COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this course is to examine the nature and operation of the American legislative process. Special attention will be given to the theoretical objectives that informed the constitutional design of the legislative process and the ideological and institutional changes that have taken place since the Founding.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Students will understand and analyze the different political theories that have informed the design and operation of the American legislative process.
2. Students will understand and analyze the institutional development and modern operation of Congress.
3. Students will understand and analyze how the current legislative process shapes the behavior of representatives in Congress and the interaction that occurs between members of Congress, interest groups, and the bureaucracy during the law making process.
4. Students will understand how to research the legislative process.

POLITICAL SCIENCE LEARNING GOALS
Goal 1: Students will be able to evaluate the institutions of politics.
Goal 2: Students will be able to evaluate the theories of politics.
Goal 3: Students will be able to evaluate the policies of politics.
Goal 4: Students will have experience as active participants in politics and/or academic organizations within the discipline of political science.
Goal 5: Students will obtain effective written communication skills.

REQUIRED READING
Additional required readings, including several reports from the Congressional Research Service, will be posted on Blackboard or handed out in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
- **Exam #1**: Monday, October 16 75 points
- **Exam #2**: Wednesday, November 22 75 points
- **Research Paper Proposal**: Due Friday, October 27 10 points
- **Outline and Bibliography**: Due Monday, November 20 20 points
- **Research Paper**: Due Monday, December 8 (12:00pm) 75 points
- **Research Presentation** 20 points
- **Reading Questions**: 25 points
- **Attendance/Participation** 25 points
The Grading Scale is:

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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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- **Note:** The exact points you receive for all the assignments in the course will determine your final grade. Scores will not be rounded up. Do not e-mail the professor at the end of the quarter asking for a higher grade.

**Course Outline:***

**Friday, September 22:** Introduction

**Part I: Theoretical Background**

**Monday, September 25:** The Origin, Role and Form of Legislative Government in Lockean Social Compact Theory
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (selections) (Blackboard)
- *Declaration of Independence* (Blackboard)

**Wednesday, September 27:** The Political Crisis of the 1780’s
- James Madison, *Vices of the Political System of the United States* (Blackboard)
- Joseph M. Bessette, *The Mild Voice of Reason* (selections) (Blackboard)

**Friday, September 29:** The Founders’ Constitutionalism
- *Federalist Papers*, No. 10 (Blackboard)

**Monday, October 2:** The Founders’ Constitutionalism Contd.
- Selections from the *Federalist Papers* on Separation of Powers (Blackboard)

**Wednesday, October 4 and Friday, October 6:** The Institutional Design of Congress
- Article I of the US Constitution (Blackboard)
- Selections from the *Federalist Papers* on the House of Representatives and the Senate (Blackboard)

**Monday, October 9 and Wednesday, October 11:** Progressivism and the Transformation of the Constitutional Legislative Process
- Thomas G. West, “Progressivism and Transformation” (Blackboard)
- Herbert Croly, *Progressive Democracy* (Selections) (Blackboard)
- Frank Goodnow, *Politics and Administration* (Selections) (Blackboard)

**Friday, October 13:** Researching the Legislative Process
- Guidelines and Handouts
Monday, October 16: Exam #1

**Part II: The Modern Legislative Process**

**Wednesday, October 18:** The Evolution of Congress; Party Organization and Leadership; Introduction to Congressional Membership Stability
- *Congressional Research Service* Report (Blackboard)
- Morris P. Fiorina, *Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment*, Ch. 1

**Friday, October 20:** Congressional Membership Stability: The Incumbency Advantage

**Monday, October 23 – Friday, October 27:** The Committee System and the Lawmaking Process
- *Congressional Research Service* Report (Blackboard)

**Monday, October 30 – Friday, November 3:** The Congressional Delegation of Powers
- David Schoenbrod, *Power Without Responsibility* (Selections) (Blackboard)

**Monday, November 6 – Wednesday, November 8:** Congress and the Washington Establishment

**Friday, November 10:** Veteran’s Day Observed (No Class)

**Monday, November 13 – Wednesday, November 15:** Congressional Oversight
- *Congressional Research Service* Report (Blackboard)

**Friday, November 17 – Monday, November 20:** The Budget Process
- *Congressional Research Service* Report (Blackboard)

**Wednesday, November 22:** Exam #2

**Friday, November 24:** Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)

**Monday, November 27:** Research Presentations; Research Project

**Wednesday, November 29:** Research Presentations; Research Project

**Friday, December 1:** Research Presentations; Research Project

**Monday, December 4:** Research Presentations; Research Project

**Friday, December 8:** Research Paper Due

* The instructor may choose to add, delete, or revise segments of this course.

**Special Needs:**
If you are in need of an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this class, please let me know ASAP and also contact Services to Students with Disabilities at UH-183, (909)537-5238.

Examinations: Two of these will take place during the quarter on the dates specified in the course requirements. The exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. Success on the exams will require a solid grasp of the concepts and details discussed in the assigned readings and lecture. 

Note: In almost all cases, missed exams will be calculated as a zero into the final average and make-up exams will not be given.

Research Proposal, Outline, Bibliography, and Paper: Topics and guidelines for the research proposal, outline, bibliography, and paper will be handed out in class. Assignments turned in late will receive the following grade reductions.

After the beginning of class but on the same calendar day: 5 point grade reduction
First calendar day after the due date: 10 point grade reduction
Second calendar day after the due date: 15 point grade reduction
Third calendar day after the due date: 20 point grade reduction
Fourth calendar day after the due date: automatic failing grade

Class Presentation: Each student will be required to give a 5 minute presentation on their chosen research topic. More specific guidelines will be passed out and discussed in class.

Reading Questions: At the beginning of randomly chosen classes students will be asked a question about the assigned reading. In answering the question, students may refer to one page of reading notes, but they may not refer to the actual reading. Six reading questions will be asked over the course of the quarter. Each question is worth 5 points (1 incorrect answer or missed question will be dropped). No make-up questions will be given to students who are tardy or absent.

Attendance: Attendance is an important indicator of academic success. Consequently, a portion of your grade will be determined on the basis of your attendance. To this end, roll will be called at the start of class each day. Students who are not present at this time or who leave early will be marked absent. Students who miss two or less classes will receive full attendance credit. Students who miss more than two classes will lose 5 points for each additional absence.

Participation: A portion of your overall grade will be determined by the quality of your participation in class discussion. Students who never participate, or who are manifestly unprepared for class, may lose a portion of this component of their grade. Students who engage in disruptive behavior (i.e. texting, note passing, etc.) will also lose a portion of this component of their grade.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Please see the Bulletin, Catalog of Programs for the consequences of violations.

Class Conduct: Students are expected to be respectful of other class members and the professor in their conduct.

Withdrawals: See the “General Regulations and Procedures” section of the CSUSB Bulletin of Courses for the university’s policy on this issue.

Please Note: Unless a student has a documented need for an accommodation, electronic recording devices and laptop computers are prohibited in this class. The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus. Don’t forget to turn off your cell phones!!!