

James M. Curry

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Utah

Professor, Department of Political Science, 2023-
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019-2023
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2012-2019

APSA Congressional Fellowship Program

Office of Representative Daniel Lipinski, 2011-12

EDUCATION

University of Maryland

Ph.D., Government & Politics, 2011
M.A., Government & Politics, 2009

SUNY, College at Brockport

B.S., Political Science, 2006

BOOKS

- [2] *The Limits of Party: Congress and Lawmaking in a Polarized Era* (w/ Frances E. Lee), University of Chicago Press, 2020 (2021 Gladys M. Kammerer Award winner)
- [1] *Legislating in the Dark: Information and Power in the U.S. House of Representatives*, University of Chicago Press, 2015 (2016 Alan Rosenthal Prize winner)

TEXTBOOKS

Congress and its Members

- *19th Edition*. Sage/CQ Press (w/ Roger H. Davidson, Walter J. Oleszek, Frances E. Lee, & Eric Schickler), 2023
- *18th Edition*. Sage/CQ Press (w/ Roger H. Davidson, Walter J. Oleszek, Frances E. Lee, & Eric Schickler), 2021

PUBLISHED PAPERS

- [21] “On the Congress Beat: How the Structure of News Shapes Coverage of Congressional Action” (w/ Robert L. Oldham and Frances E. Lee), *Political Science Quarterly*, 2024
- [20] “Inter-Personal Relationships and Legislative Collaboration in Congress” (with Jason M. Roberts), *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 48(3), 2023
- [19] “One Obstacle Among Many: The Filibuster and Majority Party Agendas” (with Frances E. Lee), *The Forum* 19(4), 2022
- [18] “Congress” in *Developments in American Politics*, 9th Edition (Editors, Gillian Peele, Bruce E. Cain, Jon Herbert, & Andrew Wroe) Macmillan International Higher Education, 2022
- [17] “Minority Party Capacity in Congress” (with Andrew O. Ballard), *American Political Science Review* 115(4), 2021
- [16] “State Congressional Delegations and the Distribution of Federal Funds” (with Christopher P. Donnelly), *Political Research Quarterly* 74(3), 2021
- [15] “What is Regular Order Worth? Partisan Lawmaking and Congressional Processes” (with Frances E. Lee), *Journal of Politics* 82(2), 2020
- [14] “Enduring Continuities in Congressional Lawmaking” (with Frances E. Lee), in *Congress Re-*

considered, 12th Edition, 2020

- [13] “Change and Continuity for Committees in Congress,” in *New Directions in Congressional Politics*, 2020
- [12] “Capacity in a Centralized Congress” (with Frances E. Lee), in *Congress Overwhelmed: The Decline in Congressional Capacity and Prospects for Reform*, 2020
- [11] “Congressional Processes and Public Approval of New Laws,” *Political Research Quarterly* 72(4), 2019
- [10] “Knowledge, Expertise, and Committee Power in the Contemporary Congress,” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 44(2), 2019
- [9] “Non-Party Government: Bipartisan Lawmaking and Party Power in Congress” (with Frances E. Lee), *Perspectives on Politics* 17(1), 2019
- [8] “Congress at Work: Legislative Capacity and Entrepreneurship in the Contemporary Congress” (with Frances E. Lee), in *Can America Govern Itself?*, 2019
- [7] “Lawmaker Age, Issue Salience, and Senior Representation in Congress” (with Matthew R. Haydon), *American Politics Research* 46(4), 2018
- [6] “The Impact of District Magnitude on the Legislative Behavior of State Representatives” (with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor), *Political Research Quarterly* 71(2), 2018
- [5] “In-Depth Qualitative Research and the Study of American Political Institutions,” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50(1), 2017
- [4] “The Impact of District Magnitude on Ballot Drop-off and Roll-off” (with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor), *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 40(4), 2015
- [3] “The Impact of District Magnitude on Campaign Fundraising” (with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor), *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 38(4), 2013
- [2] “Issue Voting and Partisan Defection in Congressional Elections” (with Paul S. Herrnson), *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 36(2), 2011
- [1] “Issue Voting in the 2006 Elections for the U.S. House of Representatives” (with Paul S. Herrnson), in *Congress Reconsidered*, 9th Edition, 2009

