Course Outline and Reading Schedule

**Week 1**

1. Course Introduction and Review of Basic Lawmaking Function of Congress

Activities: Syllabus and LegSim Overview

Reading: Oleszek Chapter 1- Congress and Lawmaking

**Week 2**

1. Congress and Lawmaking continued
2. Understanding Policy Attributes and Incentives
3. Congressional Behavior and Elections

Activities: LegSim Lesson 1. Who we are and what we represent

Reading: Arnold Chapter 1, 2, 3, &4

**Week 3**

1. Congressional Behavior Continued
2. Becoming Legislator

Activities: LegSim Lesson 2. What’s your agenda?

**Week 4**

1. Congress and the Budget- The Simplest Form of Policy Making

Reading: Oleszek Chapter 2- The Congressional Budget Process

**Assignment: Assessing Budget Conflict, Practically and Politics**

**Week 5**

1. Preliminary Legislative Action
2. Coalition Building

Activities: LegSim Lesson 3 Personal Propaganda, Building Coalitions, and Selecting Leaders

LegSim Lesson 4- Getting your Ducks in a row (committee assignments)

Reading Oleszek Chapter 3- Preliminary Legislative Action, Arnold Chapter 5

**Week 6**

1. **Mini –Midterm 1**
2. Committee Research Assignments- Becoming expert in your area of expertise
3. Committee meeting 1.

Activities LegSim Lesson 5

**Assignment: Policy Brief**

**Week 7**

1. Procedure in the House of Representatives
   1. Scheduling
   2. Floor Procedure

Activities: Committee Meeting 2

Reading: Oleszek Chapters 4 &5

**Week 8 – Spring Break** - Time to take a page from Boehner’s Book (minus the smoking and drinking)

**Week 9**

1. Procedure in the Senate
   1. Scheduling
   2. Floor Procedure

Activities: LegSim Lesson 6: Walking the Talk. Begin Drafting Legislation

Reading: Oleszek Chapters 6 &7

**Week 10**

1. **Mini-Midterm 2**
2. Resolving House and Senate Differences/ Conference Committee

Activities: Conference Committee Exercise, Continue Drafting Legislation

**Reading: Oleszek Chapter 8**

**Week 11**

1. Sausage Making Time- Debating your Bills in Committee

Activities: LegSim Lesson 7- Debating in Committee

**Assignment: Debate Preparation Assignment**

**Week 12**

1. Policy Decisions

Activities: LegSim Lesson 8- Begin Floor Debates

Reading: Arnold Chapter 6

**Week 13**

1. Continue Floor Debates
2. Committee Meetings
3. Begin Legislative Oversight Work

Readings: Oleszek Chapter 9

**Week 14**

1. Wrap up Floor Debates- Vote
2. Session Closing- Speeches and reception
3. Representation and Representativeness

Activities: LegSim Lesson 8- Reflect on the Process

Reading: Oleszek Chapter 10 – A Dynamic Process

**Week 15**

1. Final Exam Prep-

**Assignment: Reflection Essays Due**

**Week 16**

**Final Exam Tuesday May 12th 9:00am**