

POS 3424 – 81750
Congress and the Legislative Process (Fall 2014)
Distance Learning
August 25, 2014 – December 9, 2014

Instructor: Dr. Michael Binder

Office Hours: 9:45am to 10:45am, 3:00pm to 4:00pm Tuesday & Thursday or by appt.

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Office Phone: (904) 620-1205

Email: m.binder@unf.edu

Availability: I will return emails within a 24-hour period during the week (unless noted on Blackboard). Although I usually check my email on the weekends, I cannot guarantee that I will be able to answer any questions after 5pm on Friday. I am available for gmail chats (mikembinder@gmail.com) and Skype sessions (mikebinder75) and you are of course welcome to stop by during my office hours and visit or schedule an in person appointment if you are on campus.

Objectives:

This course is intended to acquaint you with the foundations, processes, institutions and major theories of the American legislative branch. The overriding goal of this course is to provide you with tools that will help you gain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of Congress.

Learning Outcomes:

Communication

- Possess the verbal and writing skills needed to communicate clearly and effectively, make persuasive, professional presentations and convey information essential to the discipline in an orderly and understandable manner.

Content

- Understand the various forms of structure in government and relate specific governmental forms to political and policy outcomes.
- Understand the sources and uses of power and its relationship to political events, outcomes and processes within Congress and the American political system.
- Understand the role of public policy, the policy-making process, the political and environmental factors which affect its development and its effects on political events, actors, and institutions.
- Understand the various types of political ideology and the relationship of specific ideologies to legislative processes and policy development.

Critical Thinking

- Be able to effectively apply critical thinking and problem solving skills to political issues.
- Understand and be able to use tools gained in the course to run an effective Congressional campaign.

Required Texts:

Davidson, Roger H., Walter J. Oleszek, Frances E. Lee & Eric Schickler. *Congress and its Members*, 14th Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2014. (referred to as **D&O**)

Jacobson, Gary. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, 8th Edition. New York: Longman Press, 2012. (referred to as **Jacobson**)

Sidlow, Edward I. *Freshman Orientation: House Style and Home Style*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2007. (referred to as **Sidlow**)

\$16 Registration fee for the simulated legislature LegSim at <http://www.legsim.org>. Registration for Legsim is required by Thursday, August 28th at 11:59pm.

Course Resources:

Course resources such as the syllabus, assignments, selected readings, etc. are available on Blackboard. This is an online course, as such, all class activities will occur on either Blackboard or Legsim. Not all functions of Blackboard will be used for the course, but Blackboard and Legsim are vital components of this course and are used extensively. Communications over Blackboard are official course communications and you are responsible to for checking the email associated with Blackboard and Legsim.

Student Responsibilities:

As this is a distance learning course you are expected to be technically proficient in online activities. If you are not familiar with recording videos, completing audio/visual presentations, uploading videos to YouTube, taking screen shots and general online research (i.e. Wikipedia is NOT a citable source) you may want to reconsider taking this course online.

You will complete 15 modules or weeks' worth of assignments. This means you will have a large number of due dates. You are responsible for remembering these dates (without reminders) and completing all work on time and per course policies. Each module will be available during "open period" from Friday at 8am at the start of the module through Thursday at 11:59pm on the due date. At 12:00am on the Friday after the due date, no work will be accepted. Make sure you plan ahead and submit your work early so that you do not miss a module due date. I encourage you to complete and submit all work at least 2-3 days before the due date. This will account for any technical, personal, health, or family issues and leaves plenty of time to email me or contact the campus technical help desk (904) 620-4357 and get the issue resolved so that you can complete your work. Carefully review all policies and pay special attention to: no late or emailed work accepted, only correct files accepted, must follow 7-step process, if locked out of quiz or trouble with Blackboard, you must email me by Wednesday at 5pm to ensure I have can respond to your concern and help resolve the situation (do not wait until Thursday at 11:15pm). I have an ethical obligation to follow these printed policies in order to be fair and consistent to every student. For your benefit, think and work consistently and read this syllabus word-for-word during the orientation week.

Become familiar with and follow all policies found in the UNF student handbook.
<http://www.unf.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook.html>

To access the course, go to <http://blackboard.unf.edu/index.asp> and login.

