

**PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**  
**Woodrow Wilson School**

WWS 521  
Domestic Politics

Fall 2012  
R. Douglas Arnold

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This seminar introduces students to the political analysis of policy making in the American setting. The focus is on developing tools for the analysis of politics in any setting – national, state, or local. The first week examines policy making with a minimum of theory. The next five weeks examine the environment within which policy makers operate, with special attention to public opinion and elections. The next six weeks focus on political institutions and the making of policy decisions. The entire course explores how citizens and politicians influence each other, and together how they shape public policy.

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\* \* \* \* \*      **Please Note: Seminar participants are**      \* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*      **required to read one short book and an article**      \* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*      **before the first seminar on September 18.**      \* \* \* \* \*

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**A. Weekly Schedule**

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|---|--------------|
| 1. Politics and Policy Making                   | September 18 |
| 2. Public Opinion I: Micro Foundations          | September 25 |
| 3. Public Opinion II: Macro Opinion             | October 2    |
| 4. Public Opinion III: Complications            | October 9    |
| 5. Inequality and American Politics             | October 16   |
| 6. Elections                                    | October 23   |
| FALL BREAK                                      |              |
| 7. Agenda Setting                               | November 6   |
| 8. Explaining the Shape of Public Policy        | November 13  |
| 9. Explaining the Durability of Public Policy   | November 20  |
| 10. Dynamics of Policy Change                   | November 27  |
| 11. Money, Interest Groups, and Policy Analysts | December 4   |
| 12. The Courts and Policy Change                | December 11  |

**B. Course Requirements**

1. **Reading.** The course operates as a seminar. The amount of reading averages 170 pages per week. Each student is expected to do the assigned reading *before* each seminar and come to class prepared for discussion.

2. **Discussion.** The main event each week is a structured discussion of the week's reading. I provide the structure; you provide the discussion. Our aim is to come to terms with the scholarship on a subject *and* to see what lessons it offers for those involved in making and administering public policy. Each student is expected to participate actively in each week's discussion.
3. **Three Short Papers.** Each student writes three short papers during the course of the semester. These are opportunities for you to discuss the week's readings, unprompted by the instructor or your fellow students. The purpose of these papers is to develop your skills at political analysis and to gain feedback from the instructor prior to writing the final paper. Papers should focus on weekly readings listed under "Main Event," not "Short Subjects."

The key to a good paper is to pose an interesting question and answer it. You might focus on the value of an author's theory, examining its logical rigor, the plausibility of the arguments, or its relation to other theories. You might focus on the adequacy of the empirical evidence, asking whether the author used appropriate methods, whether the evidence really supports the hypotheses, or whether other evidence contradicts it. Alternatively, you might address the question of how well a piece of scholarship illuminates other happenings in the real world. Does a book help to explain why government makes the decisions it does? Under what conditions does it appear useful? These papers are *not* an opportunity to summarize the week's readings. You should assume that anyone who reads your paper has also done the week's reading.

These papers should be well organized and well written. A paper that fails to develop an argument until the last paragraph is called a first draft. A paper that fails to anticipate potential counter arguments, is written in the passive voice, or is filled with grammatical, spelling, or typing errors, is called a second draft. A paper that you would be proud to read to the class is called a final draft. I like final drafts.

The class will be divided in thirds, with one group writing in weeks 2, 5, and 8, a second group writing in weeks 3, 6, and 9, and the third group writing in weeks 4, 7, and 10.

Your papers should be typed, double-spaced, and a *maximum of five pages*. References to books or articles used in the course should be cited in the text (Zaller 1992, 79). *Please attach an extra page to the back of your paper (with your name and date in the upper right corner) for my comments.*

Papers are due at the *start* of the seminar in which their subjects are scheduled for discussion. I will return each of the short papers with comments a week after they are due.

4. **Final Paper.** The final paper requires that you apply the lessons of the seminar to explaining why some governmental institution enacted, or failed to enact, a significant policy change. The aim is to explain how and why political forces combined to produce or thwart change. You may choose any level of government – national, state, or local – and you may choose any significant policy change, whether adopted or rejected.

