

**TOPICS IN COMMUNICATION &  
POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY IN THE  
TV & DIGITAL AGE**

**THE CABLECENTER**



[www.C-SPAN.org/Distance Learning](http://www.C-SPAN.org/Distance_Learning)

**DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE IN COOPERATION WITH:**

- **C-SPAN**
- **THE CABLE CENTER**
- **THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER**
- **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**
- **PURDUE UNIVERSITY**
- **THE WASHINGTON CENTER**

**Political Science**  
**PLSC 2703**  
**Media, Film & Journalism Studies**  
**3804**



***SYLLABUS***  
- Spring 2011 Quarter -  
**March – May**

**Steven L. Scully**  
**Adjunct Faculty, the University of Denver**  
**& Amos B. Hostetter Chair,**  
**The Cable Center**



***Welcome to the class!***

This will mark the final time this course is offered at The University of Denver. For the past 8 years, The Cable Center & C-SPAN have partnered to create a stimulating, unique academic experience for the DU students. This quarter promises to build on the success we've had in past quarters, as we complement our political science & communication classes with a vibrant and interactive course.

With the Republicans now in control of the House of Representatives, a new political approach by the Obama Administration in dealing with a divided government, and the 2012 political season already underway, this is a fascinating time to study the process (legislatively, politically and with our modern media.)

The 2010 mid-term election resulted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive "wave" election. In 2006 the Democrats re-gained control of the U.S. House of Representatives, only to see it lost in the recent November elections. And of course, in 2008 the Republicans lost control of The White House to Barack Obama.

Now, the stage is set for a divided Congress & a White House struggling to put together support for its agenda items, which is evident currently in the budget debates.

This course is fast-paced, highly interactive, multi-media and thought provoking. We apply the traditional academic requirements at the University of Denver, while adding the unique elements that a distance learning class can offer: Interesting guests; lively discussion with students from other parts of the country; historic video from C-SPAN and the National Archives; and video from events as they happen this quarter (as we look at the first draft of history through the current news cycle.)

As we examine and analyze the political, legislative and social issues facing our country, we will take an in-depth look at the issues and events shaping the agenda for 2011 & for next year's presidential election. Our focus will also include the process of public policy making and the role the media plays in shaping the debate and ultimate results.

With the extensive use of the C-SPAN archives and presidential libraries, this distance-learning course will offer a comprehensive and lively seminar on the media and legislative process. The course will be active AND interactive, which means a key component to your final grade will be your PARTICIPATION.

Members of Congress, White House officials, journalists, historians, and former elected & government officials will join us on a regular basis. Guests will be selected based on their expertise in the field of politics, the media, history, and government.

This class is being offered because of C-SPAN's partnership with The Cable Center – [www.CableCenter.org](http://www.CableCenter.org). Our use of innovative cable technology allows us to connect directly to Washington, D.C., and our university partners – The University of Denver – Purdue University - George Mason University – The Washington Center

## Contact Information:

We will meet every Thursday beginning at NOON MT @ The Cable Center's Distance Learning Studio, located on the DU campus. **Jana Henthorn** is Senior Vice President of Programs & Education and **Dolly Bonner** is Director of the Programming Institute. Both serve as a liaison between The Cable Center and C-SPAN. They welcome your feedback, comments and suggestions for this course! [www.CableCenter.org](http://www.CableCenter.org) **Christen Adams** works directly with Jana & Dolly and is available to assist with any classroom or Cable Center needs.

**Steven L. Scully** is the School of Communication and Office of the Provost's Faculty in Residence in Washington, D.C. He is the Amos B. Hostetter, Jr. Chair in the School of Communications at the University of Denver; earned his undergraduate degree from The American University in Washington, D.C, completed a studies abroad program at The University of Copenhagen (Denmark) and earned a Master of Science from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism in Evanston, Illinois. He began his teaching career at St. John Fisher College and Nazareth College in Rochester, N.H. and currently serves on the board of director of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics. In addition, he is Senior Executive Producer & Political Editor for the C-SPAN Networks, as well as a regular on-air host for the "Washington Journal" & "Newsmakers" programs.

Phone: **202.626.7956**  
 E-Mail address: [Sscully@c-span.org](mailto:Sscully@c-span.org)  
 Mailing Address: 400 North Capitol Street, N.W.  
 Suite # 650  
 Washington, D.C. 20001

**Office Hours: I am available after every class and encourage you to see me if you have any questions regarding this course, scheduled assignments or other projects. You can also call or e-mail anytime to set up a conference call to discuss any concerns.**

**Austen Williams** is the DC-based teaching assistant/ associate producer for the class. A native of Indiana, she is a 2010 graduate of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana and divides her time in Washington, D.C. between C-SPAN and Bloomberg News. Austen will be working with me in researching/ editing video elements for the class, as well as making this class available on-line, on the C-SPAN Networks and on C-SPAN Radio. Her e-mail address is: [Awilliams@C-SPAN.org](mailto:Awilliams@C-SPAN.org) or you can phone her at **202.626.4652**.