Everyone, especially those new to on-line courses or Blackboard, should review UNF's resources and tips on taking Distance Learning (DL) courses and using Bb
<http://www.unf.edu/distancelearning/faq.htm>.

If you have technical problems or a question on how to use Bb, call the Help Desk at 620-HELP or check the web-link above. Do not contact the professor. If you cannot resolve the issue, go to a campus computer lab. It is your responsibility to understand how to use Bb correctly.

Configure your personal computer to navigate correctly and efficiently on Bb by the end of the first week of class or plan to use a UNF computer. Use a current, standards-compliant web browser such as Firefox 3.0+ or Internet Explorer 7.0+. Also, you will need Javascript and Flash.

<http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=72810639>

You must have access to PDF (.pdf) or Word (.doc, .docx, .rtf). No other files will be accepted. (Note: You can download a free pdf converter to your personal computer by going to www.cutepdf.com).

Read and understand the entire syllabus during the first week of class. This is your responsibility as a student enrolled in this course. If you have questions about the syllabus, please ask me within the first week of class. If you have questions about a module, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification before the module's due date.

Purchase the required textbooks and read assigned chapters by (or before) the course schedule. Prepare for quizzes in advance by carefully reading the assigned chapters and taking notes.

You will take online quizzes. Take quizzes within the allotted time frame (Friday 8am start of module – Thursday 11:59pm module due date) in the appropriate "Module" folder. Late quizzes will not be accepted.

Files that were not attached/submitted via Bb will not be accepted (carefully follow steps 1-7 in "Assignments" section on Blackboard).

Complete all quizzes and submit all work well before deadlines to account for any potential computer, internet, or other technical issues. Always have a "back-up" plan (i.e. go to the library, friend's house, café) in the event that you run into technical issues when work is due.

There are several video-posting requirements, Blackboard does not work too well when uploading large video files so we will be using YouTube. To get your video up on YouTube you'll need an account, if you've got Gmail that's all you need. There's a button

on the top right of the YouTube home page that says "upload", just click that and follow the directions--it's super easy. Once you've got your video up there's a "privacy settings" option, unless you want to go viral set that to "unlisted". If the file is "private" I will not be able to view the videos. Then go to the video page and copy and paste the link to the appropriate discussion forum.

Keep track of your grades through the online grade book under MY GRADES. Click on your grade in the grade book to review my comments to you about your work. If you see an exclamation mark (!), it means your work has not been graded OR you have a gradebook error that needs to be cleared. Keep track of your grade by dividing your total earned points (at that moment) by the total points possible (at that moment). Calculate your final grades by dividing your total earned points by 300 (your points/300). Keep in mind, if you fail to complete a particular assignment Blackboard will count that as 'missing' and not include it as a '0' in your current grade, which is. So keep that in mind when tallying your scores. I prefer to think about the course in terms of total points earned, as opposed to percentages.

Be respectful of your peers at all times, and especially when communicating in discussion boards and on LegSim.

Be respectful and professional when you communicate with me, especially through email. Use this general "professional rule" when you email anyone in a professional setting (anyone that is not your friend or family member). General Rule: Use a greeting and address the person with their formal name (based on education) and conclude with a closing and your full name. In a university setting, you should address your instructors as "Dr." or "Professor" last name. You can call me "Dr. Binder" or "Professor Binder." You should also always spell check, edit for grammar and punctuation, etc. I suggest you use these guidelines for all of your courses at UNF and other professional experiences.

Students with disabilities who seek reasonable accommodations in the classroom or other aspects of performing their coursework must first register with the UNF Disability Resource Center (DRC). For further information, contact the DRC by phone (904) 620-2769, email (kweBb@unf.edu), or visit (<http://www.unf.edu/dept/disabled-services>).

Professor Responsibilities:

I will review and respond to email messages daily. You should have an email response within 24 hours. Friday at 5pm will be the last time I can guarantee that I will check my email before Sunday's due date. This means you must email me no later than 5pm on Friday if you need help before a due date. Submitting your work after Friday at 5pm is "at your own risk." Plan your time accordingly.

I will not extend a due date for a student regardless of personal, health, or technical issues. I have an ethical obligation to follow the printed policies to maintain a fair/consistent learning environment for every student. I encourage you to submit your work two days before the deadline. I strongly encourage you to work ahead.

