

POSC 4201-101
Marquette University
U.S. Congress
Fall Semester 2014
MWF 10:00 – 10:50

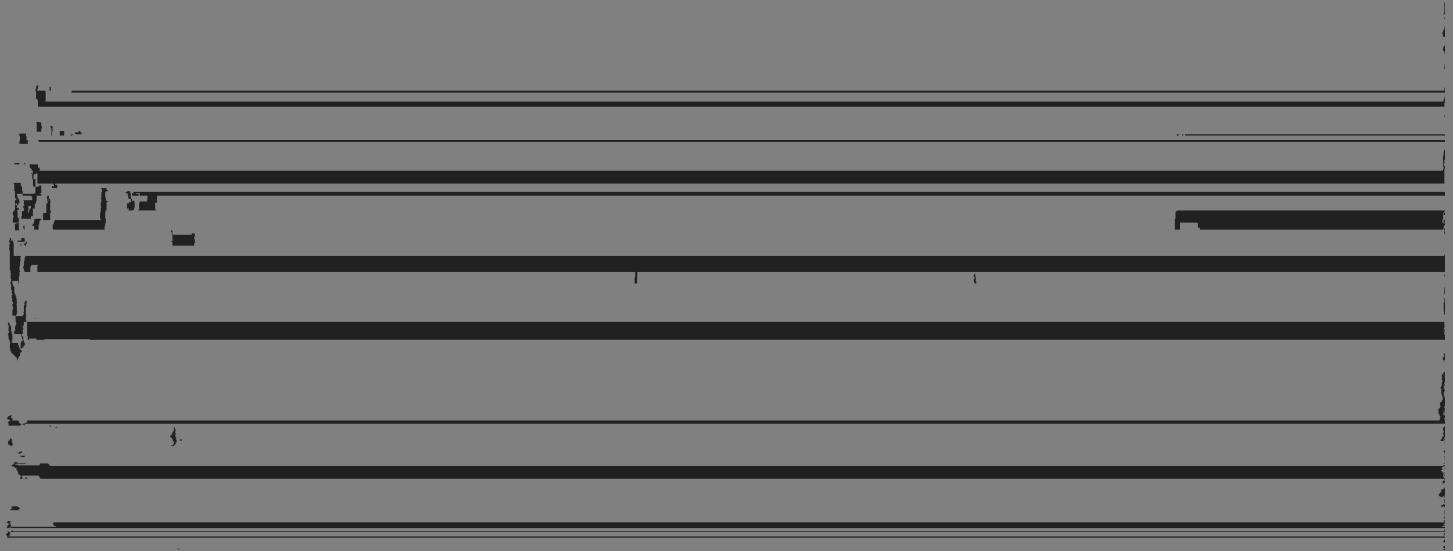
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Office Hours: MW 11:30 – 1:30; T 9-12; F 12-1; and by appt.

Course Objectives:

The United States Congress is the oldest popularly elected legislature in the world. Congress has the dual responsibility to represent the interests of the country's citizens and



to make law and policy for the nation; both of those roles will be studied closely, paying attention to historical context. The course will also look at Congress' organization as a



Course Requirements:

2 exams	40%
3 campaign essays	45%
Attendance/Participation	15%

Each student will become an expert in one state's fall congressional races. We will have some sort of letters to ensure that there is only one student per state. Student



may withdraw a student from a course due to excessive absences and assign a grade of WA (Withdrawn - Excessive Absences). Students who miss more than 6 classes in a 2 credit

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Mon., Sept. 1 - NO CLASS, LABOR DAY

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Topic 2 – Campaigns and Elections

Wed., Sept. 24 – Getting into Office

Congress and its Members, Ch. 3 “Going for it: Recruitment and Candidacy”

Fri., Sept. 26 – Campaigns

Congress and its Members, Ch. 4 “Making it: The Electoral Game”

“When Facts are Weapons,” *The Economist*, May 3, 2014 (D2L)