Although these papers require some outside research, the emphasis should be on original political analysis, not exhaustive research in primary source materials or interviews with participants. Some description will undoubtedly be necessary, but your paper should primarily be a piece of analysis. You should attempt to *explain* why an institution adopted or rejected a proposed policy change. Just before fall break, I will post an exemplary paper on Blackboard to help you appreciate the difference between good description and powerful analysis.

You are free to choose a policy area in which you already have some expertise. You are free to choose a subject that journalists or other observers have already covered extensively. You are free to select a topic for which the gathering of research materials is relatively easy. I am more interested in observing your analytic skills than your research skills. The only restriction is that you may not choose a subject that we have explored carefully in the course (e.g., Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 or the Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001). If you are having trouble choosing, or narrowing down, a topic, please come and see me.

You should select a topic and submit a one-page description of the policy decision that you intend to analyze no later than Friday, November 30. Please send the proposal as an ordinary e-mail (no attachment) to [arnold@princeton.edu](mailto:arnold@princeton.edu). I will respond by e-mail within a few days.

The final paper should be typed, double-spaced, single-sided, and a *maximum* of 25 pages. The paper is due on Monday, January 14 at 4:00. Please provide a cover page and number all subsequent pages. The cover page and the bibliography do not count against the page limit. Please note that 25 pages is a maximum length, not a target length. Shorter papers are welcome.

The real world of politics and public affairs does not grant extensions, and neither do I. Unlike the real world, I do accept late research papers, but only after assessing a penalty of one third of a letter grade for each day of lateness. The penalty is in fairness to other students who manage to submit their papers on time.

Papers should be given to my assistant, Helene Wood, in 301 Robertson Hall. Late papers will be logged in, with date and time.

5. **Due Dates.**

- Short papers: Due at the *start* of each week's seminar.  
 Research plan: Due Friday, November 30.  
 Research paper: Due Monday, January 14, 4:00.

6. **Grading.**

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|-----------------------|-----|
| Seminar participation | 20% |
| Short papers          | 30% |
| Final paper           | 50% |

**C. Availability of Readings**

1. **Books Available for Purchase.** Labyrinth Books (122 Nassau Street) has both new and used copies of the nine books that we use most intensively (marked **LB** in the readings). Or try Amazon for great deals on new and used books.
2. **Reserve Readings.** There are also multiple copies of these nine books on reserve in the Donald E. Stokes Library in Wallace Hall (marked **DES** in the readings).
3. **Electronic Course Reserves.** Most chapters and articles are available as part of the library's electronic course reserves (marked **ECR** in the readings). You will find these materials in the E-Reserves section of Blackboard. Any last minute additions to the syllabus will be posted on the Course Materials section of Blackboard.

**D. Times and Places**

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|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <b>Seminar Meetings</b> | Tuesday, 1:00-4:00 | Robertson Hall, Room 005 |
| 2. <b>Office Hours</b>     | By appointment     | Robertson Hall, Room 310 |

I am readily available by appointment. About a week in advance, I post blocks of available times in the Web Appointment Scheduling System. You can make an appointment on-line at: <https://wass.princeton.edu/pages/login.page.php>. After you log in, you will find my calendar by entering my NETID (arnold). You can sign up for either a 15 minute or a 30 minute appointment.

If you have conflicts with all my available times, please send an e-mail ([arnold@princeton.edu](mailto:arnold@princeton.edu)) that includes all the times that are *impossible* for you over the coming week. I will respond with an appointment that works for both of us.

## E. Weekly Readings

### 1. Politics and Policy Making (September 18)

*Main Event* (106 pages)

Richard Himelfarb, *Catastrophic Politics: The Rise and Fall of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988* (1995), pp. vii-ix, 1-103 [LB, DES]. Congress and the president first enact, by overwhelming margins, a major increase in health coverage for senior citizens; then, a year later, they repeal it.

*Short Subjects* (19 pages)

Hans Noel (2010), "Ten Things Political Scientists Know that You Don't," *The Forum: Political Science and Practical Politics* (volume 8, issue 3, article 12): 1-19 [ECR]. Although journalists write entertainingly about a wide range of political happenings, they often get the fundamentals wrong. They see change, where political scientists see constancy. This essay summarizes ten things that political scientists believe to be true that are contrary to what many journalists write.