For consistency, I will review and grade all students' projects and discussions after the due date. I will grade all student work on the same day. I will not check or grade work before the deadline.

Quizzes, projects, and discussion posts will generally be graded and posted 7-10 days after the due date.

I will provide you with feedback on your projects. Check through "my grades."

I will notify students of any changes in the course at least 2 weeks in advance.

I will use the ANNOUNCEMENT function on Bb to regularly communicate and provide additional resources and information as they become available.

I will provide evaluation criteria and specific directions for all course assignments.

Assignments:

Be sure to include your name on everything you submit on Blackboard.

1. **Student Online Learning Orientation (SOLO) – 10 points:** The UNF Center for Instruction & Research Technology (CIRT) has developed a Student Online Learning Orientation (SOLO) that all students will be required to complete before they can access their Distance Learning (DL) courses at UNF in the spring semester; however, you are required to complete this course prior to the beginning of the semester August 24th at 11:59pm. The purpose of this orientation course is to prepare students for some of the challenges associated with online learning. There are two main areas of focus, effective learning strategies for online students and a basic overview of the Blackboard Learn system. You have been emailed info about the SOLO course by CIRT, if you have not been made aware of this online intro course, contact CIRT immediately: cirtlab@unf.edu. You will be administratively dropped if you fail to complete this prior to the semester.
2. Activities related to and submitted within the online simulated legislature - LegSim: A large portion of your course grade will be related to online simulation activities. Many of the assignments ask you to connect what you have read or studied about Congress to what you are doing or intend to do in your capacity as a legislator. For example, an assignment might ask you to review what you have read about the electoral connection in Congress, and discuss how your own legislative agenda will be shaped by the electoral district that you represent. This means that completing the readings are important components of what is required to succeed in this class and in the simulation.

Several assignments will be completed on the LegSim simulation website:

- a. **Register for LegSim:**

- Here's what to do to register for our simulation: Go to www.legsim.org, select the “*UNF: Fall 2014*” session, and click 'new user.' Then copy and paste the code below and submit.
 - Code: 3ee714b67361e2ea54572411bae94d46
 - Please read and follow all of the instructions carefully during the registration process. There is a \$16 registration fee that can be paid by credit card or by PayPal.
 - Please register with an email you check regularly.
 - After you have registered, LegSim will send a confirmation e-mail within 24 hours. If you do not receive this e-mail, please check to see whether your e-mail system has filtered it out as spam. If you need additional assistance, send your name, e-mail address used in the transaction, and explanation to support@legsim.org.
 - Finally, please write down the login name and password that you use to login to LegSim. You will need them again!
 - You should consider that there is often a lag for registration, so waiting until the last minute to register may cost you.
- b. **Select a District to Represent – 5 points:** Submit your two most preferred United States’ House of Representative districts to me by the day they are due. First come, first served. You can email me directly or thru Blackboard or via LegSim. Your district must be in a state with a first letter that is the same as your last name plus or minus one (e.g. if your name is Byron Nelson, you can choose a district from states that begin with M, N or O: Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, etc.). Those of you with last names beginning with Y or Z, use common sense and select a district from states toward the end of the alphabet. A hint for picking districts, you will have to run a reelection campaign at the end of the semester...it is easier to represent your district if you have a similar ideology, knowledge of or interest in that district.
- c. **Constituency Description – 5 points:** Complete your member profile by filling out the Constituency Description, including description of chosen legislative district. In approximately 100 words, describe the important features of that district that other legislators would want to know about in order to understand your own politics, priorities and constraints. For some examples/information - see Sidlow Chapter 1 and the Congressional Member’s webpage is also a very useful resource, just search www.house.gov for that info.
- d. **Personal Statement – 5 points:** Also, in your member profile area, in approximately 100 words, describe the issues that are most important to you as a legislator and your goals for this legislative session.
- e. **Request Committee Seats – 5 points:** submit your committee requests on LegSim, under the “Committees” tab, select “View Membership Requests” and select your top two choices of committees. Also, each committee will need a Committee Chair. That person is responsible for the committee and handling the bill hearing and voting process. There is little bit of extra responsibility with chairmanships, however, that responsibility equates to more influence for legislation in your committee and a better portfolio when running for re-election.