OTHER WRITING

- “There’s a Curse in Washington, and the Party in Control Can’t Seem to Shake It.” (with Frances E. Lee), *New York Times*, October 13, 2021
- “What’s Really Holding the Democrats Back. It’s not the filibuster.” (with Frances E. Lee), *The Atlantic*, April 23, 2021
- “Unified or divided government? It won’t matter as much as you think...” (with Frances E. Lee), *Niskanen Center*, November 23, 2020
- “A Senate Majority Is Overrated. (We Checked.)” (with Frances E. Lee), *New York Times*, November 18, 2020
- “How centralized or decentralized should power be in the House of Representatives?” *LegBranch.com*, April 18, 2019
- “What is ‘regular order’ worth?” (with Frances E. Lee), *LegBranch.com*, April 4, 2018
- “Congress is old. Does it matter?” (with Matthew R. Haydon) *LegBranch.com*, March 7, 2018
- “Why would Pelosi step down? Parties don’t usually throw out congressional leaders after electoral losses.” (with David Karol), *Washington Post*, June 30, 2017
- “Here’s why Senate Republicans are being so secretive with their Obamacare repeal plan.” *Vox* –

	<p><i>Mischiefs of Faction</i>, June 20, 2017</p> <p>“Our Top-Down Congress.” <i>Medium</i> (subscription only), April 6, 2017</p> <p>“Why House Republicans are keeping their health care bill secret.” <i>Vox – Mischiefs of Faction</i>, March 2, 2017</p> <p>“Congress is far more bipartisan than headlines suggest.” (with Frances E. Lee), <i>Washington Post</i>, December 20, 2016</p>
ONGOING RESEARCH	<p><i>Minority Party Influence on Public Policy</i>, (with Andrew M.O. Ballard) book manuscript, <i>in preparation</i></p> <p><i>Interpreting American Legislatures</i>, book manuscript, <i>conditionally accepted</i> at Routledge</p> <p>“Interpersonal Relationships, Bipartisanship, and January 6th,” (w/ Jason M. Roberts) <i>revise and resubmit</i> at the <i>American Political Science Review</i></p> <p>“Unorthodox Lawmaking and the Value of Committee Assignments,” (w/ Leah Rosentiel) <i>revise and resubmit</i> at the <i>Journal of Politics</i></p> <p>“The Separation of Powers and Policymaking in the U.S. States,” (w/ Andrew M.O. Ballard and Mary A. Kroeger) <i>under review</i></p> <p>“Holding the Line: Minority and Majority Party Influence on Public Policy,” (w/ Andrew M.O. Ballard) <i>under review</i></p> <p>“Earmarks and Credit Claiming in a Partisan Era” (w/ Steven Sylvester) <i>under review</i></p> <p>“Representational Congruence, Constituency Groups, and Environmental Policy” (w/ Juliet Carlisle and Jerry Stott) <i>in preparation</i></p> <p>“The Causes and Consequences of Conservative Support for Climate Change Legislation in Congress,” (w/ Robert L. Oldham and Samuel Simon) <i>in preparation</i></p>
BOOK REVIEWS	<p>Review of E. Lawrence Evans, <i>The Whips</i> (University of Michigan Press) in <i>Congress & the Presidency</i>, 2019</p> <p>Review of William Bernhard and Tracy Sulkin, <i>Legislative Style</i> (University of Chicago Press) in <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> 134(1), 2019</p> <p>Review of Ruth Bloch Rubin, <i>Building the Bloc</i> (Cambridge University Press) in <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 16(4), 2018</p> <p>Review of Justin Grimmer, Sean J. Westwood, and Solomon Messing, <i>Impression of Influence</i> (Princeton University Press) in <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 14(4), 2016</p> <p>Review of Marc J. Hetherington and Thomas J. Rudolph, <i>Why Washington Won’t Work</i> (University of Chicago Press) in <i>The Forum</i> 14(3), 2016</p> <p>Review of Tom Allen, <i>Dangerous Convictions: What’s Really Wrong with the U.S. Congress</i> (Oxford University Press) in <i>Public Integrity</i> 15(3), 2013-14</p>
GRANTS & AWARDS	<p>Program on Legislative Negotiation (AU), Understanding Legislative Negotiation Grant (\$15,000) (w/ Andrew M.O. Ballard), “Text-Based Measures of Political Negotiation and Compromise,” 2024</p> <p>Gladys M. Kammerer Book Award (w/ Frances E. Lee), APSA, 2021</p> <p>Presidential Scholar Award (\$30,000), University of Utah, 2020-23</p> <p>College of Social and Behavioral Science Superior Teaching Award, University of Utah, 2021 (Winner), 2019 & 2020 (Finalist)</p> <p>Betty Glad Memorial Fund (\$15,000), University of Utah (w/ Juliet Carlisle) “Western States Sur-</p>

