

# PS 318: The Legislative Process

## Paper Prompts

**Due Date.** Essay is due at the **beginning** of lecture Thursday, February 22nd.

**Late Papers.** Late papers will be penalized severely - an essay handed in late will lose one third of a grade on the first day (e.g., from A- to B+); each additional day will result in another third of a grade.

**Pass/Fail:** For those taking the class pass or fail, you must submit this paper to receive a passing grade in the course.

**Instructions.** After careful reading and consideration, please develop a **4 page**, double-spaced, typed paper (1-inch margins; 12-point Times New Roman font) that responds to **one** of the following questions. In developing your answer, please try to frame it as a **persuasive argument**. To do this, you need to take a clear position on the question, and you need to present solid and documented **evidence** to support your position. This is not a research paper. Instead, it asks you to think about and synthesize the materials we have discussed and considered to this point in the course.

There is no need for a lengthy introduction: I encourage you to state your **thesis**, present a **roadmap** for the argument (that is, to describe in a sentence or two how the argument will be developed in the paper), and then proceed with the arguments you wish to make.

**Prompt #1:** Mayhew (1974) begins his study of Congress with a discussion of the appropriate unit of analysis. What does he settle on, and why does he dismiss other approaches (e.g. party-centric models)? Is this position outdated in today's Congress?

**Prompt #2:** In *Federalist #57*, Madison explains why the House is well-designed to represent the people. What is the primary reason from Madison's point of view? Are you convinced by his argument? Why or why not?

*In developing your argument, be sure to consider other articles we have read throughout the course.*