*Discussion*

Our discussion will center on the Himelfarb book, which introduces many of the themes of the course, including the influence of public opinion on public policy. Although the case study is more than two decades old, it is still timely, given that Republicans are still seeking to overturn the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010. The only difference is that a bipartisan coalition successfully repealed the year-old Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act in 1989, whereas recent action has been the height of partisanship.

The article by Noel introduces several other themes for the course.

### 2. Public Opinion I: Micro Foundations (September 25)

*Main Event* (215 pages)

John R. Zaller, *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion* (1992), pp. 1-215 [LB, DES]. A theory of why citizens acquire opinions about policies and politicians.

*Short Subjects (14 pages)*

Sheldon R. Gawiser and G. Evans Witt, “20 Questions a Journalist Should Ask About Poll Results,” 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (2006), National Council on Public Polls [ECR]. A user guide to knowing when to trust polls – written for journalists, but relevant to all practitioners.

*Papers and Discussion*

Zaller develops a simple theory to explain the fundamental nature of public opinion – why public opinion develops as it does, why it changes, and how it reacts to the events of the day, the actions of political elites, and media coverage. Read for the logic of his argument. Most of his evidence is presented graphically. Anyone – and especially those writing papers – should feel free to read additional chapters. The whole book is worth reading.

Paper writers should wrestle with some aspect of Zaller’s theory or its application to current public opinion. Gawiser and Witt is not an appropriate foundation for a paper.

**3. Public Opinion II: Macro Opinion (October 2)***Main Events (175 pages)*

James A. Stimson, *Tides of Consent: How Public Opinion Shapes American Politics* (2004), xi-xx, 1-95, 137-171 [LB, DES]. What are the causes and consequences of macro changes in public opinion?

Robert J. Brulle, Jason Carmichael, and J. Craig Jenkins, “Shifting Public Opinion on Climate Change: An Empirical Assessment of Factors Influencing Concern Over Climate Change in the U.S. 2002-2010,” *Climatic Change* (published online 3 February 2012), pp. 1-20 [ECR]. How can one explain changes in public views about climate change?

R. Douglas Arnold and Nicholas Carnes, “Holding Mayors Accountable: New York’s Executives from Koch to Bloomberg,” *American Journal of Political Science* (published online 9 July 2012), pp. 1-15 [ECR]. Do theories of presidential and gubernatorial approval apply to big-city mayors?

*Papers and Discussion*

Stimson focuses on macro opinion – the summation of individual opinions – both about policy issues and incumbent politicians. He argues that macro opinion shifts in sensible ways even if shifts in individual opinions seem less than

rational. He also argues that aggregate shifts have important consequences for how politicians behave.

The two papers apply Stimson's theoretical ideas to macro changes in opinions about policy (climate change) and incumbent politicians (NYC mayors).

Paper writers can focus on any of the three publications – or some combination of them.

#### 4. Public Opinion III: Complications (October 9)

*Main Events* (128 pages)

Benjamin I. Page, "Zoe Baird, Nannies, and Talk Radio," in his *Who Deliberates? Mass Media in Modern Democracy* (1996), pp. 77-105 [ECR]. Ordinarily, the media shapes public opinion. What happens when it doesn't?

Arthur Lupia, "Shortcuts Versus Encyclopedias: Information and Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections," *American Political Science Review* 88 (1994): 63-76 [ECR]. What cues do poorly informed citizens use in complicated situations?

Markus Prior, "News vs. Entertainment: How Increasing Media Choice Widens Gaps in Political Knowledge and Turnout," *American Journal of Political Science* 49 (2005): 577-592 [ECR]. How have changes in the structure of the media – the advent of cable and the internet – affected what citizens know about politics and how they behave politically?

James N. Druckman, Jordan Fein, and Thomas J. Leeper, "A Source of Bias in Public Opinion Stability," *American Political Science Review* (2012): 430-454 [ECR]. What happens when citizens choose what information to acquire?

James H. Kuklinski, Paul J. Quick, Jennifer Jerit, David Schwieder, and Robert F. Rich, "Misinformation and the Currency of Democratic Citizenship," *Journal of Politics* (2000): 790-816 [ECR]. What happens when citizens confidently believe things that are not true?