**Jennifer Davis** is the Denver-based teaching assistant this quarter. A native of Arkansas, she is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, where she majored in Communication with a Minor in Latin American studies. She is currently a graduate student at the University of Denver, studying International/ Intercultural issues. Her e-mail address is: [jmdavis36@gmail.com](mailto:jmdavis36@gmail.com) or you can phone her at **870.404.9272**.

**George Mason University**

**Steve Klein** teaches and is coordinator of the Electronic Journalism Program and oversees the Journalism concentration in the communication department of George Mason University, located approximately 20 miles west of Washington, D.C. in Fairfax, Virginia.

Phone Number: 703.625.1968

E-mail address: [sklein1@gmu.edu](mailto:sklein1@gmu.edu)

**Purdue University**

**Carolyn Curiel** is a Clinical Professor of Communication at Purdue University. During the Clinton Administration she served as a senior adviser, speechwriter and U.S. Ambassador to Belize. She has also served on the New York Times Editorial Board, ABC News Senior Producer and editor at the Washington Post, before returning to her alma mater, Purdue University, in 2008.

Phone Number: 765.496.2778

E-mail address: [curiel@purdue.edu](mailto:curiel@purdue.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXTS:****DECISION POINTS**

By President George W. Bush  
Crown Publishers

**HARDBALL: How Politics Is Played – Told by One Who Knows the Game**

By Chris Matthews  
A Touchstone Book (Paperback)  
Simon & Schuster

**THE BROKEN BRANCH:****How Congress is Failing America & How to Get It Back on Track**

By Norm Ornstein & Thomas Mann  
Institutions of American Democracy

**ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING:**

This class requires you to have a base knowledge of events occurring in around the country and across the world.

You **MUST** keep up with current events in order to better understand the elements of the class participate in our discussions and have context to the issues presented in our lectures.

**Links for this class include:**

[WWW.C-SPAN.ORG](http://WWW.C-SPAN.ORG)

[WWW.C-SPAN.ORG/Distance Learning](http://WWW.C-SPAN.ORG/Distance_Learning)

**You MUST subscribe to two of the following four daily political blogs:**

[WWW.ABCNews.com](http://WWW.ABCNews.com) (“The NOTE” Political Blog)

[WWW.MSNBC.COM](http://WWW.MSNBC.COM) (“First Read” Daily Political Update)

[WWW.CNN.COM](http://WWW.CNN.COM) (“Morning Grind”)

[WWW.Politico.com](http://WWW.Politico.com) (Mike Allen’s “Playbook”)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Your final grade for the spring 2011 quarter will be based on your active participation, question preparation for each of the guests and your final paper, due at the end of this quarter.**

***1.) Attendance/ Participation/ Quizzes: 50 POINTS***

It goes without saying that your attendance and participation is critical to the success of this class. You will only get out of this class what you put into it, so PLEASE come prepared, interact with our guests and your classmates, and debate the issues presented every Thursday afternoon. This course only works if you participate.

Jennifer will be sending you regular e-mails updating you on upcoming guests and topics. PLEASE read this material prior to class, in order to better understand the guests & topics. You must come prepared for each class AND each guest.

In addition, pop-quizzes will come up from time-to-time BASED on your required readings AND political events in the news. IF you subscribe to the daily political blogs and keep up-to-date on the events shaping the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, you will be fine. And a reminder: For those of you borderline between a grade, attendance/ participation becomes a key factor in your final grade for this quarter. If you are unable to attend, please e-mail Jennifer prior to class.

Let me be very clear: **Regular absences, late arrivals and/or early departures will affect your grade!**

**2.) RESEARCH ESSAY& BOOK REPORT: “HARDBALL: How Politics is played – Told By One Who Knows the Game” 50 POINTS**

In this book, Chris Matthews writes: “This is not a civics book. It is not about pristine procedures, but about imperfect people. Hardball is clean, aggressive Machiavellian politics. It is the discipline of gaining and holding power, useful to any profession or undertaking.”

**12-14 page IN DEPTH ESSAY:**

From “HARDBALL” to a divided government – What is the state of American politics in 2011? What can we expect as we move into the 2012 presidential campaign cycle? Is Washington broken, or is the system working like our Founding Fathers designed?

As the Quarter comes to a conclusion, use “HARDBALL” as the framework for this essay/ research report, and then expand the topic to answer the questions listed above.