Mon., Sept. 29 – Republican Primaries

“Chastened GOP Tries to Foil Insurgents at Primary Level,” *The New York Times*, Feb 9, 2014 (D2L)

“In Open Primary Southern States, Black Voters Flex new Muscle,” June 28, 2014, *The Christian Science Monitor* (D2L)

Wed., Oct. 1 – Money,

Trevor Potter on The Colbert Report – video clips in class

Browse through opensecrets.org

Fri., Oct 3 - Money in Historical Perspective

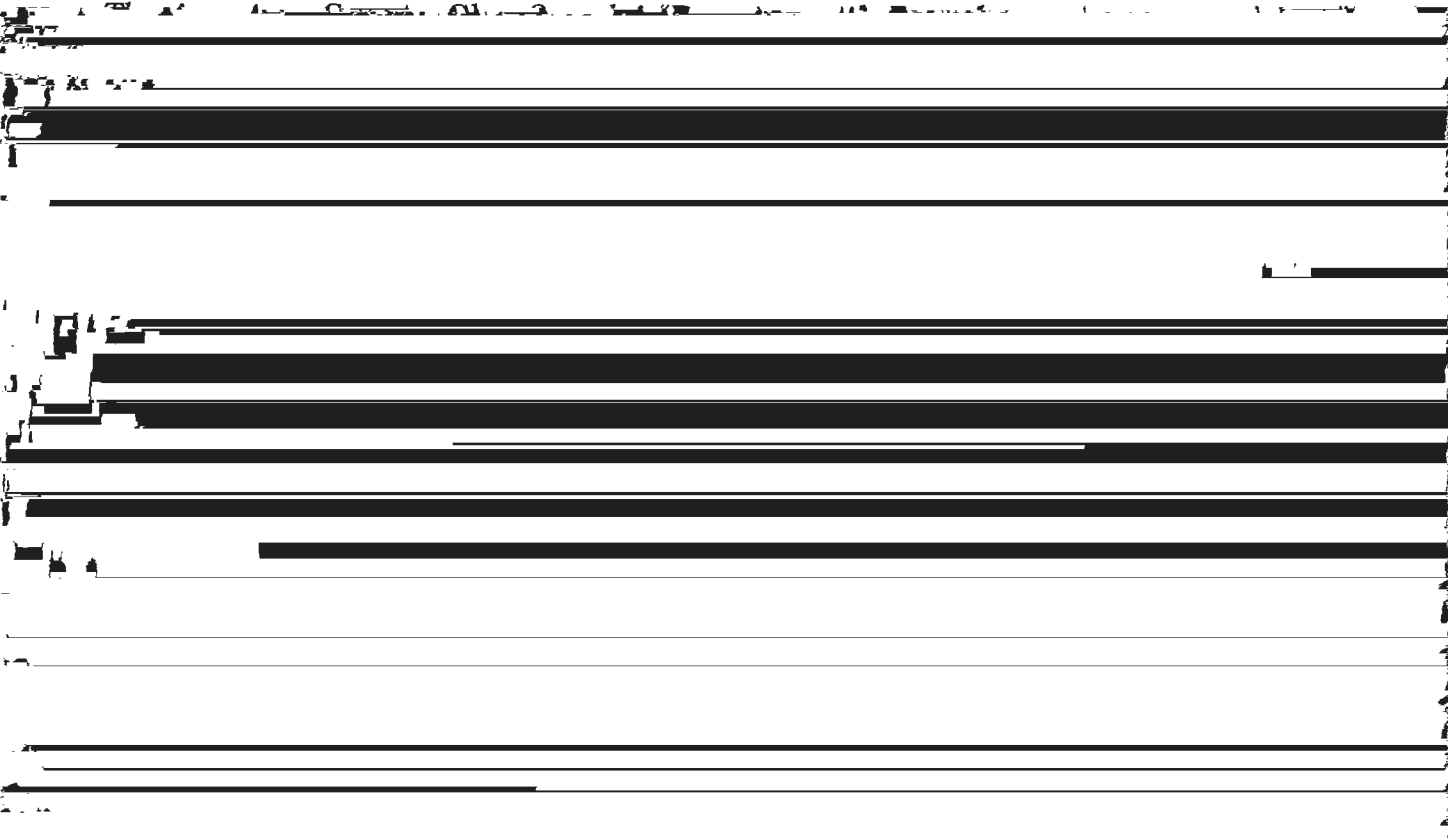
The American Senate, Chs. 1 and 2 “Money and Politics: Electing US Senators” and