Martin Gilens, "Poor People in the News: Images from the Journalistic Subconscious," in Don Heider (ed.), *Class and News* (2004), pp. 44-60 [ECR]. What messages do images convey?

*Papers and Discussion*

This week concludes our discussion of American public opinion by focusing on how citizens choose where to get news, on the causes and consequences of misinformation, and on the power of images.

We read lots of articles – six in all – but not lots of pages. Paper writers can focus on a single article, on any combination of articles, or on the relation between one or more articles and Zaller's or Stimson's books (from previous weeks).

**5. Inequality and American Politics (October 16)***Main Event* (212 pages)

Larry M. Bartels, *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age* (2008), pp. 1-126, 162-196, 252-302 [LB, DES]. How has politics contributed to the increasing economic inequality in America?

*Short Subjects* (6 pages)

Benjamin I. Page, "Perspectives on Unequal Democracy," *Perspectives on Politics* 7:1 (2009): 148-151 [ECR]. A critical look at *Unequal Democracy*.

James A. Stimson, "Perspectives on Unequal Democracy," *Perspectives on Politics* 7:1 (2009): 151-153 [ECR]. Another critical look.

*Papers and Discussion*

Bartels finds that politics – and particularly partisan politics – helps explain why economic inequality in America has been growing for three decades. Page and Stimson offer alternative perspectives for some of his points. Where do you stand on one or more issues that Bartels raises?

**6. Elections (October 23)***Main Events* (125 pages)

James A. Stimson, *Tides of Consent: How Public Opinion Shapes American Politics* (2004), 93-136 [LB, DES]. What do presidential campaigns accomplish?

Gary C. Jacobson, "The Republican Resurgence in 2010," *Political Science Quarterly* 126 (2011): 27-52 [ECR]. What forces shape congressional elections? How do macro changes in public opinion affect elections?

John G. Geer, "The News Media and the Rise of Negativity in Presidential Campaigns," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (2012): 422-427 [ECR]. Negative ads are designed to stimulate negative news coverage.

Alan S. Gerber, Donald P. Green, and Christopher W. Larimer, "Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment," *American Political Science Review* (2008): 33-48 [ECR]. If individual citizens have little chance of affecting election outcomes, why do they vote?

Jennifer L. Lawless and Richard L. Fox, "Why Are Women Still Not Running for Public Office?" *Issues in Governance Studies* (May 2008), pp. 1-20 [ECR]. It's not the voters; it's the candidates. What encourages people to run for office?

Sarah F. Anzia and Christopher R. Berry, "The Jackie (and Jill) Robinson Effect: Why Do Congresswomen Outperform Congressmen?" *American Journal of Political Science* (2011): 478-493 [ECR]. Women may be less likely to run for Congress, but once there, they outperform their male colleagues

#### *Short Subjects (2 pages)*

Christopher Bean, "The Only Politics Article You'll Ever Have to Read: What If Political Scientists Covered the News?" *Slate* (June 4, 2010) [ECR]. Journalists report about the adventure of politics, full of unexpected turns, while political scientists see simple repeating patterns.

#### *Papers and Discussion*

It is midterm week, so we have a lighter than usual reading assignment.

Papers can focus on any of the main articles or on some combination of them.

### **7. Agenda Setting (November 6)**

#### *Main Event (208 pages)*

John W. Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1995), pp. 1-208 [LB, DES]. How does government decide which problems to attack?

#### *Papers and Discussion*

Kingdon explores how particular policy problems and proposals first get on the governmental agenda – why was health care reform the hot issue two years ago, while taxes and deficit reduction are the hot issues this year.

Paper writers might consider how well a theory conjured up during the Carter administration explains agenda setting today. Alternatively, they might consider whether a theory created to explain agenda setting in the areas of health and transportation explains agenda setting in other policy areas.

## 8. Explaining the Shape of Public Policy (November 13)

*Main Events* (174 pages)

R. Douglas Arnold, *The Logic of Congressional Action* (1990), pp. 3-146, 265-276 [LB, DES]. What accounts for legislatures sometimes serving narrow and particularistic interests and sometimes serving more general interests?

Gary W. Cox and Mathew D. McCubbins, "Procedural Cartel Theory," in their *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives* (2005), pp. 17-34 [ECR]. What role do parties play in congressional organization and policy making?

