
South Carolina Student Legislature

Fall 2009 Syllabus

<http://people.clemson.edu/~scsl>

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Objective:

This class will give you a hands-on approach to drafting and debating a piece of legislation in a mock-legislative body. Every student should write a bill and be prepared to argue for his or her piece of legislation in front of your peers in a reasoned, thorough presentation.

Point Scale: (Your grade is the percentage of your points earned/points possible)

1. Class Participation	
a) Speeches in Class (recorded by the MAL)	50 points
b) Constructive criticism of fellow delegates' bill	25 points
c) Class Attendance	50 points
2. Parliamentary Procedure/SCSL Quiz	100 points
3. Drafting a Bill	
a) Three Bill Ideas	25 points
b) Research for Each Idea	25 points
c) Rough Draft	50 points
d) Final Draft, Well-Written, Correct Format	75 points
4. Presenting Your Bill in Class	100 points
5. Your choice (<u>either, or</u>)	
a) Attending Fall Session (Dates TBD)	100 points
b) Bill Summary Paper (due prior to Session)	100 points
TOTAL:	600 points

Attendance:

Class Attendance is necessary to prepare for the Fall Session. We will have 14 classes. You must be at 12 of the 14 classes to get all points. If you are here for all 14 classes, you will earn 2 bonus points on your final average.

Textbook:

No textbook will be required for this class. All bills will be posted online or emailed to you before class on Tuesday night. It is your responsibility to print out these bills for class.

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Dues: *(due September 8, 2009)*

Because we are a recognized student organization, we are required to collect \$10 from every member of SCSL at least once a semester. The Fall deadline will be September 8, 2009. Payment of the dues is required for participation in the class.

Calendar:

- August 25 Welcome, Introduction of Officers and Class, Mock Debate.
- September 1 **Dues turned in (\$10). Bill Ideas due with research.** Discuss Parliamentary Procedure and Bill Format (Handouts), Mock Debate.
- September 8 **Rough Draft of the Bill due.** Debate
- September 15 Rough Draft returned with corrections. Debate
- September 22 **Final Draft of Bills due.** Debate
- September 29 Debate
- October 6 **QUIZ.** Debate.
- October 13 Fall Break
- October 20 Debate
- October 27 Debate
- November 3 Fall Break
- November 10 **Papers Due.** Debate.
- November 17 Debate
- November 24 Debate
- December 1 Last Class. Finish Class Bills

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This year the Executive Committee will be selecting a group of individuals to participate in Fall Session. Since there is a large number enrolled in POSC 312 we have created a grading scale to select individuals. Individuals will be graded based on the listed criteria.

- Able to attend entire Fall Session
- Presenting Bill At Session
- Position At Fall Session
- Participation in Class (Speeches and Attendance)
- Seniority (Semesters in SCSL & officer status)

Bill Summary Paper:

For those students not attending the Fall Session a short bill summary paper will be required. The paper should review the pros and cons of a piece of state legislation from the most recent session of the General Assembly. A search of the statehouse website at www.scstatehouse.gov should provide information relating to bills. The bill paper should be approximately 3 pages double spaced, and it should include a summary of the bill, its pros and cons, and reasons for your support or opposition to this bill.