

**FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Government and History**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE:** POLI-646-01 ( Advanced Reading Seminar -The Legislative Process)

**SEMESTER:** Fall 2002

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ngozi C. Kamalu, Ph.D., Professor

**MEETING PERIOD:** Wednesday, 6:00 PM - 8:50 PM

**FORUM:** JKSA 205

**OFFICE:** Taylor Science (TS) 207D

**OFFICE TELEPHONE:**( 910) 672-1367

**E-MAIL:** [Nkamalu@uncfsu.edu](mailto:Nkamalu@uncfsu.edu)

**CONFERENCE HOURS:** Mon: 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM;

Wed.: 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM; 4:00 PM –6:00 PM

Fri.: 12:00 Noon -2:00PM

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

POLI-646- Advanced reading Seminar allows graduate students to select readings and conduct research in their area of special interest. This area is The Legislative Process. Hence, reading materials and literature will focus in this area. The Legislative process is a study of the evolution, structure, functions, and dynamics of American legislative institutions, with emphasis on the interrelationships among the legislative, Judicial and Executive branches, and outsiders in the law making process in American government.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

- (1) Walter J. Oleszek. CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES AND THE POLICY PROCESS  
( Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2001, Fifth Edition)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The successful completion of this course is intended to enhance students= abilities in achieving the following purposes:

1. Discuss how contemporary Congress laws - from the introduction of bills to their passage into law.
2. How Congressional rules and procedures shape domestic and foreign policies of the United States.
3. Understand the interplay of Congressional rules, precedents, procedures and strategies necessary to comprehending how Congress works as an institution.
4. Comprehend congressional process: Introduction, referral of bills to the House and Senate

Committee actions and measures.

5. Appreciate the political environment in which Congress operates.
6. Understand the leadership structure in congress; pressure exerted on the institution and the recent changes in its operations.
7. Examine the budget process, which is at the heart of the legislative process in congress.
8. Comprehend how legislation emerges from committees and scheduling measures for floor consideration and action.
9. Discussion of the main features of floor decision making in the House and Senate.
10. Describe how House- Senate differences are reconciled when each chamber passes a different version of the same bill.
11. The role of Presidential veto power and the consequent Congressional reaction and counter reactions, including resolution outcomes and strategies.
12. How Congress monitors the implementation of laws it has passed ( Congressional Oversight Functions.)

### **COURSE REQUIREMENT:**

Three main evaluations are required.

- (1) An Examination reflecting the course work.- 100 points = (33.33 %)
- (2) Oral Presentation + Summary ( 60 + 40 points) = (33.33%)
- (3) Term Paper on Congress and related issues.- Topic, scope and methodology must be approved by the instructor. (100 points) = (33.33%)

### **GRADING:**

92 - 100 = A

83 - 91 = B

73 - 82 = C

64 - 72 = D

0 - 63 = F

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Chapter/ Topical Contents**

1. Congress and Lawmaking
2. The Congressional Environment
3. The Congressional Budget Process
4. Preliminary Legislative Action
5. Scheduling legislation in the House
6. House Floor Procedure
7. Scheduling Legislation in the Senate
8. Senate Floor Procedure
9. Resolving House-Senate Differences
10. Legislative Oversight
11. A Dynamic Process

### **ADDITIONAL READINGS**

1. Christopher Wlezien, **A** The Politics of Impoundment, @ Political Science Quarterly, XCVII ( March 1994), 59 - 84.
2. Allen Schick, Reconciliation and the Congressional Budget Process ( Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy research, 1981)
3. Robert J. Spitzer, The item Veto Dispute and the Secular Crisis of the Presidency, @Presidential Studies Quarterly, XXVIII (Fall 1998), 799-815.
4. Charles Wiggins, @Executive vetoes and Legislative Overrides in the American States, **A** Journal of Politics, XLII (November 1980), 1112-113.
5. Lydia Andrade & Gary Young, @Presidential Agenda Setting: Influences on the Emphasis of Foreign Policy, @Political Research Quarterly, XLIX (1996), 591-605.
6. Morris P. Fiorina, **A** Divided Government in the American States: A Product of legislative Professionalism ?@ American Political Science Review, LXXXVIII ( June 1994)
7. George C. Edwards Jr. et al., **A** The Legislative Impact of Divided Government, @American Journal of political Science, XLI ( April 1997), 545-63.

--- The end.----

