

CONGRESS

- KNOW THE VOCABULARY OF CONGRESS!!!
- KNOW THE POWERS OF CONGRESS VERY WELL (EXPRESSED AND IMPLIED)
- Constitutional powers of Congress, qualifications especially powers ONLY the House or the Senate have. Examples:
 - House: initiate revenue (tax bills); bring impeachment charges; choose President when electoral college is deadlocked
 - Senate: treaty ratification; confirm presidential appointments; impeachment trials
- Redistricting and Reapportionment: process, impact composition of Congress; role of state legislators in the process (gerrymandering); majority-minority districts; Supreme Court rulings and their effects on the process (*Baker v. Carr*, *Wesberry v. Sanders*, *Shelby County v. Holder*); impact of gerrymandering on party polarization in the House
- Incumbency Advantage: How and why do incumbents win over 90% of Congressional elections; how does the safe seats v. marginal districts
- Demographic composition of Congress: typical memo of a member of Congress [Ex: White male, middle aged lawyer]
- Delegate v. Trustee: Delegate Role [represent the “folks back home” regardless of personal beliefs] v. Trustee Role [represent the national interest and use own judgment]; internal and external influences on members (see *What Members of Congress Do* notes); reasons why does Congress as institution gets lower approval than individual members)
- Differences Between the House and Senate both Constitutional (ex: term length, powers, representation) as well as the rules of each chamber (ex: Senate filibuster v. House limits on floor debate; House Rules committee (open rule/closed rule)
- Majority Party privileges/power in House and Senate; growing power and influence of caucuses
- Roles/Responsibilities, and Current Leaders of Major Officers in Congress:
 - House - Speaker of the House, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Whip
 - Senate - Vice President, President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Whip
- KNOW THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE IN CONGRESS!!!!
- Identify and describe types and functions of legislative committees; importance of Committee assignments
- Identify the function and purpose of key committees in each house:
 - Key House Committees: Appropriations, Rules, Ways and Means
 - Key Senate Committees: Appropriations, Finance, Armed Services, Judiciary
- Legislative Process:
 - How a Bill Becomes Law – know all the steps in the process!!!
 - Role of Log rolling, Riders, “Pork Barrel Spending,” and Earmarks
 - Influence of Lobbyists and Interest Groups on legislative process
- Attempts to reform Congress like *cloture rule* in the Senate and *discharge petition* in the House.
- Identify the causes of party polarization and describe its effects on Congress and the legislative process.
- BE ABLE TO COMPARE AND CONTRAST POWERS, RULES, CULTURE OF THE HOUSE & SENATE

Key Review Handouts:

- The Expressed Powers of Congress
- Legislation Review: What You Need to Know