Once committees are formed your committee must come up with a chairperson. That is up to the committee to decide among themselves in conjunction with the Speaker.

- f. **Speaker of the House:** At the time of your committee request you should also email me if you are interested in serving as the Speaker of the House. The Speaker does not serve on any committees, but is responsible for assigning all of the bills that get introduced to their appropriate committees, opening hearings on bills once they pass out of committee and setting votes for bills on the floor. Much like committee chairs, the Speaker will have a little more work, however, that responsibility has consistently translated into very good grades for this course.
 - g. **Minor Bill – 5 points:** – submit a minor bill or resolution online. For ideas about what a bill looks like, here’s a list of all of the bills introduced in the current 113th Congress:
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/Browse.php?n=Bills;c=113>. Also, House Resolutions are good place to start for the minor bill:
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/L?c113:./list/c113hr.lst:1>. Minor bills usually deal with smaller issues (renaming post offices, house resolutions to honor/remember people, etc.) and are rarely about polarized issues.
 - h. **Major Bills – 15 points each:** submit two major bills online. This is the centerpiece of your legislative agenda. You may author your own bills specific to your goals or you may introduce legislation that has been introduced during the current (or previous) Congress, but not yet signed into law by the President. Of course you are welcome to submit an unlimited number of bills (both major and minor), but you must submit at least two major bills. As a note, you are NOT required to write your own bill from scratch. You can “steal” bills from Congress and I will NOT consider this cheating or plagiarism, but make sure if you do that when you insert the bill into the LegSim format it appears professional and readable. Cutting and pasting can be tricky, make sure it looks nice. That matters and will be graded accordingly.
 - i. **Comments on other bills – 5 points:** During the hearing process you will be asked to comment on other bills and suggest improvements. When bills are assigned to committees, the chair will open each bill for a “hearing”. During that time you are to comment and/or edit the bills in order to produce ‘better’ legislation.
3. Assignments directly related to LegSim, but submitted on Blackboard
 - a. **Intro Video and Brief Description – 10 points:** Create a short video (maybe 30 seconds) of yourself and upload it to YouTube, then post the link in the appropriate forum on Blackboard (see the top of page 4). You can introduce yourself and give a brief factoid or two about yourself. This is an opportunity for your colleagues (and me) to put a name to a face and get to know you a little bit. Plus maybe you’ll recognize some folks from other classes and you can get to know each other a little better.

- b. **Morning Hour Speech (One Minute) – 15 points:** These short speeches (no more than a minute long) may be made by Members before or after legislative business (think C-Span speeches by members of Congress). Any Member may seek recognition to make a speech on a subject of his or her choice not exceeding one minute in duration. One-minute speeches are often coordinated through the leadership "Theme Team" on each side to focus on particular topics, but the speeches are not limited to such topics. Each student will create a video of themselves delivering one such speech and upload the video recording to Blackboard, for more information about Morning Hour Speeches (per the Congressional Research Service):

One-minute speeches are typically given at the start of the legislative day, but may occur at other times in the legislative program, including the end of the day. Customarily, after the daily prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and approval of the previous day's Journal, Members ask for unanimous consent to address the House for one minute on a topic of their choice. When seeking recognition, a Member would say:

“I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend my remarks.”

Recognition for one-minute speeches is at the prerogative of the Speaker, who may limit daily speeches to a certain number, or move them to a different place in the program, on any given day. Members seeking recognition for this purpose sit in the first row on their party's side of the chamber. Recognition for one-minute speeches alternates between the majority and the minority, with possible exceptions for Members representing the leadership, and Members having business requests. For more detailed information, see CRS Report RL30135, One-Minute Speeches: Current House Practices, by Judy Schneider.

- c. **Federal Budget Challenge – 5 points:** Complete the federal budget challenge from Next 10 at <http://www.federalbudgetchallenge.org>. Take a screenshot of the completed challenge and upload it on Blackboard in the appropriate “Discussion Board”. This is to be done in conjunction with LegSim. These proposed budgets are fair game during your elections and are considered part of your legislative history.
- d. **Re-election and Challenger Media – 25 points each (50 points total):** Create a campaign re-election and challenger campaign media presentation. You can make a television commercial, radio commercial or any other audio/visual presentation to highlight how you would win the election in your district (re-election) or your opponent's district (challenger). You have a number of options, so be creative. Remember, you are making 2 different media presentations. There are a few examples (but by no means are they perfect or your only options) on Blackboard.