vey,” 2020

Program on Legislative Negotiation (AU), Understanding Legislative Negotiation Grant (\$19,000) (w/ Jason Roberts), “Personal Relationships and Legislative Negotiation in the Congress,” 2019

Center for Effective Lawmaking, Small Grant (\$2,000) (w/ Jason Roberts), “Personal Relationships and Legislative Effectiveness in Congress,” 2019

Career & Professional Development Center Faculty Recognition Award, University of Utah, 2018

Madison Initiative Grant, Hewlett Foundation (\$63,669) (with Frances E. Lee), “Party Power and Lawmaking in the Contemporary Congress,” 2017

Alan Rosenthal Prize, APSA Legislative Studies Section, 2016

Faculty Research & Creative Grant (\$6,000), University of Utah, 2016

Congressional Research Grant (\$2,652), Dirksen Center, “Committee Power in Congress,” 2015

Betty Glad Memorial Fund (\$14,500), University of Utah, 2014

E.E. Schattschneider Dissertation Award, American Political Science Association, 2012

Carl Albert Dissertation Award, APSA Legislative Studies Section, 2012

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000), University of Maryland, 2011

Roger H. Davidson Award in American Politics, University of Maryland, 2011

PRESENTATIONS &
TALKS (RECENT)

“Party Dynamics in Congressional Negotiations” (w/ Andrew M.O. Ballard) 2024 SPSA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 12, 2024

“On the Congress Beat: How the Structure of News Shapes Coverage of Congressional Action” (w/ Frances E. Lee and Robert Oldham) 2023 APSA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, September 2, 2023

“Party Dynamics in Congressional Negotiations” (w/ Andrew M.O. Ballard) 2023 APSA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, September 1, 2023

“Filibustering in the American States” (w/ Robert L. Oldham) 2023 State Politics and Policy Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, May 19, 2023

“Making and Breaking Promises: Running for Reelection on Party Campaign Platforms” (w/ Jamie Nelson) 2023 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 15, 2023

“Interpersonal Relationships, Lawmaking, and the Sedition Caucus” (w/ Jason M. Roberts) 2023 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 14, 2023

“Separation of Powers Institutions and Majority Party Power in the American States” (w/ Andrew O. Ballard and Mary A. Kroeger) 2023 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 14, 2023

“Congressional Earmarks and Credit Claiming in a Partisan Era” (w/ Steven Sylvester) 2023 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 13, 2023

“Unorthodox Lawmaking and the Value of Committee Assignments” (w/ Leah Rosenstiel) Parties in American Legislatures Conference, University of Houston, January 13, 2023

“The Next Congress” Invited Talk, Foley Institute, Washington State University, October 4, 2022

“Minority Party Policy Influence in Congress” (w/ Andrew O. Ballard) 2022 APSA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada September 18, 2022

“Representational Congruence, Constituency Groups, and Environmental Policy” (w/ Juliet Carlisle and Jerry Stott) 2022 APSA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, September 17, 2022

“Unorthodox Lawmaking and the Value of Committee Assignments” (w/ Leah Rosenstiel) 2022

APSA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, September 16, 2022

“Committee Comity and Legislative Effectiveness” (w/ Emily M. Cottle and Jason M. Roberts) 2022 APSA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, September 15, 2022

“Interpreting American Legislatures” Invited Talk, Princeton University, Qualitative Research Colloquium, Department of Politics, April 15, 2022

“Committee Comity and Legislative Effectiveness” (w/ Emily M. Cottle and Jason M. Roberts) 2022 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 10, 2022

“Policymaking Institutions and Majority Party Power in the States” (w/ Andrew O. Ballard and Mary A. Kroeger) 2022 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 9, 2022

