

Congressional—Presidential Relations

PSC 285/485
Stevens 109

Spring 2006
Wed. 2:40-5:30

Senator Mark O. Hatfield: Office Hours: 2:15-2:40 W.

Mark David Hall: Office Hours: MF 2:30-4:30; TTH 2:00-3:30; or by appointment.
Please do not come by my office on Tuesday or Thursday morning.

This course focuses on the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government in the modern era. Special emphasis is placed on events in which Senator Hatfield played an important role.

Requirements:

Books:

Henry J. Abraham, *Justices, Presidents, and Senators* (Rowman and Littlefield, 1999). New and Revised Edition.

James Thurber, ed. *Rivals for Power: Presidential—Congressional Relations* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005), 3rd ed.

Keith Olson, *Watergate: The Presidential Scandal that Shook America* (Kansas, 2003).

Louis Fisher, *Presidential War Power*, 2nd rev. ed. (Kansas, 2004).

Richard A. Posner, *An Affair of State: The Investigation, Impeachment, and Trial of President Clinton* (Harvard, 2000).

Assignments:

On the first day of class students will be assigned a president to cover for the term. Throughout the semester you are expected to research and be ready to discuss how your president addressed the issues we are discussing in class that day (e.g., when we discuss judicial appointments you should be familiar with how many appointments your president made, why he chose the judges he did, whether they were controversial, etc.). As well, students will write a paper on a specific issue concerning their president's relationship with Congress. Professor Hall must approve your topic. Your paper should incorporate a brief interview with Senator Hatfield on your topic (these will be done in class on April 12). Students taking the course for 285 credit will write a 10 page paper, whereas students taking it for 485 credit will write a 22 page paper. Papers should be well-written, well-argued, and fully documented. They are worth 30% of your

final grade. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of three points for every day they are late.

Students should regularly read the *New York Times* with an eye on stories about Congress and the President. Come prepared to discuss these articles. As well, in order to break up the long class periods, on days Senator Hatfield is not here you will be asked to participate in a variety of in-class assignments (e.g., discussions, debates, etc.). Your classroom participation is worth 10% of your final grade.

There will be two exams in this course, each worth 30% of your final grade. I will offer students the option of taking a comprehensive final. If you chose this option each of the three tests you take will be worth 20% of your final grade.

Schedule

Senator Hatfield will attend classes in bold.

January

11. Introduction, background.

18. Watergate, Olson, ix-122.

25. Watergate, Olson, 123-203; Posner, title page-58.

February

1. Impeachment: Nixon and Clinton, Posner, 59-266.

8. Judicial nominations, Abraham, *Justices, Presidents, and Senators*, 1-156.

15. Judicial nominations, Abraham 157-330.

22. Exam #1. The first 20-30 minutes of class may be used to complete discussion of material and/or review for the exam. The rest of the period will be for the exam.

March

1. President v. Congress on war and foreign policy. Fisher, *Presidential War Power*, 283-286, 1-174.

8. President v. Congress on war and foreign policy, cont. Fisher, 175-282; Thurber, 267-313.

15. President as a legislative leader. Thurber, 59-150.

**22. Presidential impact on congressional races, and vice versa.
Read Thurber 151-266; Busch and Campbell handouts.**

29. Spring Break!

April

5. What is to be done? Is conflict inevitable? Thurber ix-58, TBA (Fisher?).

12. Experts ask the expert. Students will have an equal amount of class time to ask Senator Hatfield questions about their paper topic. You will be evaluated on the quality of your questions. After Senator Hatfield has left for the day students will report to their colleagues on their papers.

19. Concluding thoughts and exam #2.

28. Final exam, 1:00. This is an optional, cumulative final exam. Please let me know if you intend to take it.