Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should __not__ be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PPOG 625
LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Legislatures are at the heart of policy-making in the United States. This course will help students learn how to ask and answer original research questions related to the study of U.S. legislatures, their members, and policy-making within the legislature. The course has two goals: to introduce students to a broad range of legislative research and to explore how to critically assess and extend that research.

RATIONALE

This course is meant to introduce the student to the legislature, which is the policy-making branch of the U.S. government. An understanding of the structure of this branch and the processes involved in lawmaking are vital to the student's success in the policy-making arena.

I. **PREREQUISITE**
    For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. **REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

    Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. **RECOMMENDED RESOURCE**

    Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Current ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

IV. **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

    A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment

    B. Internet access (broadband recommended)

    C. Blackboard recommended browsers

    D. Microsoft Office

V. **MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

    Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

    Analyze classic and current literature on legislatures as institutions and as individuals.

Synthesize the literature on specific legislative topics including, but not limited to: institutions, representation, elections, decision-making, organizations, parties, and inter-branch relationships.

Recommend new research questions based on the current state of the legislative literature.

Develop a research proposal extending the current literature.

Develop a research paper extending the current legislative literature.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

Discussion Board Forums (8)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 500–600 words, include at least 2 scholarly sources as well as the Bible, and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 250–350 words and include at least 1 scholarly source.

Research Proposal

The student will write a 2–3-page (double-spaced) thesis statement and research proposal that identifies a research project on some aspect of legislatures or legislators. The proposal must include at least 10 peer-reviewed scholarly sources published withing the last 10 years. This proposal will form the basis of the student's final research paper.

Research Paper

The student will write a 7–10-page research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on a topic studied in this course. The paper must include at least 15 sources published withing the last 10 years, in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

VII.   COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A.   Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (8 at 100 pts ea)	800
Research Project	
Research Proposal	50
Research Paper	150
Total	1010

B.   Scale

A = 940–1010   A- = 920–939   B+ = 900–919   B = 860–899   B- = 840–859
C+ = 820–839   C = 780–819   C- = 760–779   D+ = 740-759   D = 700–739
D- = 680–699   F = 0–679

C.   Late Assignment Policy

Course Assignments, including discussion boards, exams, and other graded assignments, should be submitted on time.

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1.   Late assignments submitted within one week after the due date will receive a 10% deduction.

2.   Assignments submitted more than one week and less than 2 weeks late will receive a 20% deduction.

3.   Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.

4.   Group projects, including group discussion board threads and/or replies, and assignments will not be accepted after the due date.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D.   Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PPOG 625

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Dodd & Oppenheimer: chs. 1–2, 11, 14 1 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
2	Dodd & Oppenheimer: ch. 12 1 presentation 2 wesbites	DB Forum 2	100
3	Cox & McCubbins: All Dodd & Oppenheimer: chs. 7–8 (9–10 recommended) 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 3 Research Proposal	100 50
4	Dodd & Oppenheimer: chs. 3–4 Jacobson & Carson: All 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 4	100
5	Adler & Wilkerson: All Mayhew: All 1 presentation	DB Forum 5	100
6	Dodd & Oppenheimer: chs. 5–6 1 presentation 4 websites	DB Forum 6	100
7	1 presentation 4 articles	DB Forum 7 Research Paper	100 150
8	Dodd & Oppenheimer: chs. 15–18 1 presentation	DB Forum 8	100
		TOTAL	**1010**

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.