

Weekly summary of readings	30%
Participation (actually talk about the readings)	10%
Original data collection	30%
Overall synthesis of course materials (readings and data)	30%
Total	100%

In order, those components are ...

Weekly summary of readings: I expect you to submit an electronic summary of your reaction to that week's reading by the night before our in-person meeting. This summary must be submitted to **Canvas** by 11:59 PM the night before we meet. It must be a maximum of two pages. It is allowed to be informal (i.e. you can react in the first person, like "I think" or "I feel"), but I expect it to be critical. Rather than simply summarizing the readings, I'd like you to synthesize them (tie them together) and react to what you were compelled by and what you found lacking.

Participation: each week, we'll meet for 60-90 minutes to discuss the readings for that week together. We'll also use this as an opportunity to tie the readings to our broader research project.

Original data collection: through the semester, we will work together to identify a research project that you are interested in that will allow you to collect data. The goal is that this project will be available to you to apply to graduate schools in political science, should you be interested. This core project will center around extending a theory you find interesting in the literature we read *or* testing an original theory of your own creation.

Specifically, you'll be directed to gather some of the required data to test this theory. You'll see in the syllabus that there are no readings assigned for the final month of class to give you the time and space to collect these data. You'll receive more specific instructions as the semester progresses.

Overall synthesis: the data collection will hopefully culminate in a research paper. But in the first few weeks, we'll talk about your professional ambitions and try to design some products that will help you market yourself and that ambition. Don't worry about this yet.

Boilerplate syllabus information follows. The reading schedule is at the end.

Makeups and Grades

Writing assignments and homework assignments must be turned in, electronically, on the day assigned. Makeup examinations will only be offered to those with a University excused absence, which can be found at tinyurl.com/au-st-pol. It is your responsibility to ensure that your absence is covered by the University, and it is your responsibility to comply with all policies. These policies require that you notify me of your absence prior to the date of absence if such notification is feasible, but within one week from the missed class. Your makeup examination must be scheduled within two weeks of this notification (though I recommend much, much earlier). If I need additional information on your absence (doctor's notes, for instance), you must provide this additional documentation within one week of the last date of the absence. Note that this policy

also allows for makeup examinations for reasons deemed appropriate by the instructor. If you do not have a University excused absence, and you are going to miss an examination, it is much easier for me to work with you if you notify me promptly, especially if you can provide some sort of documentation.

Student Academic Honesty

Auburn University is a institution committed to integrity and honor. It is your job as a University citizen to uphold those values. I will not tolerate any cheating or plagiarism, broadly defined as using unauthorized aids during examinations or attempting to represent someone else's work as your own. You are not as sly as you think you are. With hundreds of heads facing forward, it is extremely easy to tell who is working alone and who is not. Be aware that academic dishonesty can lead directly to failing the course and being referred to the Academic Honesty Committee. Penalties include expulsion from Auburn, as per Chapter 1202 of Title XII. For additional information visit tinyurl.com/au-st-pol.

Emergency Contingency

If normal class is disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please electronically submit your approved accommodations through AU Access and make an individual appointment with the me during the first week of classes (or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately). If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

Any requests or arrangements made with the instructor in person must be followed up with an official email request for documentation. If you believe you may need an accommodation, it is your responsibility to secure it before the first exam.

Copyrighted Materials

The lectures, presentations (including slides), readings, and exams for this course are copyrighted, so you do not have the right to copy and distribute them. This includes recording class lectures.

Important Dates

- August 20 (Friday): Last day to add course.

- September 3 (Friday): 15th Class Day (last day to drop with no grade assignment).
- October 5 (Tuesday): Mid-semester grades posted.
- October 14 (Thursday): 41st Class Day (deadline to request moving final exam).
- November 19 (Friday): Last day to withdraw with no grade penalty (W).

Course Outline

All readings can be accessed by searching the DOI at doi.org (on campus or through the library).

