The U. S. Congress

General Information

Lectures and class discussions will be conducted under the assumption that students have read the assigned materials by the date indicated. There will be a midterm and final examination, each worth 33% of the course grade. The other 33% comes from in-class participation. The midterm will be on Tuesday, August 21st. The final will on Saturday(!), September 8th, 11:30AM-2:30PM.

The following book will be used extensively and is available for purchase in the bookstore. Be sure to use the specified edition:

Lawrence Dodd and Bruce Oppenheimer (eds.), Congress Reconsidered (11th Edition).

Readings

I. Congress: Constitutional Basis and Transformation
   August 7: Ch. 1 (Sinclair) and Ch. 2 (Aldrich and Rhode)
   August 9: Ch. 4 (Jacobson)

II. Parties and the Politics of Polarization
    August 14: Ch. 7 (Smith and Gamm) and Ch. 8 (Binder)
    August 16: Ch. 9 (Dodd and Schraufnagel) and Ch. 10 (Ragusa)

III. Parties, Leadership and Committees
    August 21: Midterm
    August 23: Ch. 11 (Volden and Wiseman) and Ch. 12 (Hanson)

IV. Parties, Leadership and Committees, cont.
    August 28: Ch. 13 (Koger) and Ch. 14 (Oppenheimer)
    August 30: Ch. 5 (Jordan, Hill & Hurley)

V. Separation of Powers
    September 4: Ch. 15 (Cooper) and Ch. 16 (Binder and Maltzman)
    September 6: Ch. 17 (Kriner) and Ch. 18 (Dodd and Oppenheimer)

September 8: FINAL EXAM