Mon., Oct. 20 – Unilateral Action

“Strategies, Tactics, and Political Realities of Executive Orders,” *By Order of the President: The Use and Abuse of Executive Direct Action*, Phillip J. Cooper, 2002 (D2L)

“REAL ID Act Delayed,” *American City and Council*, 2011 (D2L)

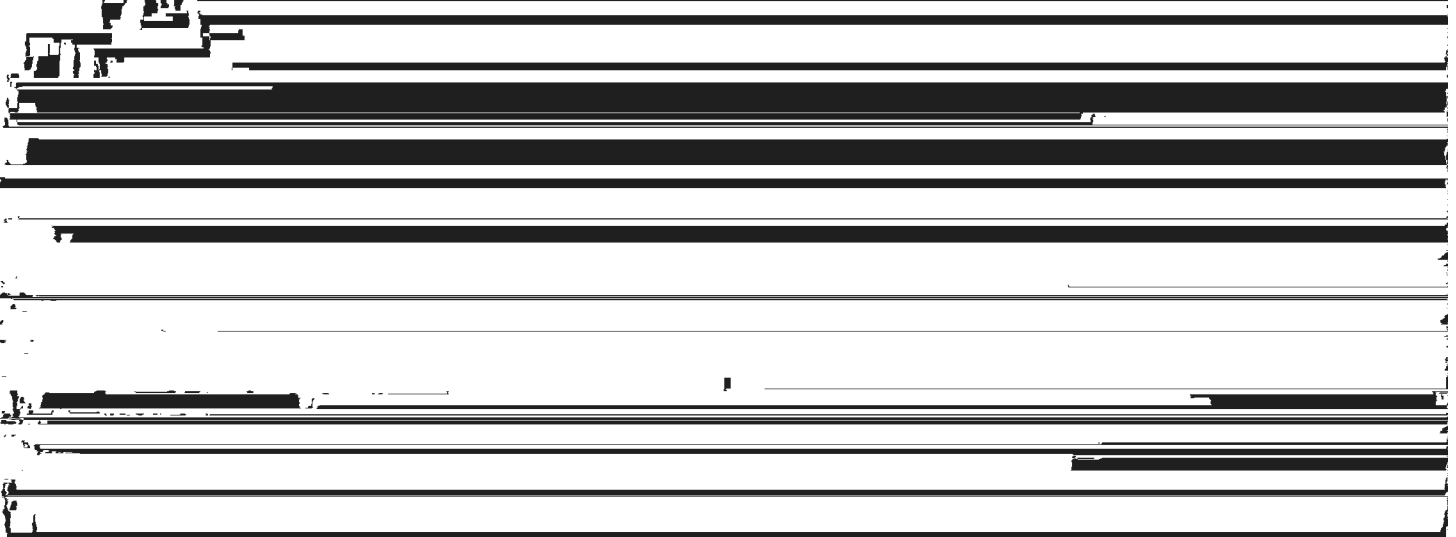
Wed., Oct. 22 – Congress and the President



“Struggling for Primacy: From TR to FDR”

Fri., Oct. 24 - Congress and the Courts

Congress and its Members, Ch. 12 “Congress and the Courts”



Wed Nov 19 - Safe Affordable Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy

[Redacted]

for Users (SAFETEA-LU) – passed in 2005

“Floor Fight,” *All Roads Lead to Congress: The \$300 Billion Fight over Highway Funding*, Costas Panagopoulos and Joshua Schank, 2008, CQ Press (D2L)

“NO on Highway Transportation and Funding Act of 2011 (H.R. 5001)” Heritage

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