

**Advanced Simulations in American Politics:  
Understanding the Defense Appropriations Process  
(POLS 4207H / INTL 4207H)  
Spring 2007**

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Simulation Website: [www.polls.uga.edu/polisci2003/index.asp](http://www.polls.uga.edu/polisci2003/index.asp)  
Course Website: [www.polls.uga.edu/pols4207/pols4207.htm](http://www.polls.uga.edu/pols4207/pols4207.htm)

**Course Focus:**

This course is intended to provide students with a unique opportunity not typically afforded in traditional political science and international affairs classes. It is designed to offer both an increased degree of realism as to how government functions, along with an opportunity for students to participate in a “hands-on” simulation—putting into practice knowledge gained in the classroom. In addition, modern technology will allow our simulation to operate both inside and outside of the classroom. A unique communication website has been developed for this course that will allow players in the simulation to communicate with one another literally around the clock, allowing for a level of interactivity simply not possible with most classroom simulations.

The course is divided into two distinct temporal components. The first is a substantive module designed to familiarize students with the inner workings of the federal government, including the interplay between key actors (for example, the president, members of the House and Senate, and interest group leaders). In addition, you will be specifically exposed to current U.S. military doctrines and the appropriations process that supports them with federal funding. Students will then use the knowledge gained in the classroom to participate in a working simulation of the federal appropriations process as it relates to the functional area of national defense.

**Course Requirements/Expectations:**

*Classroom:* This class is organized around the assumption that students will both attend, and prepare for, class by completing the set of assigned readings. While in class, students are further expected to participate in discussions and discuss issues posed by the instructors. All assigned readings should be reviewed by the dates indicated on the course website. Not all of the readings will be discussed in class; however, this does not negate your responsibility to know the assigned materials. A clear understanding of the manner in which the U.S. political system functions is a key component to a student’s successful participation in the simulation that comprises the second half of the semester.

*Simulation:* The second half of the class involves students taking on the roles of political actors and participating in a simulation designed around passage of an annual defense appropriations bill. Expectations for each actor in this process are clearly established in the simulation manual and direct participation by instructors during this phase will be minimal. It is up to each student, therefore, to prepare and complete any task assigned to him or her in order to make the simulation a successful endeavor.

*Notes on Participation:* Your participation grade is based on your performance in both the classroom, as well as the role you are assigned to play in the simulation component. In the classroom, your participation will be judged based on two criteria: class participation and attendance. One should note that it is difficult to participate in class discussions without being physically present. However, class attendance is only a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for achieving a high participation grade. Participation in the simulation, at 30% of one's grade, is a heavily weighted component in the overall grade distribution. Such an emphasis underscores the reality that, in the end, student participation is the **key** factor to successful implementation of this simulation.

#### **Required Materials:**

Available at the Off-Campus Bookstore or Baxter Street Books:

- *The Imperial Presidency* (2004 edition)
- *Congress: The Electoral Connection*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.
- *America at the Crossroads*
- *Against All Enemies*
- Simulation Manual (Available on Course Website)

Other materials will be made available through the course website.

#### **Grading Scheme:**

Your grade will be based on the following distribution:

<b>Mid-Term Exam:</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Participation:</b>	<b>35%</b>
Simulation	30%
Classroom	5%
<b>Written Assignments:</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>35%</b>
Simulation Strategy Paper	5%
Critical Analysis	20%
Simulation Portfolio	10%

#### **Written Assignments:**

During the course of the semester there will be three major written assignments as follows:

*Simulation Strategy Paper:*

Prior to participating in the simulation module, students will be asked to write a paper detailing the strategy or strategies and the positions they will adopt in performing the tasks associated with their roles. This essay is meant to help shape student expectations as they prepare to participate in the simulation component. At the completion of the simulation, a debriefing will be held in which students will be given an opportunity to compare their expectations before the simulation to their actual experience. Approximate length: 5 pages

*Critical Analysis:* This semester we will be taking a closer look at the ongoing conflict in Iraq and its importance to U.S. foreign and defense policy. Students will write a critical analysis concerning one set of recommendations outlined in *The Iraq Study Group Report*. This assignment will allow students a great deal of flexibility in choosing a topic of particular interest to them; one can focus on either foreign or domestic policy. Some potential topics might include the future of the U.S. force structure, new directions for U.S. defense spending, Iraq’s place in the wider war against terrorism, strategic considerations related to Iraqi oil production, diplomatic approaches to solving the crises in Iraq, or ideas to bolster Iraq’s internal security. Approximate length: 15-20 pages, plus references

*Simulation Portfolio:*

As one means of documenting participation, students will assemble a portfolio that details their involvement in the simulation exercise. This portfolio should include a record of any meetings held outside of classroom with other actors, along with a brief summary of the content of such meetings. Any written reports, memos, legislation, or related documents drafted by the student should also appear in their portfolio. Finally, students should also include a post-script to their simulation strategy paper that describes how their experience in the simulation met, or did not meet, their expectations. No specific page length.

More detailed information on the nature of these written assignments will be posted on the course website.

**General Course Schedule:<sup>3</sup>**

Students should refer frequently to the course websites for notes on ancillary materials and important announcements.

<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Week:</b>	<b>Course Topic:</b>
1/9	1	Course Introduction
<b>Policy Module: U.S. Defense Policy</b>		
1/11-1/16	1-2	Moving from the Cold War to the Present: A Short History of U.S. Defense Policy
1/18-1/23	2-3	The End of the Cold War: Current Military Doctrine
1/25-1/30	3-4	Unconventional Warfare (Intelligence, Special Operations)

2/1-2/6	4-5	U.S. Military Doctrine—Future Directions?
<b>Substantive Module: Federal Policymaking</b>		
2/8-2/13	5-6	Constitutional Designs: Separated Powers
2/15-2/20	6-7	A Look at the Chief Executive
2/22-2/27	7-8	Congress and Defense Spending
3/1	8	The Federal Appropriations Process
<b>Simulation Module</b>		
3/8	9	Simulation Orientation
3/20-3/22	10	Defense Appropriations Exercise
3/27-3/29	11	Defense Appropriations Exercise
4/3-4/5	12	Defense Appropriations Exercise
4/10-4/12	13	Defense Appropriations Exercise
4/17-4/19	14	Defense Appropriations Exercise
4/24-4/26	15	Defense Appropriations Exercise
5/8	Final	Simulation Evaluation/Debriefing (3:30-5:00)
<b>Other Important Dates:</b>		
3/6		Mid-Term Exam
3/1		Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline
3/12-16		Spring Break
4/26		Last Day of Class
3/20		Simulation Strategy Paper Due
4/12		Critical Analysis Due
5/1		Simulation Portfolio Due

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<sup>1</sup> Makeup exams are not given.

<sup>2</sup> Failure to turn in written assignments on time will result in a penalty of one letter grade per day, including weekends; no exceptions.

<sup>3</sup>This schedule may be subject to change throughout the semester.