Week 1 (August 17 - 19): Setting Expectations and Goals

- *No reading.*

Week 2 (August 24 - 26): Setting the Table: Polarization

- Cassese, Erin C. 2021. "Partisan Dehumanization in American Politics." *Political Behavior* 43: 29-50. DOI: 10.1007/s11109-019-09545-w
- Fleisher, Richard and Jon R. Bond. 2004. "The Shrinking Middle in the US Congress." *British Journal of Political Science* 34 (3): 429-451. DOI: 10.1017/S0007123404000122
- Halliez, Adrien A. and Judd R. Thornton. 2021. "Examining Trends in Ideological Identification: 1972-2016." *American Politics Research* 49 (3): 259-268. DOI: 10.1177/1532673X20961314
- Lupton, Robert N., Steven M. Smallpage, and Adam M. Enders. 2020. "Values and Political Predispositions in the Age of Polarization: Examining the Relationship between Partisanship and Ideology in the United States, 1988-2012." *British Journal of Political Science* 50 (1): 241-260. DOI: 10.1017/S0007123417000370

Week 3 (August 31 - September 2): Setting the Table: Congressional Process

- Curry, James M. and Frances E. Lee. 2020. "What Is Regular Order Worth? Partisan Lawmaking and Congressional Processes." *The Journal of Politics* 82 (2): 627-641. DOI: 10.1086/706893
- King, Aaron S., Frank J. Orlando, and David Rohde. 2016. "Setting the Table: Majority Party Effects in the United States Senate." *Congress & the Presidency* 43 (1): 55-81. DOI: 10.1080/07343469.2015.1117161
- Lee, Frances E. 2018. "The 115th Congress and Questions of Party Unity in a Polarized Era." *The Journal of Politics* 80 (4): 1464-1473. DOI: 10.1086/699335
- Rohde, David and John Aldrich. 2010. "Consequences of Electoral and Institutional Change: The Evolution of Conditional Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives." In *New Directions in American Political Parties*, ed. Jeffrey M. Stonecash. New York: Routledge. 234-250.

Week 4 (September 7 - 9): Congress and Executives in Front of the Public (I)

- Bolger, Daniel, Robert Thomson Jr., and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2021. "Determinants of Confidence in U.S. Institutions: Comparing Congress and Corporations." *Social Science Quarterly* 102 (1): 324-342. DOI: 10.1111/ssqu.12921

- Cohen, Jeffrey E. and Brandon Rottinghaus. 2021. "Constituent Approval and Presidential Support: The Mediating Effect of Party and Chamber." *Political Research Quarterly* 74 (1): 76-89. DOI: 10.1177/1065912919866511
- Doherty, David and Laurel Harbridge-Yong. 2020. "The Effects of Blaming Others for Legislative Inaction on Individual and Collective Evaluations." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 45 (1): 69-99. DOI: 10.1111/lsq.12252
- Dynes, Adam M. and John B. Holbein. "Noisy Retrospection: The Effect of Party Control on Policy Outcomes." *American Political Science Review* 114 (1): 237-257. DOI: 10.1017/S0003055419000649

Week 5 (September 14 - 16): Congress and Executives in Front of the Public (II)

- Evers, Miles M., Aleksandr Fisher, and Steven D. Schaaf. 2019. "Is There a Trump Effect? An Experiment on Political Polarization and Audience Costs." *Perspectives on Politics* 17 (2): 433-452. DOI: 10.1017/S1537592718003390
- Harbridge, Laurel, Neil Malhotra, and Brian F. Harrison. 2014. "Public Preferences for Bipartisanship in the Policymaking Process." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* XXXIX (3): 327-355. DOI: 10.1111/lsq.12048
- Park, Hong Min and Steven S. Smith. 2016. "Partisanship, Sophistication, and Public Attitudes about Majority Rule and Minority Rights in Congress." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 41 (4): 841-871. DOI: 10.1111/lsq.12140
- Smith, Steven S. and Hong Min Park. 2013. "Americans' Attitudes About the Senate Filibuster." *American Politics Research* 41 (5): 735-760. DOI: 10.1177/1532673X13475472

Week 6 (September 21 - 23): The President as a Party Leader

- Albert, Zachary and David J. Barney. 2019. "The Party Reacts: The Strategic Nature of Endorsements of Donald Trump." *American Politics Research* 47(6): 1239-1258. DOI: 10.1177/1532673X18808022
- Hart, Roderick P. 2017. "The People's Voice During the 2016 Presidential Campaign." *American Behavioral Scientist* 61 (6): 566-583. DOI: 10.1177/0002764217707622
- Heersink, Boris. 2018. "Trump and the Party-in-Organization: Presidential Control of National Party Organizations." *The Journal of Politics* 80 (4): 1474-1482. DOI: 10.1086/699336

