessment, based on 23 years of teaching experience. However, the following objective criteria will apply:

Minus 20 for an unexcused absence and Minus 10 for each instance of uncivil behavior (i.e. leaving early, arriving late, unexcused walking out in the middle of class, etc.).

Name: ____________________________________________________

Grading Rubric for Introduction Paper  
Spring 2015  
Assignment is submitted on time (0 - - - - - - - - - - -10 pts.)  _______

Topic is discussed with professor or in class (0 - - - - - - -10 pts.)  _______

Introduction is comprehensive (0 - - - - - - - - - - -20 pts.)  _______
(Answers the question “So what?” and question is grounded in existing research)

Well-written (proofreading, citation issues) (0 - - - - -10 pts.)  _______

Total Score  _______


Grading Rubric for Literature Reviews  
Spring 2018

Assignment is submitted on time (0 - - - - - - - - 10 pts.) ________

Introduction has been improved (0 - - - - - - - - 10 pts.) ________

Literature review is comprehensive (0 - - - - - - - - - 20 pts.) ________

Well-written (proofreading issues) (0 - - - - 10 pts.) ________

Possible additional points for an extraordinarily comprehensiveness review. ________

Total Score ________

Grading Rubric for Research Design Paper  
Spring 2018

Assignment is submitted on time (0 - - - - - - - - - 20) ________

Student makes improvements to the Introduction (0 - - - - - 10) ________

Student makes improvements to the Literature Review (0 - - - - - 20) ________

Students hypotheses are backed by quality theory (0 - - - - - 20) ________

(‘Quality theory’ is defined as face valid explanations for why one thing should cause another.)

Research Design is well-organized and complete (0 - - - - - 20) ________

Grammar (minus one for each set of three obvious errors) (0 - - - - - 10) ________

Extra-credit – Possible additional points for an extraordinarily comprehensiveness design. ________

Total Score ________

Note: The research design papers will not be returned, unless the student sets an appointment to meet with me during the inter-semester break.