This course is an in-depth examination of the representative organization of the U.S. Congress. There are two fundamental processes to the representative organization of, in particular, the U.S. House of Representatives: apportionment and redistricting. Together, these processes define the size, shape, demographics, and quantity of congressional districts within and among the states. The outcome of these decisions has a significant impact on many—if not all!—aspects of our democracy.

We will examine many of the historical, legal, practical, computational, and mathematical aspects for each of these frequent re-organizations. We will first examine congressional apportionment. A particular focus of this section will be the politics and mathematics of political equality. The second section of the course examines congressional redistricting. A particular focus of this section will be on the current practice of redistricting as well as quantitatively analyzing the political, economic, demographic, and legal consequences.

Texts

The following texts are required. The reading assignments for this course are essential and include all assigned pages. Any student who intends to do well will find the readings indispensable. This is a lecture-based course. Still, I will not highlight all of important points in the books, and I will be providing additional information that is not in the books. Because you are responsible for all of the assigned material, I strongly recommend a thorough and timely reading all of the assignments.

Required


Additional required readings will be posted on HuskyCT.

Recommended


Requirements
Your grade will be based on two writing projects and weekly homework assignments. The dates for each are listed under the Course Outline.

The projects have three main inter-related parts. First, each contains a writing assignment. As a W course, any student who does not pass the writing assignments in this course will not pass the course. Second, the projects require the students to think critically and analytically about the subject matter and the various readings. Third, the projects require the students to engage in some of the basic computational and mathematical aspects of congressional apportionment and redistricting. Each project is worth a total of 200 points. Details will be provided in handouts.

The weekly homework assignments are designed to fulfill two inter-related roles. First, most of the homeworks will provide the students with an introductory knowledge of MS Excel—or similar software (e.g. the free Open Office suite (see http://www.openoffice.org)). MS Excel is a relatively simple but powerful spreadsheet software program that is ubiquitous in just about all professions. Second, the specific weekly homework will build on the students’ previous knowledge and provide important insights into the mathematical and computational work necessary for the two projects. There are 10 homework assignments, which will be on HuskyCT and due the following Tuesday. Each is worth 10 points. The homework assignments are worth a potential of 100 total points.

The final grade, then, will consist of 500 points (100 homework points; 400 project points). The grades will follow a standard distribution:

A : 500 - 463 points.
A- : 462 - 448 points.
B+ : 447 - 438 points.
B : 437 - 413 points.
B- : 412 - 398 points.
C+ : 397 - 388 points.
C : 387 - 363 points.
C- : 362 - 348 points.
D+ : 347 - 338 points.
D : 337 - 298 points.
F : 297 or fewer points.

The best way to perform well in this course is to attend and be prepared for each class. The homeworks and project will consist of material that may only be addressed in the assigned readings or only in lecture. As such, missing class could be very costly. If you choose to skip a reading, you will likely have a more difficult time. Additionally, I encourage discussion and debate in-class and on the class HuskyCT discussion board. Participation will improve your knowledge of the information, and marginal grades of active students (in-class and/or online) will be given a second consideration.
**Administrative Policies**

There will be no make-up assignments for unexcused absences and late assignments will not be accepted. An absence is excused only in the case of an emergency; documentation is required. You are responsible for providing the documentation and arranging alternative plans.

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. I will deal with it, should it occur, in the swiftest possible manner allowed by University regulations. UConn provides definitions and examples of plagiarism, the judicial process, and your rights. I strongly recommend that you review this information.