- A. **Re-election:** Your re-election media is based on your legislative history on LegSim. Your opponent running against you, however, is NOT running with their legislative history. They are “hypothetical” challengers with a background that they are free to create. You should be in contact with your “opponent” to coordinate the type of election you two will be running.
- B. **Challenger:** You are running in your opponent’s district. You are NOT running on your legislative history, you should create a background suitable for your opponent’s district. You will then create a media presentation for your opponent’s district with their LegSim legislative history. Your opponent in this race will be your opponent in your Re-election campaign.
- e. **Final Report – 25 points each (50 points total):** A summary of your actions as a legislator and plan to get reelected.
- A. **PART I – Your Reelection Campaign (about 5 pages)**
 Objectively evaluate your legislative accomplishments. Highlight both the activities that will help you get reelected in your district, as well as the activities that may create problems during your reelection campaign.
 Design your reelection strategy. You are running against a your opponent, (but NOT their legislative history), they are creating a background to challenge you in your in your district. Working together, you and your opponent have the ability to determine if this election is a primary challenge (like that of Joe Schwarz in 2006) or a general election challenge. Just make sure you identify which campaign you are running. Your campaign strategy must be sensitive to the district that you represent. It should describe specific tactics for emphasizing aspects of your legislative record that would help you win reelection. It should also anticipate and describe how you will respond to the issues that your opponent is likely to raise against you during that campaign. Remember that your ability to run the style of campaign you want is dependent on both the district characteristics and your legislative history.
- B. **PART II – Your Challenger Campaign (about 5 pages)**
 Objectively evaluate your opponent’s legislative accomplishments. Highlight both the activities that will help your opponent get reelected in their district, as well as the activities that may create opportunities for challengers to exploit.
 Design your challenger campaign strategy. This strategy must be sensitive to the district that your opponent is in. It has NO relation to your district or your history as a legislator. You are designing a challenger’s campaign and

should create a candidate background sensitive to your opponent's district. It should describe specific tactics for emphasizing aspects of your opponent's legislative record that help you win the election. It should also anticipate and describe how you will respond to the issues that are important in your opponent's district.

4. Assignments submitted on Blackboard
 - a. **A variety of blackboard quizzes – 10 points each (total of 100 points):** Many of the modules include a quiz due at the end of the module.

Late Assignments

Late assignments are NOT accepted under any circumstances and all assignments not submitted on time or in the correct format will receive a grade of zero. Online assignments must be completed and/or submitted on Legsim or Blackboard by the due date and time. If you suspect you may have difficulty getting an assignment in at a certain time, please feel free to submit it in early. If there is a verified period of time when Blackboard is down during closing periods of modules, I will extend the due date accordingly, however, these are very rare occurrences.

Plagiarism/Cheating/Academic Integrity:

All work submitted to Blackboard is to be your own work. This is not a team exercise. Though you are encouraged to study and work with your colleagues, and even though the quizzes are open book and open note, you are expected to submit your own original work – the lone exception being that you can use existing real life legislative bills. Any work that is submitted that is not your own original work is considered cheating and will result in failure of the course and potential expulsion of the University. Just because this is an online class the same academic standards apply.

Blackboard includes a tool called "Safe Assign." This is a plagiarism checking device you may use for this course. If you submit a draft to Safe Assign and find that you have plagiarized, please come see me for assistance. You will not be penalized for plagiarism in a draft. You will be penalized for plagiarism in a final assignment. Please note that Safe Assign is a limited tool; it does not find all forms of plagiarism. You remain responsible for any form of plagiarism found in your final assignment, even if you have used Safe Assign.

Because students have the opportunity to learn about, check for, and avoid plagiarism prior to turning in the final paper, I have to assume any plagiarism I find in final papers is intentional. ***There are no "second chances." The same is true for other violations of academic integrity.*** That you "didn't mean to" or "didn't know" are not excuses for plagiarism or other violations of academic integrity. I am available to assist you; please see me if you have any questions about avoiding plagiarism ***before*** turning in your final papers!