*Short Subjects* (8 pages)

Ezra Klein, "Unpopular Mandate: Why Do Politicians Reverse Their Positions?" *New Yorker* (25 June 2012) [ECR]. Republicans backed the notion of an individual mandate until President Obama backed it; then they didn't.

*Papers and Discussion*

Paper writers might consider how well Arnold's theory, conjured up during the Reagan administration, explains congressional action today? Do stronger parties make the electoral connection less relevant today?

## 9. Explaining the Durability of Public Policy (November 20)

*Main Events* (171 pages)

Eric M. Patashnik, *Reforms at Risk: What Happens After Major Policy Changes Are Enacted* (2008), pp. 1-71, 110-180 [LB, DES]. What determines whether reforms that pass are reforms that persist?

Larry M. Bartels, "The Eroding Minimum Wage," in his *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age* (2008), pp. 223-251 [LB, DES]. Why don't increases in the minimum wage persist?

*Short Subjects (15 pages)*

Erik Schickler and Gregory J. Wawro (2011). “What the Filibuster Tells Us About the Senate,” *The Forum* (volume 9, issue 4, article 11): 1-15 [ECR]. Why are senators reluctant to give up the power to obstruct?

*Papers and Discussion*

Whereas Arnold attempts to explain why Congress adopts policy reforms, Patashnik seeks to explain why Congress adopts lasting policy reforms. The two books together provide an overall analysis of what budes Congress out of a particularistic mood into a more general interest mood. Schickler and Wawro show how individualistic senators retain the power to obstruct even large majorities.

Paper writers might focus on Patashnik’s arguments, on the relationship between Patashnik’s and Arnold’s theories, or on how well these theories explain real cases.

**10. Dynamics of Policy Change (November 27)***Main Events (191 pages)*

David R. Mayhew, *Divided We Govern: Party Control, Lawmaking, and Investigations, 1946-2002*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (2005), pp. ix-xii, 1-7, 34-145, 170-222, 226 [LB, DES]. Does it matter whether one party controls the House, Senate, and White House? If it doesn’t, how can we explain macro changes in lawmaking?

Sarah A. Binder, “The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-96,” *American Political Science Review* 93:3 (1999): 519-533 [ECR]. What happens if we consider the agenda of alternatives and not just the enactments themselves?

*Papers and Discussion*

Mayhew’s book has three virtues for this course. First, it develops a comprehensive list of the most important legislative enactments over nearly six decades – a bit of policy history that is invaluable for students of domestic policy. Second, it tests an important hypothesis about the impact of party control on legislative productivity. Third, after finding that the party hypothesis explains little, Mayhew develops six additional explanations for legislative productivity, including one that builds on Stimson’s notion of macro opinion. In short, Mayhew helps us think about the impact of macro opinion on macro policy. Binder is one of many scholars who have critiqued Mayhew and extended his work.

Questions: So, what does drive macro policy change? Why are some congresses so productive while others produce little? How much does opinion change drive policy change?

## 11. Money, Interest Groups, and Policy Analysts (December 4)

### *Main Events* (104 pages)

Stephen Ansolabehere, John M. de Figueiredo, and James M. Snyder, Jr., "Why Is There So Little Money in U.S. Politics?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (2003), pp. 105-130 [ECR]. Myths and realities about the role of money in American politics.

Richard L. Hall and Frank W. Wayman, "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees," *American Political Science Review* 84 (1990), 797-820 [ECR]. Money buys access.

Dara Z. Strolovitch, "Do Interest Groups Represent the Disadvantaged? Advocacy at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender," *Journal of Politics* (2006): 894-910, with corrected Table 2b in same journal (2007): 281 [ECR]. Even interest groups that are designed to represent disadvantaged people represent the most advantaged of the disadvantaged.

Henry E. Brady, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Sidney Verba, "Prospecting for Participants: Rational Expectations and the Recruitment of Political Activists," *American Political Science Review* (1999): 153-168 [ECR]. Who gets recruited to join organizations and movements and contribute to political campaigns?

Carol H. Weiss, "Congressional Committees as Users of Analysis," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (1989): 411-431 [ECR]. What role do policy analysts play on Capitol Hill?

