

Politics, Power and Policymaking in Washington, D.C. (PS 330-301)
University of Pennsylvania
Washington Semester Program
Friday 1:00-4:00

Prof. John C. Fortier

Phone: (202) 828-6038

Officer Hours: Before or after each class and by appointment

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Course Description: In this course, students will learn how the three branches of government really work. We will combine academic readings with practical opportunities that are here in Washington. We will make trips to the institutions and have frequent outside guest speakers. This will require some flexibility in scheduling.

Requirements: class participation, a mid-term examination and a cumulative final examination.

Midterm and Finals – These exams will cover reading materials as well as all lectures, class discussions, and guest speakers' talks. There will be short identification questions, short essays and a long essay.

Class participation – Students will be expected to master the weekly readings and discuss them in class. Students may be asked to hand in summaries or questions about the weekly assignment. Classroom participation is especially encouraged when we have outside guests.

The course will be run as a seminar, and we will all benefit from your attention to the readings, insights from your internships, and questions. Students will be expected to follow political developments by reading the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and other media sources relevant to the week's topics (e.g. *Roll Call* and *The Hill*). While the class will usually take place on Friday afternoon, we may reschedule the class for Thursday, if we have an opportunity to visit the Congress or hear from an important guest speaker. We will also follow particular pieces of legislation and Supreme Court cases through the legislative and judicial processes.

Your grade will be determined from the following components:

- Classroom Participation (10%)
- Midterm Exam (40%)
- Final Exam (50%)

Readings:

How Congress Evolves: Social Bases of Institutional Change

By Nelson Polsby

Oxford University Press; (December 1, 2003)

The Presidency in a Separated System

by Charles O. Jones

Brookings Institution Press; (Second Edition June 2005)

The Supreme Court

by William H. Rehnquist

Alfred A. Knopf; Revised edition (February 6, 2001)

Death by a Thousand Cuts

by Michael Graetz and Ian Shapiro

(Princeton University Press 2005)

Decision

By Richard Harris

(Out of Print. Handout)

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

January 13

Week 2-3: The Judicial Confirmation Process

January 20 *The Supreme Court*, Chapter 11 “Presidential Appointments to the Supreme Court.”; *Decision* pp. 1-136

January 27 *Decision* pp. 137-end

Weeks 4-6 Congress

February 3 *How Congress Evolves*, Chapters 1-3

February 10 *How Congress Evolves*, Chapter 4-5;
Continuity of Government Commission Report (to be handed out)

February 17 *Death by a Thousand Cuts* pp. 1-130.

February 24 *Death by a Thousand Cuts* pp. 131-282.

Week 7 Midterm

March 3 Midterm

March 10 SPRING BREAK

Weeks 8-10 The Presidency

March 17 *Presidency in a Separated System*, Chapters 1-3

March 24 *Presidency in a Separated System*. Chapters 4-6

March 31 *Presidency in a Separated System*. Chapters 7-8

*Each week of the study of the presidency, I will hand out short supplemental readings on the Bush presidency.

Weeks 11-13 The Supreme Court

April 7 *The Supreme Court*, Introduction; Chapters 1-7;

April 14 *The Supreme Court*, Chapters 8-end; selected Supreme Court case

April 21 Selected Supreme Court case

Week 14 Final Exam

April 28 Final Exam