See: [http://lib.uconn.edu/help/writing/plagiarism-resources/](http://lib.uconn.edu/help/writing/plagiarism-resources/)
[http://web.uconn.edu/irc/PlagiarismModule/intro_m.htm](http://web.uconn.edu/irc/PlagiarismModule/intro_m.htm)

For discrimination and sexual harassment policies,

See: [http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2884](http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2884)
[http://sexualviolence.uconn.edu/](http://sexualviolence.uconn.edu/)

Finally, we are here to facilitate your learning. I encourage you to take advantage of the course by keeping up with the readings, visiting the web site, thinking about the material, and discussing it in class, with me, with the TA, and with your colleagues.
Course Outline

**Congressional Apportionment**

**Week 1**

**Introduction**
- Basics of Apportionment and Redistricting
- Ladewig, Jeffrey W. 2015. “Before the Lines are Drawn.” *Jigsaw Politics*. (posted online)
- Federalist Papers, no. 54. (recommended: posted online)
- Federalist Papers, no. 55. (recommended: posted online)
- Homework 1 Handed Out: Apportionment Population Calculations.

**Week 2**

**Methods of Apportionment, Part 1**
- Balinski and Young, Chapters 1-3.
- Homework 1 Due.
- Homework 2 Handed Out: Jefferson Method of Apportionment Calculations and Formalizing the Constitution.
  - Formulas I: Walkenbach, Chapter 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 32.

**Week 3**

**Methods of Apportionment, Part 2**
- Balinski and Young, Chapters 4-5.
- Homework 2 Due.
- Homework 3 Handed Out – Hamilton, Adams, and Webster Methods of Apportionments.
  - Formulas II: Walkenbach, Chapter 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 32.
- First Project Handed Out.

**Week 4**

**Methods of Apportionment, Part 3**
- Balinski and Young, Chapters 6, 8-11.
- Homework 3 Due.
- Homework 4 Handed Out – Dean and Hill Methods of Apportionment.
  - Formulas III: Walkenbach, Chapter 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 32.
Week 5

**Baker v. Carr and One Person, One Vote**

- *New York Times* (3.11.13). (recommended: posted online)

- Homework 4 Due.
- Homework 5 Handed Out – Malapportionment and Measurements of Dispersion.

Week 6

**Resolving (Some) Paradoxes and Issues**

- Clemens et. al. v. Dep’t of Commerce, Jurisdictional Statement to the U.S. Supreme Court (2010). (recommended: posted online)

- Homework 5 Due.

*First Project Draft Due – October 2nd.*
**Congressional Redistricting**

**Week 7**

**Formal Requirements**

- Work Week

**First Project Due – October 11th**

**Week 8**

**Formal Requirements, cont.’t.**

- Bullock, Chapter 1-3.
- *New York Times* (2.2.13) article. (posted online)
- Persily (2012). (posted online)

- Homework 6 Handed Out: Redistricting Simulations.

**Week 9**

**Mapping Congressional Districts, part 1**

- Bullock, Chapters 4.

- Homework 6 Due.
- Homework 7 Handed Out: Redistricting using Basic GIS Maps.
  - Walkenbach, Chapters 1-4.
Week 10

**Mapping Congressional Districts, part 2**
- Bullock, Chapters 5 and 7.
- Bullock, Chapter 6 (recommended).

- Homework 7 Due.

Week 11

**The Practice and Consequences of Redistricting, part 1**

- Homework 8 Due.

Week 12

**The Practice and Consequences of Redistricting, part 2**

- Homework 9 Due.
- Homework 10 Handed Out: Measurements of Compactness and Calculating Using Python and ARCGIS.
  - Presentation of Data: Walkenbach, Chapter 5-7 & 18-19.
Week 13  Redistricting Overview
  • Katz, Elled D. 2013. “How big is *Shelby County*?” Scotus Blog. (posted online)
  • Pildes, Richard. 2014. “Legal scholarship highlight: How should the Court assess the workings of the other institutions of government?” Scotus Blog. (posted online)
  • Levitt, Justin. 2017. “The fight to end partisan gerrymandering is far from over.” Washington Post. (posted online)

  • Homework 10 Due.

Week 14  Thanksgiving Break

Week 15  Group Presentations

  *Second Project Draft Due – December 4th.*

December F.E.D.  *Second Project Due*

Note: Congressional Apportionment and Redistricting are dynamic and current topics that are frequently in the news. As such, the content of this syllabus is subject to change as new issues and material arise.