### *Short Subjects* (2 pages)

Suzy Khimm, "Why Does Anyone Trust the CBO?" *Washington Post* (28 July 2011) [ECR]. Speaking truth to power.

### *Discussion*

Journalists regularly decry the role of money and interest groups in American politics. These political scientists offer a more nuanced view. We also examine how activists are recruited and what role policy analysts have in legislative decision making.

No short papers this week.

## **12. The Courts and Policy Change (December 11)**

*Main Event* (169 pages)

Gerald N. Rosenberg, *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change*, 2nd ed. (2008), pp. 1-169 [LB, DES]. How much influence do courts have in the making of public policy? Read Chapters 1 and 14 with care. Read the empirical chapters more quickly to get an overall sense of the argument.

*Discussion*

How can we apportion responsibility for policy change when it is clear that all institutions – president, Congress, and the courts – played important roles?

Rosenberg's book is full of arguments and evidence – some convincing, some pretty weak. So, read the book with a critical eye. This week is a good chance to reflect on what kinds of evidence are convincing in case studies – not a bad thing to do as you contemplate writing your own case study (due in 34 days).

No short papers this week.

## F. Doing Research on Congress

Although students are free to choose research topics at any level of government, many students choose to write about congressional decision making. One advantage of this choice is that there is an abundance of information about congressional policy making. Unfortunately, you won't find most of this information with a Google search.

If you are searching for a paper topic, you should begin with the *CQ Almanac* (described below). This annual volume is organized by policy area, so that you can read about one or two policy areas that you care about and search for interesting or puzzling policy decisions. If you are searching for a paper topic in the current year, you should begin with *CQ Weekly* (described below). Take care to find an issue that Congress has resolved, whether by passing or rejecting a bill.

The electronic version of this syllabus has hyperlinks that go directly to the reference sources listed below. Some of these links require that you be logged in inside the princeton.edu firewall.

### 1. Congressional Quarterly Publications

If you want to know what Congress has done (or is doing) in any policy area, you need to consult one of three titles published by Congressional Quarterly. This is a news organization with more than one hundred reporters, editors, and researchers who cover what is happening on Capitol Hill.

*CQ Weekly* is published each Friday as a magazine and on-line. It was known as *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report* from 1945 to 1998. Each issue contains articles about what is happening in Congress in specific policy areas. This is the very best source for following the details of policy making. These weekly articles are the foundation for the *CQ Almanac*, which is published annually. There are also lists of how every representative and senator voted on each roll call during the previous week. You will find paper copies of *CQ Weekly* in Stokes Library and the Social Science Reference Center at Firestone. Electronic access is available, beginning in 1983, at <http://library.cqpress.com/cqweekly/>.

*CQ Almanac* (formerly *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*) has been published annually since 1945. Each volume is organized by broad policy area, and within each chapter, by specific bills. This is the best source for determining the legislative and political history for any bill. References are included to previous volumes for issues that spanned more than one year. Appendices include how every representative and senator voted on each roll call during the year. You will find complete collections in Stokes Library and the Social Science Reference Center at Firestone (JK1 .C66). Electronic access, beginning in 1945, is available at <http://library.cqpress.com/cqalmanac>.

*Congress and the Nation* has been published at four-year intervals since 1965, corresponding to each presidential term (the first volume covered 1945-64). Each volume is organized by broad policy area, and within each chapter, by specific bills. The coverage is

not as detailed as in the *CQ Almanac*, but references are included to appropriate volumes of the *Almanac*. This is a good source for identifying what happened in a specific policy area during a four-year period. You will find complete collections in Stokes Library and the Social Science Reference Center at Firestone (KF49 .C653). Electronic access, beginning in 1945, is available at <http://library.cqpress.com/catn/>.

Congressional Quarterly has also published *Politics in America* at two-year intervals beginning in 1982. This is a comprehensive guide to the 435 members and their districts and the 100 senators and their states, including biographical material, committee assignments, interest group ratings, and district demographics. Although it is similar to *The Almanac of American Politics* (see below), it places greater emphasis on legislators in Washington, whereas the *Almanac* places greater emphasis on legislators at home. You will find paper copies in Stokes Library and the Social Science Reference Center at Firestone (JK1010 .P64).