In addition, all sources of reference from which students take quotations, major theories or concepts must be properly cited. Submitting plagiarized work or any other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and such actions will result in ***failure of the course*** and potentially expulsion from the University. The University's policy on plagiarism can be found at http://www.unf.edu/registrar/forms/misconduct_policy.pdf.

Grade Scale:

278 – 300 = A

248 – 259 = B

209 – 229 = C

269 – 277 = A-

239 – 247 = B-

179 – 208 = D

260 – 268 = B+

230 – 238 = C+

178 or less = F

POS 3424 Tentative Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic/Activities	Reading/Assignments due Thursday @ 11:59 pm unless otherwise noted
Week 1	08/25/14 – 08/28/14	Introduction & Overviews Distance Learning with Blackboard and LegSim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete SOLO on Blackboard (Due Prior To Semester Start) • Reading Assignment: Syllabus • Post bio/video on Introduction Forum • Register for LegSim: 3ee714b67361e2ea54572411bae94d46 • Select District for LegSim by email • Complete Syllabus Quiz
Week 2	08/29/14 – 09/4/14	Collective Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 1, Sidlow 1 & 2 • Complete Legsim Tutorials: Big Picture, Member, “How LegSim Differs..” • Complete Member Statement and Constituency Description • Submit Committee Requests and Speaker Requests • Complete Week 2 Quiz
Week 3	09/5/14 – 09/11/14	Foundations of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 2, Article 1 of the Constitution • Complete Legsim Tutorials: Rules and Procedures • Vote for Speaker: Round 1 Tuesday 12:59pm • Vote for Speaker: Round 2 Thursday 12:59pm. • Complete Rules and Procedures Quiz #1
Week 4	09/12/14 – 09/18/14	Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 3 & 4, Jacobson 1 & 2 • Committees choose chair • Submit ‘minor bill’ on Legsim • Complete Elections Quiz 1

Week 5	09/19/14 – 09/25/14	More Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: Sidlow 3 & 4, Jacobson 3 – 5 • Speaker Assign Bills: <i>by Sunday 12:59pm</i> • Committee Chairs open hearings • Complete Elections Quiz 2
Week 6	09/26/14 – 10/2/14	Home Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 5, Sidlow 5 & 6 • Post in at least 1 hearings for bills in your committee: <i>by Tuesday 12:59pm</i> • Complete Home Style Quiz • Chairs open votes • Submit 'major bill' on LegSim • Submit Opponent Requests
Week 7	10/3/14 – 10/9/14	Parties and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 6, Cox and McCubbins (see Blackboard) • Speaker Assign Bills: <i>by Thursday 12:59pm</i>
Week 8	10/10/14 – 10/16/14	Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 7, Sidlow 7 & 8 • Committee Chairs open hearings: <i>by Tuesday 12:59pm</i> • Post in at least 1 hearing for bills in your committee • Complete Reading Quiz
Week 9	10/17/14 – 10/23/14	Rules and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 8 & 9 • Chairs open votes • Complete Rules and Procedures Quiz #2
Week 10	10/24/14 – 10/30/14	Executive Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 10 • Submit 'major bill' on LegSim
Week 11	10/31/14 – 11/6/14	Bureaucracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 11 • Submit 1 Minute Speech Video on Discussion Board • Speaker Assign Bills: <i>by Thursday 12:59pm</i>

Week 12	11/7/14 – 11/13/14	Policy and Budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 14, Jacobson 6 & 7 • Committee Chairs open hearings: <i>by Tuesday 12:59pm</i> • Chairs open votes • Post at least 1 comment about your colleagues' 1 minute speeches • Submit Screen Shot of your Complete Federal Budget Challenge • Submit Reading Quiz
Week 13	11/14/14 – 11/20/14	Courts and Interest Group Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Assignment: D&O 12 & 13 • Submit Reading Quiz
Week 14	11/21/14 – 11/27/14	Thanksgiving Week, have fun with your family	
Week 15	11/28/14 – 12/4/14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish Legislative Business • Legislature Adjourns at 11:59pm Thursday • Submit Reelection and Challenger Videos
Week 16	12/5/14 – 12/9/14	FINAL CAMPAIGN PAPERS DUE TUESDAY DECEMBER 9th by 11:59PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Reelection and Challenger Campaign Papers to SafeAssign AND Blackboard