

**Advanced Simulations in American Politics:  
Understanding the Defense Appropriations Process  
(POLS 4207H / INTL 4207H)  
Spring 2005**

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Simulation Website: [www.nmi.uga.edu/projects/polisci2003/](http://www.nmi.uga.edu/projects/polisci2003/)  
Course Website: [www.arches.uga.edu/~th/pols4207.htm](http://www.arches.uga.edu/~th/pols4207.htm)

**Course Focus:**

This course is intended to provide students with a unique opportunity not typically afforded in traditional political science 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 which 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 can be 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 (i.e. President, members of the House and Senate, interest groups). In addition, you will be specifically exposed to the appropriations process and current U.S. military doctrines. Students will then use the knowledge gained in the classroom to directly 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 performing the set of assigned readings. While in class, students are further expected to participate in discussions and answer questions 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. system functions is a key component to successful student participation in the simulation that comprises the second half of the semester.

*Simulation:* The second half of the class involves students taking on the role of a political actor and participating in a simulation designed around passage of the annual defense appropriations bill. Expectations of 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 adequately prepare and complete any task assigned them 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 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:

- *Fateful Decisions, Inside the National Security Council*
- *The Mission: Waging War and Keeping Peace with America's Military*
- *Congress and the Distributive Politics of Military Procurement*
- *Separate But Equal Branches*
- 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>
Position Paper	25%	
Simulation Strategy Paper	10%	

### **Written Assignments:**

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

*Simulation Strategy Paper:* Prior to participating in the simulation module students will be asked to write a position paper detailing the strategy(ies) and positions they will utilize in performing the tasks associated with their role. 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 Page Length: 5 pages

*Position Paper:* During the course of the semester students will be required to use their newfound expertise to craft a detailed analysis pertaining to one of the following general topics:

- The Future of U.S. Military Doctrine
- Prioritizing Defense Spending
- Executive/Legislative Relations as it Pertains to Defense Policy

Approximate Page Length: 20 pages plus references

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>
1/11	1	Course Introduction
<b>Policy Module: U.S. Defense Policy</b>		
1/13-18	2	Moving from the Cold War to the Present: A Short History of U.S. Defense Policy
1/20-1/25	3	The End of the Cold War: Current Military Doctrine
1/27-2/1	4	Unconventional Warfare (Intelligence, Special Operations)
2/3-2/8	5	U.S. Military Doctrine—Future Directions?
<b>Substantive Module: The Interplay of Actors at the Federal Level</b>		
2/10-2/15	6	Constitutional Designs: Separated Powers
2/17-2/22	7	Presidential-Congressional Interactions and Agenda Setting
2/24-3/1	8	Congress and Defense Spending
3/3-3/8	9	The Federal Appropriations Process
<b>Simulation Module</b>		
3/10	10	Defense Appropriations Exercise
3/22-3/24	11	Defense Appropriations Exercise
3/29-3/31	12	Defense Appropriations Exercise
4/5-4/7	13	Defense Appropriations Exercise
4/12-4/14	14	Defense Appropriations Exercise
4/19-4/21	15	Defense Appropriations Exercise
4/26-4/28	16	Defense Appropriations Exercise
5/5	Final	Simulation Evaluation/Debriefing

**Other Important Dates:**

3/8	Mid-Term Exam
3/8	Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline
3/14-3/18	Spring Break
3/22	Simulation Strategy Paper Due
5/3	Position Paper Due

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

<sup>2</sup>Failure to turn in the research paper 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.