

# Andrews University

**PLSC 328  
CONGRESS  
CREDITS: 3.0**

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## **Instructor Contact**

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## **Course Description:**

Course covers the history and structure of the U.S. Congress from its beginnings, the process of congressional elections, the differences between the House of Representatives and the Senate in terms of legislative processes, constitutional responsibilities, decision making process, committees and leadership structures.

## **Course Materials: May include, but not limited to, the following:**

Smith, Steven S., Jason M. Roberts, Ryan J. Vander Wielen. *The American Congress* 8<sup>th</sup> edition, New York: Cambridge, 2013. ISBN 978-1-107-61824-4.

Mayhew, David R. *Congress* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004. ISBN 978-0-300-10587-2.

**Grading:** Grades will follow the A-B-C-D-F according to the scale below and will not be curved. Passing grade in this course is 60 percent (D). Course requirements can include any combination of the following: discussion and quizzes; exams; and paper.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	86-89%
B	83-85%
B-	80-82%
C+	76-79%
C	71-75%
C-	68-70%
D	60-67%
F	0-60%

Grades are distributed in the following manner:

Exams: 50%

Papers: 30%  
Debate: 20%

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is required. Unexcused absences will affect grade—2 will reduce student grade one letter; 4 will result in automatic failure.

### **Class Policies:**

**Student Responsibility:** Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University email, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

**Professionalism:** To prepare students for the professional world, certain behaviors/activities are not allowed in the classroom.

- Cell Phones, Personal Laptops, and Recording devices: **Cell phones should be turned off before entering the classroom.** Students who choose to text during class will be marked absent for the day. Picture-taking during class is not allowed. Recording devices are allowed only if pre-approved by instructor, and if approved, under no circumstance are recordings—visual or verbal—to be posted on a public website.
- Late Assignments are unacceptable unless prearranged with instructor.
- Tardiness; is disruptive and disrespectful to the class and instructor.
- Eating in class: Please do not bring food or beverages to class. Water is permitted.

**Additional Policies:** CHEATING in any form (including plagiarism) is not allowed. Plagiarism is a serious matter and cause for an F in the course. Cheating, plagiarism, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work.

### **Disability Accommodations:**

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 ([disabilities@andrews.edu](mailto:disabilities@andrews.edu) or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

### **Academic Integrity:**

In harmony with the mission statement, Andrews University expects that students will demonstrate the ability to think clearly for themselves and exhibit personal and moral integrity in every sphere of life. Thus, students are expected to display honesty in all academic matters.

Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) the following acts:

- Falsifying or presenting falsified documents
- Plagiarizing

- Misusing copyrighted material and/or violating licensing agreements
- Using media from any source or device including the internet in ways that mislead, deceive, or defraud
- Presenting another person's work as one's own
- Using materials other than those specifically allowed by the teacher or program during a quiz or examination
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials
- Obtaining information from another student or any other source during a regular or take home test or quiz
- Assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty such as falsifying attendance records or providing unauthorized course materials"

### **Emergency Protocol:**

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

### **Assignments:**

#### **Papers:**

Papers will be turned in at the beginning of class on the designated due date. Papers must be 12pt, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, printed and stapled. Students MUST use Chicago bibliography citation format, either end or footnotes. The papers should include a title page, introduction, conclusion and properly formatted bibliography. Paper 1 must be 5 – 8 pages in length. Paper 2 should be a minimum of five pages in length and must include the first six content areas outlined below.

In the first paper, students will research an assigned district. Papers will include information about the economy, local employers, businesses and industries. In addition, students should provide information regarding the population of the district. What is the socio economic status of the district, unemployment rates, and demographics regarding age, race and educational achievement of the population living in the district? This information should be compared to either the state or national demographic and economic information.

Students will then profile the congressional representative for their chosen district and explain how this member represents the interests of their district. Students should include information regarding the member's congressional committee appointments, campaign donations, and interest group ratings. What campaign promises did the representative make and how have they fulfilled those promises?

In the second paper, students will draft a legislative bill. Papers should follow the following content guidelines:

- General rule: State the main message.
- Exceptions: Describe the persons or things to which the main message does not apply

- Special Rules: Describe the persons or things to which the main message applies in a different way or for which there is a different message.
- Transitional Rules.
- Other provisions.
- Definitions
- Effective date (if appropriate).
- “Authorization of appropriations” provisions (if appropriate).

([https://legcounsel.house.gov/HOLC/Drafting\\_Legislation/Drafting\\_Guide.html#IV](https://legcounsel.house.gov/HOLC/Drafting_Legislation/Drafting_Guide.html#IV))

In addition, the bill must include a list of the committees with jurisdiction to which the bill will be sent for approval.

**Presentations:**

Each student will prepare a presentation and the class will debate each students' bill.

Presentations/debates will be randomly schedule in the final class periods of the semester.

**Exams:** Exams are based on assigned reading, class discussions and lectures. Exams will be short answer and/or essay.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Aug. 24 & 26	Smith et al. Chapter 1 <i>The Troubled Congress</i> pp. 1 - 29	
Aug. 31 & Sept. 2	Smith et al. Chapter 2 <i>Representation and Lawmaking in Congress</i> pp. 32 - 56; Mayhew <i>Processes and Policies</i> pp. 81 - 180	
Sept. 9	Mayhew <i>Processes and Policies</i> pp. 81 - 180	
Sept. 14	Smith et al. Chapter 3 <i>Congressional Elections and Policy Alignments</i> pp. 60 - 92	
Sept. 21 & 23	Mayhew <i>Electoral Incentive</i> pp. 13 - 77; Smith et al. Chapter 4 <i>Members, Goals, Resources, and Strategies</i> pp. 93 - 128	
Sept. 28 & 30	Mid-Term Exam Sept. 30	Paper I Due Sept. 30
Oct. 5 & 7	Smith et al. Chapter 5 <i>Parties and Leaders</i> pp. 131 - 171	
Oct. 14	Smith et al. Chapter 6 <i>The Standing Committees</i> pp. 173 - 215	
Oct. 19 & 21	Smith et al. Chapter 7 <i>The Rules of the Legislative Game</i> pp. 217 - 246	
Oct. 26 & 28	Smith et al. Chapter 8 <i>The Floor and Voting</i> pp. 249 - 275	
Nov. 2 & 4	Smith et al. Chapter 9 <i>Congress and the President</i> pp. 277 - 312	
Nov. 9 & 11	Smith et al. Chapter 10 & 11 <i>Congress and the Courts</i> pp. 315 - 342; <i>Congress, Lobbyists, and Interest Groups</i> pp. 345 - 372	
Nov. 16 & 19	Smith et al. Chapter 12 <i>Congress and Budget Politics</i> pp. 375 - 402	Paper II Due Nov. 19
Nov. 23		Debates
Nov. 30 & Dec. 2		Debates
Dec. 9	Exam 1:30 - 3:30	