The purpose of this course is to study the national, state, and local legislatures as lawmaking and political bodies with emphasis on the U.S. Congress. The course includes legislative procedures, performance, the role of the executive, and political parties and interest groups in the legislative process.

Topics to Be Covered

Recommended Texts: There is no mandatory textbook. If you wish to use a textbook, I suggest Davidson and Oleszek’s Congress and It’s Members.

Written Work
The first test is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29th and will cover the lectures to date. The second test is scheduled for Thursday, March 13th and will cover the lectures between the first and second test. The third test will be held on Tuesday, April 29th. It will include the lectures between the second and third tests. There is no final exam.

This course is related to Goal 1, Objective 1a, of the Political Science Department’s outcomes expectations for this major - specifically the component dealing with Congress. The third exam may be a portfolio item.

Class Policies: Office: MO 537J - Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-11 am, and by appointment. The grading scale in this course is as follows: 0-59=F; 60-64=D; 65-69=D+; 70-74=C; 75-79=C+; 80-84=B; 85-89=B+; 90-100=A. Each test will count for one third of the final grade.

Anyone having absences of more than 15% of the semester’s classes is subject to an "F" grade for the course. Absences should be excused prior to the test. Late arrival for class counts as an absence if roll has been taken. A student may withdraw from the class with an "W" up to and including Friday, March 7th.

It is recommended that no notes, paper or books be brought to class on test days. If ANYTHING is brought by a student except a pen, IT MUST BE placed in an area designated by the professor. Paper will be provided by the professor. No other paper may be used on test days.

If any changes are made in the test schedule or material to be covered in the test, at least one week’s notice will be given in class.

Emergency Policy In the event of disruptions due to hurricanes, please access the Blackboard system online at http://loyno.blackboard.com. In the event of an evacuation, you will be required to check the system for announcements and be responsible for all assignments posted therein. For Bb help, please call toll free 1-866-562-7278, or visit the web support portal at http://supportcenteronline.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=4063 You may also contact me at renwick@loyno.edu.

If the University cancels classes on a day an exam is scheduled, the exam will be given on the next scheduled class day the University is in session.

Students with disabilities who wish to receive accommodations in this class should contact Disability Services at 865-2990, Monroe Hall 405.