

**Huntingdon College**  
**Adult Degree Completion Program**

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**COURSE NUMBER: PSC305**  
**COURSE NAME: Presidency and Congress**  
**Spring 2009, Session II, Center Point**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Timothy Smith

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** [timothy.smith@huntingdon.edu](mailto:timothy.smith@huntingdon.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Analysis of the two dominant federal institutions and their processes; contrasting methods of election, constituencies served, goals, staff and time horizon. Characteristics and operation of government in foreign and domestic policymaking, budgeting; and the instruments of conflict and cooperation.

**PREREQUISITE:** none

**TEXT REQUIRED:** Leloup, Lance T., and Steven A. Shull. The President and Congress: Collaboration and Combat in National Policymaking, (see **Huntingdon College booklist for edition and ISBN**)

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- understanding of the constitutional provisions of shared power between presidency and congress
- knowledge of the means of presidential leadership
- knowledge of the process of congressional policymaking
- understanding of the making of major US policies, such as foreign policy, civil rights policy, budget policy and social welfare policy
- critical thinking about the presidency, congress and the process of making public policy

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA:**

<b>Grading Elements</b>	<b>Percentage:</b>
Weekly Participation and Presentations	25%
Weekly Responses	25%
ePaper	25%
Final Essay exam	25%
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100%</b>

**GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS** - Describe the point range for each letter grade.

A = 90-100  
B = 80-89  
C = 70-79  
D = 60-69  
F = 59-below

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

**Absences and Tardiness – All students are required to attend the first session.** Those who do not attend the first session will be automatically dropped from the course. Students with more than one absence will receive an "F" for the course. Since this class meets only five times, missing a single class meeting is equivalent to missing three weeks of a regular term. If you cannot attend a class you must let the instructor know via email as soon as possible. In case of absences you are responsible for obtaining all handouts and assignments. Tardiness may result in a deduction in your class participation grade. Excessive tardiness may count as an absence.

**Participation** –Participation is not the same as attendance. Participation requires students to come to class prepared to actively participate, which makes the classroom experience more meaningful. However, participation is not just speaking out in class. The contributions made by the student should be related to the course content and meaningful to the class discussion.

**Late Assignments** – Explain whether late assignments will be accepted and what penalty might be imposed if the assignment is late. Also specify what assignments can be turned in late. This will allow the student to make informed decisions.

**Accommodation of Special Needs-** Huntingdon College makes every reasonable accommodation for disabilities that have been processed and approved through our Disability Services Committee in accord with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to request disability-related services at Huntingdon College, students must self-identify to the Disabilities Intake Coordinator, Camilla Irvin, and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. After the accommodations have been approved by the Disability Services Committee, the 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Olenik Dorman, will notify your professor(s) of the committee's decision. If you have any questions regarding reasonable accommodation or need to request disability-related services, please contact Disability Services at (334) 833-4432 or e-mail at [disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu).

**Academic Honesty** –Plagiarism is literary theft. Failure to cite the author of any language or of any ideas *which are not your own creation* is plagiarism. This includes any text you might paraphrase, as well. Anyone is capable of searching the Internet or any printed media; your research paper is intended to broaden your knowledge, stimulate your creativity, and make you think, analyze, and learn. It is not consistent with the College Honor Code, nor with scholarly expectations to submit work which is not the product of your own thinking and research. Severe penalties will result upon the submission of any work found to be plagiarized, including potential failure of the entire course. It is easy and simple to properly cite all sources used in your paper. Take no risks – cite your sources.

**First Night Assignment** – TBD by the instructor

## **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

### **Week 1:**

Reading Assignment- Chapters 1 & 2

Writing Assignment-

Presentation Assignment-

### **Week 2:**

Reading Assignment-Chapters 3 & 4

Writing Assignment-One page single-spaced essay via email to the instructor analyzing a question from the previous week's discussion, given out in class by the instructor.

Presentation Assignment-Four minute presentation of your assigned question.

### **Week 3:**

Reading Assignment- Chapters 5 & 6

Writing Assignment-One page single-spaced essay via email to the instructor analyzing a question from the previous week's discussion, given out in class by the instructor.

Presentation Assignment-Four minute presentation of your assigned question.

### **Week 4:**

Reading Assignment- Chapters 7 & 8

Writing Assignment-One page single-spaced essay via email to the instructor analyzing a question from the previous week's discussion, given out in class by the instructor.

Presentation Assignment-Four minute presentation of your assigned question.

### **Week 5:**

Reading Assignment- Chapter 9

Final Essay Exam Writing Assignment- **2 pages of 4 one-paragraph** accounts of articles, major events or concepts we have discussed, plus a **one-page single-spaced general essay** on a broader topic we have discussed. Exams are in closed-book and closed-notes format.

Presentation Assignment-Four minute presentation of your assigned question.