**Chapter 7**

***A Novel Approach to Politics: Introducing Political Science through Books, Movies, and Popular Culture***

**Class Activities:**

Activity: Gridlock

Learning Objective(s):

Students will be able to identify the nature, roles, and effectiveness of legislatures

Materials needed: Whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Class Size: Ideal small breakout discussion groups or an individual assignment

Whether as a group or as an individual assignment, students should choose to research recent instances of congressional gridlock (i.e. government shutdown, approval of Obama’s nominations, etc.). Students should note the effect that their particular gridlock example had on policy and/or the nation as a whole (i.e. government shutdown). Examples should be presented in class and a discussion on the use of the filibuster should also ensue.