Week 7 (September 28 - 30): Presidential Influence through Coalition Building

- Beckmann, Matthew N., Neilan S. Chaturvedi, and Jennifer Rosa Garcia. 2017. "Targeting the Treatment: The Strategy behind Lyndon Johnson's Lobbying." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 42 (2): 211-234. DOI: 10.1111/lsq.12150
- Byers, Jason S., Jamie L. Carson, and Ryan D. Williamson. 2020. "Policymaking by the Executive: Examining the Fate of Presidential Agenda Items." *Congress & the Presidency* 47 (1): 1-31. DOI: 10.1080/07343469.2019.1631905
- Casas, Andreu, Matthew J. Denny, and John Wilkerson. 2020. "More Effective Than We Thought: Accounting for Legislative Hitchhikers Reveals a More Inclusive and Productive Lawmaking Process." *American Journal of Political Science* 64 (1): 5-18. DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12472

- Gelman, Jeremy, Gilad Wilkenfeld, and E. Scott Adler. 2015. “The Opportunistic President: How US Presidents Determine Their Legislative Programs.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 40 (3): 363-390. DOI: 10.1111/lsq.12080

Week 8 (October 5 - 7): Control through Appointments and Agencies

- Ostrander, Ian. 2017. “The Politics of Executive Nominations in the Post-Nuclear Senate.” *Congress & the Presidency* 44 (3): 323-343. DOI: 10.1080/07343469.2017.1354943
- Basinger, Scott J. and Maxwell Mak. 2020. “The ‘New Normal’ in Supreme Court Confirmation Voting: Hyper-Partisanship in the Trump Era.” *Congress & the Presidency* 47 (3): 365-386. DOI: 10.1080/07343469.2020.1733708
- Kinane, Christina A. 2021. “Control without Confirmation: The Politics of Vacancies in Presidential Appointments.” *American Political Science Review* 115 (2): 599-614. DOI: 10.1017/S000305542000115X

Week 9 (October 12 - 14): Causes and Consequences of Unilateral Action (I)

- Barber, Michael, Alexander Bolton, and Sharece Thrower. 2019. “Legislative Constraints on Executive Unilateralism in Separation of Powers Systems.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 44 (3): 515-548. DOI: 10.1111/lsq.12232
- Bolton, Alexander and Sharece Thrower. 2016. “Legislative Capacity and Executive Unilateralism.” *American Journal of Political Science* 60 (3): 649-663. DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12190
- Bolton, Alexander and Sharece Thrower. 2019. “The Constraining Power of the Purse: Executive Discretion and Legislative Appropriations.” *The Journal of Politics* 81 (4): 1266-1281. DOI: 10.1086/704330

Week 10 (October 19 - 21): Causes and Consequences of Unilateral Action (II)

- Christenson, Dino P. and Douglas L. Kriner. 2017. “Constitutional Qualms or Politics as Usual? The Factors Shaping Public Support for Unilateral Action.” *American Journal of Political Science* 61 (2): 335-349. DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12262
- Christenson, Dino P. and Douglas L. Kriner. 2017. “Mobilizing the Public Against the President: Congress and the Political Costs of Unilateral Action.” *American Journal of Political Science* 61 (4): 769-785. DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12298
- Christenson, Dino P. and Douglas L. Kriner. 2019. “Does Public Opinion Constrain Presidential Unilateralism?” *American Political Science Review* 113 (4): 1071-1077. DOI: 10.1017/S0003055419000327
- Kelso, Mark. 2019. “The President as Legislative Leader: The Use of Veto Power in Environmental Policy Making.” *Congress & the Presidency* 46 (1): 135-158. DOI: 10.1080/07343469.2018.1542415

Week 11 (October 26 - 28): Miscellaneous Considerations on Procedure and Effects

- Curry, James M. 2019. “Knowledge, Expertise, and Committee Power in the Contemporary Congress.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 44 (2): 203-237. DOI: 10.1111/lsq.12219

- Egar, William T. 2016. “Tarnishing Opponents, Polarizing Congress: The House Minority Party and the Construction of the Roll-Call Record.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 41 (4): 935-964. DOI: 10.1111/lsq.12135
- Frankin, Daniel Paul and Michael P. Fix. 2016. “The Best of Times and the Worst of Times: Polarization and Presidential Success in Congress.” *Congress & the Presidency* 43 (3): 377-394. DOI: 10.1080/07343469.2016.1206638
- Odom, Brett N., Justin J. Norris, and Chase B. Meyer. 2018. “After Cloture: Vote Switching, Credit Claiming, and Position Taking in the United States Senate.” *Congress & the Presidency* 45 (1): 66-88. DOI: 10.1080/07343469.2017.1413605

Weeks 12-15 (November - December): Original Research Project

- Gathering data
- Estimating models
- Interpreting results
- Turn in assignments as discussed