“Media (Mis)Perceptions of Congressional Action: Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic” (w/ Frances E. Lee and Robert Oldham) 2022 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 8, 2022

“Will Earmarks Solve All of Our Problems? Evidence from Two Survey Experiments” (w/ Steven Sylvester) 2022 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 8, 2022

“Will Earmarks Solve All of Our Problems? Evidence from Two Survey Experiments” (w/ Steven Sylvester) Invited Talk, University of Wisconsin, March 7, 2022

“Representational Congruence, Constituency Groups, and Environmental Policy” (w/ Juliet Carlisle and Jerry Stott) 2021 APSA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, October 2, 2021

“Tracing Policy in Congress” (w/ Andrew O. Ballard, Mary Kroeger, and Kelsey Shoub) 2021 APSA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, October 1, 2021

“Inter-Personal Relationships and Legislative Action in the U.S. Congress” (w/ Jason Roberts) 2021 MPSA Annual Meeting (Virtual), April 14, 2021

“Inter-personal Relationships and Legislative Action in the U.S. Congress” (w/ Jason Roberts) Understanding Legislative Negotiations Conference, American University (Virtual), April 9, 2021

“Minority Party Capacity in Congress” (w/ Andrew Ballard) Invited Talk, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago (Virtual), January 25, 2021

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate

- Introduction to American Government
- U.S. Congress
- The American Presidency
- Research Seminar: Leadership & U.S. Politics
- Research Seminar: Party Polarization in the United States
- National Internship Program (with the Hinckley Institute)
- Capital Encounter (with the Hinckley Institute)

Graduate

- American Political Institutions
- U.S. Congress / American Legislatures (independent study)
- Research Design / Study of Politics
- Advanced Quantitative Methods
- Teaching Political Science

ACADEMIC SERVICE

American Political Science Association

- Legislative Studies Section
 - Secretary-Treasurer, 2015-19
 - Chair, Alan Rosenthal Prize Award Committee, 2017
 - Member, Carl Albert Dissertation Award Committee, 2013
- Member, Virtual Research Meeting Program Committee, 2023-24
- Members, APSA Congressional Fellowship Program Selection Committee, 2023
- Member, Committee on Organized Sections, 2019-21

- Member, Presidential Task Force on Congressional Reform, 2019
- Co-leader, APSA Dissertation Workshop on U.S. Congressional Politics, 2017

Midwest Political Science Association

- Section Head for Legislative Institutions, 2018 Annual Meeting

Scholars Strategy Network

- Member: 2015-
- Utah Chapter, co-leader: 2015-2021
- Chapter Advisory Council, member: 2022-

Editorial Board

Legislative Studies Quarterly, 2023-

Article Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; American Politics Research; Congress & the Presidency; Electoral Studies; Interest Groups & Advocacy; Journal of Politics; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Perspectives on Politics; Policy Studies; Political Behavior; Politics; PS: Political Science & Politics; Presidential Studies Quarterly; Social Science Research; State Politics & Policy Quarterly

Manuscript Reviewer

Cambridge University Press; Princeton University Press; University of Chicago Press; University of Michigan Press; University of Kansas Press

Departmental Service

- Director of Graduate Studies, 2019-23
- Chair, American Politics Subfield, 2020-23
- Member, Department of Political Science, Executive Committee, 2019-23
- Chair, American Politics Tenure-Track Search Committee, 2020-21
- Chair, Major Brent R. Taylor Endowed Scholarship Committee, 2020 & 2022
- Chair, Visiting American Politics Position Search Committee, 2019
- Member, American Politics / Law & Courts Tenure-Track Search Committee, 2018-19
- Member, Political Science Strategic Hiring Committee, 2016, 2018
- Member, Political Research Colloquium Committee, 2012-13, 2017-19
- Member, Society, Water, and Climate Cluster Hire Search Committee, 2015-16
- Member, Visiting American Politics Position Search Committee, 2014
- Faculty advisor, Hinckley Journal of Politics, 2013, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2023

University Service

- Member, Nationally Competitive Scholarships Endorsement Committee, 2017-19, 2023-
- Member, Special UROP Awards Review Committee, 2017-18
- Member, University Teaching Assistantships Committee, 2012-13

Testimony

- “Fostering Deliberation in the U.S. House of Representatives,” Testimony before the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, February 5, 2020

(Updated: March 2024)