Congressional Quarterly also publishes a wide range of other titles about politics and policy making. For electronic access to the complete CQ Press Political Reference Suite, including *Congress A to Z*; *Elections A to Z*; *The Presidency A to Z*; *The Supreme Court A to Z*; *The U.S. Constitution A to Z*; and *Vital Statistics on American Politics*, see: <http://library.cqpress.com/prs/>.

## 2. Congressional Publications

Congress publishes a wide variety of materials including, bills (proposed laws), hearing transcripts (testimony before committees), committee prints (research reports for committees), committee reports (reasons for and against bills reported out of committee), and the *Congressional Record* (a daily record of House and Senate floor debates). Firestone Library has comprehensive paper collections of all these materials. Electronic access is available for many items for more recent years.

The University of Michigan has an excellent guide to congressional publications, describing in great detail what you can find in specific documents. See: <http://guides.lib.umich.edu/congress>

Firestone library also has an excellent guide to congressional materials, called “The United States Congress: A Research Guide at Princeton.” This guide is especially helpful for determining where to find paper copies at Princeton and when electronic access begins for specific items. See: <http://www.princeton.edu/%7Edocs/USPriRut.html>

You should first read the Michigan and Princeton documents to learn the ins and outs of congressional documents. Electronic access for some documents is available through several sites, including:

Pro-Quest Congressional: <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp>

Government Printing Office: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsysinfo/aboutfdsys.htm>

THOMAS (Library of Congress): <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

CQ Press Electronic Library: <http://library.cqpress.com/index.php>

### 3. National Journal Publications

*National Journal* is a weekly magazine that has covered policy making in Washington since 1969. It covers both Congress and the executive branch. You will find paper copies in Stokes Library and the Social Science Reference Center at Firestone. Electronic access is available at <http://nationaljournal.com/>

*The Almanac of American Politics*, published biennially since 1972, is a comprehensive guide to the 435 representatives and their districts and the 100 senators and their states. Includes biographical material, committee assignments, interest group ratings, election results, campaign expenditures, and district demographics. You will find paper copies in Stokes Library and the Social Science Reference Center at Firestone. Electronic access is available at <http://nationaljournal.com/almanac/>

### 4. Newspapers

Three Washington newspapers provide superb coverage of Congress. The *Washington Post* provides the most comprehensive coverage. *Roll Call*, which is published Monday through Thursday, strives to cover the people and politics of Congress. *The Hill* is a weekly paper with intensive coverage of Congress. <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic/>

The *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* are also important resources. The *Times* is available through Lexis-Nexis. The *Journal* is available through ProQuest.

### 5. Public Opinion Polls

For a searchable archive of public opinion polls from most of the leading pollsters (Gallup, National Opinion Research Center, Pew Research Center, ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*), use the public opinion archives at the Roper Center. Go to the following site and click on iPoll. You may need to provide your Princeton University e-mail address in order to search the archives. <http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>

For a comprehensive guide to polling data, try another superb resource from the University of Michigan. See: <http://guides.lib.umich.edu/content.php?pid=33808&sid=248068>

## 6. Statistical Data

For a guide to statistical data on politics, including campaign finance, elections, and public opinion, try another superb resource from the University of Michigan. See:

<http://guides.lib.umich.edu/elections>

For a comprehensive guide to statistical data on just about every policy area, from economics, education, energy, and the environment, to government finances, health, housing, and transportation, see: <http://guides.lib.umich.edu/govstatistics>

For statistical data on presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial elections, try the CQ Voting and Elections Collection at: <http://library.cqpress.com/elections/>

## 7. Reference Librarians

You should also consult any of the ten reference librarians at Stokes Library (Wallace Hall) or the Social Science Reference Center (Firestone Library). Three librarians who specialize in politics, law, and public policy are listed below.

### **Public Policy**

Nancy Pressman Levy  
[pressman@princeton.edu](mailto:pressman@princeton.edu)  
609-258-4782  
Stokes Library

### **Politics**

Jeremy Darrington  
[jdarring@princeton.edu](mailto:jdarring@princeton.edu)  
609-258-3209  
Firestone A-10-JB

### **Law**

David Hollander  
[dholland@princeton.edu](mailto:dholland@princeton.edu)  
609-258-5316  
Firestone A-15-J-2