NOTE: You MUST include the following:

- Identify FIVE things that you learned from Hardball
- Summarize the lessons learned from the 1994 mid-term elections & whether they apply to the current administration
- Incorporate comments/ views/ opinions from guest speakers
- Research a cross-section of views (i.e. editorial, essays, blogs) on the current state of Washington
- Offer a historical perspective on where we are today – lessons from the past
- Assesses the state of American politics and summarize with your own conclusions

**DUE DATE: Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

- No exceptions – the PAPER is due NO LATER than 5/26/2011

**A NOTE ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF DENVER ACADEMIC STANDARDS:**

It goes without question, this university has a high standard of academic excellence, and that includes students being honest in their research work. I have zero tolerance for plagiarism, recycled work and cheating. *Please be advised that copying material that is not your own will result in automatic failure in this class.* The web is a great tool, but it is also an easy tracking device for instructors to check out your material. And as always, cite your sources and use quotes when applicable in order to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.



**KEY DATES**  
*Spring Quarter 2011*

Thursday, March 24th

Course Introduction & Class Review

**TOPIC: U.S. Constitution & its Framework of America's Democracy**

Research Link:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/help/constRedir.html>

**GUEST: Bob Cusak**  
**Managing Editor, THE HILL**

[www.TheHill.com](http://www.TheHill.com)

Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

- The following chapters must be completed today in “The Broken Branch”
  - Chapter 1 – Introduction
  - Chapter 2 – The First Branch of Government
  - Chapter 3 – The Seeds of the Contemporary Problem

**TOPIC: The Clinton Presidency**

**GUEST: John Podesta**  
**Fmr. Chief of Staff,**  
**Clinton Administration**  
**& President, CEO – Center for American Progress**

Research Links:

<http://www.americanprogress.org/experts/PodestaJohn.html>

<http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/Accomplishments/eightyears-02.html>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williamjclinton>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/clinton/>

Thursday, April 7th

- “Decision Points” must be completed by today

**TOPIC: The Bush Presidency**

**GUEST: Andy Card  
Fmr. Chief of Staff,  
Bush Administration**

Research Links:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/georgewbush/>

<http://www.randomhouse.com/crown/features/decision-points-by-george-w-bush/>

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1869213,00.html>

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

**TOPIC: From Jacqueline Kennedy to Michelle Obama: The Modern First Lady**

**Guest: Anita McBride  
Fmr. Chief of Staff  
First Lady Laura Bush**

Research Links:

[http://www.politico.com/arena/bio/anita\\_mcbride.html](http://www.politico.com/arena/bio/anita_mcbride.html)

<http://www.american.edu/spa/news/Anita-McBride-Joins-Center-for-Congressional-and-Presidential-Studies.cfm>

NOTE: Students from the American University in Washington, D.C. will be joining us for today's class

Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

- **No Class Today – Holy Thursday**

The following chapters must be completed today in “The Broken Branch”  
Chapter 4 – A Decade of Republican Control  
Chapter 5 – Institutional Decline  
Chapter 6 – The Case of Continuity

Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

**TOPIC: THE MODERN CONGRESS: Is it broken?**

**GUEST: Fmr. Rep. Bob Walker (R-Pennsylvania)**  
**&**  
**Fmr. Rep. Martin Frost (D-Texas)**

- The following chapters must be completed today in “The Broken Branch”  
Chapter 7 – Conclusion  
Chapter 8 - Epilogue

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

**TOPIC: Press & the Presidency: White House communications in the digital age**

**GUEST: Martha Kumar**  
**Author, “Managing the President’s Message”**  
**& Professor, Towson State University**

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/ondemand/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.play&mediaid=21F3F6F-A2D2-F823-706FDD00D99D6E0D>

Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

**TOPIC: The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress**

**GUEST: Thomas Mann**  
**Co-Authors:**  
**THE BROKEN BRANCH:**  
**How Congress is failing America & How to Get It Back on Track**

Research Links:

<http://www.house.gov/>  
<http://www.senate.gov/>  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Thursday, May 19th

**TOPIC: Discussion on HARDBALL:**

**How Politics Is Played – Told by One Who Knows the Game**

**Followed by:**

**SPECIAL SCREENING: The White House: Inside America's most famous home  
An Original C-SPAN Documentary**

Research Links:

<http://whitehouse.c-span.org/About.aspx>

Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

- **Course Review & Class Evaluations**

**\*\* BOOK REPORT/ RESEARCH ESSAY Due Today \*\***  
(See Page 8 of syllabus)

## C-SPAN & The Cable Center

C-SPAN operates three television channels, one radio station, and several websites that provide streaming media including archives of many C-SPAN programs. The television networks are:

- **C-SPAN**, which provides uninterrupted live coverage of the [United States House of Representatives](#). Also airs [Washington Journal](#) live every morning
- **C-SPAN2**, which provides uninterrupted live coverage of the [United States Senate](#). It also airs [Book TV](#) on weekends
- **C-SPAN3**, which features other uninterrupted live public affairs events and airs a large amount of archived historical programming branded as **C-SPAN3 History**

**For more information on the C-SPAN/ Cable Center DISTANCE LEARNING CLASS:**

<http://www.cablecenter.org/content.cfm?id=766>

*University of Denver*  
*The Cable Center*  
*C-SPAN*  
*Spring 2011*