Congress:

Lecture 1

Constitution and History

A Bad Reputation is Hard to Shake...

Who’s to Blame?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ilo6walCjs&feature=youtu.be>

Why Should I Care About Congress?

(Note: The list will change each semester. Here’s some space for the current list.)

Where I normally start:

What Does the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Say?

The Congress of these United States:

Our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Branch

Congressional Powers

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution:

All \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Powers vested in a Congress…Consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives

Varied Roles of Congress

**Makes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ funds to carry out laws**

 **May \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ war**

**Proposes amendments to Constitution**

**Impeaches the President**

**Regulates conduct of legislators**

**Approves appointments**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ treaties**

Article I of the US Constitution

1 - Legislative Powers

2 - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Terms, qualifications, apportionment (3/5ths…), vacancies, leadership

3 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Terms, (1/3 elected every two years), qualifications, leadership (Vice President), impeachment,

4 – States responsible for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, assemble at least once a year

5 - Internal procedures, rules, journal

6 – Compensation, no other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ service

7 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bills originate in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, veto procedure, veto override

8 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: to lay and collect taxes, duties, impost and excises, pay debts, provide for the common defense and general welfare, specific list of powers AND the ability to make all laws “necessary and proper”

9 - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: no slavery prohibition until 1808, Limits on authority: no bill of attainder, no ex-post facto, no royalty etc., no monies drawn from treasury without an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10 – Federalism: States can’t coin money, enter treaties, also, no bill of attainder, no ex-post facto, no royalty etc. for them either

Big Word for the Day: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

characterized by or having authority vested equally among colleagues

Amendments:

XIV – (Due Process and Equal Protection) Repeals \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ clause - 1868

XVI – Income \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - 1913

XVII – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Election of Senators – 1913

XX – (Lame Duck) Session starts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of January - 1933

XXVII – Congressional \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Raises – 1992

Because, Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely!

“Though ‘all legislative powers’ were to be vested in Congress, these powers were to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (who could veto acts of Congress), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to powers explicitly conferred on the federal government, and, as it turned out, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the power of the Supreme Court to declare acts of Congress unconstitutional.” Wilson and DiIulio

Who *ARE* These People?

House

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Congressman or Congresswoman

25 years old

Citizen for 7 years

Resident of their state

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_year terms

Senate

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old

Citizen for 9 years

“Resident” of their state

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ year terms

**Partisan Composition of the House and Senate** Updated for the 113th Congress, First Session

 **House** **Membership** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Members
(plus 5 Delegates, 1 Resident Commissioner)

**Party Divisions**
\_\_\_\_ Democrats
\_\_\_\_ Republicans

Vacancies will adjust each semster

**Senate** **Membership** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Senators
(Vice President votes in case of a tie)

**Party Divisions**
\_\_\_\_ Democrats
\_\_\_\_ Republicans
\_\_ Independents

And Why Are They There?

To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

An instructed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the citizens?

A really complex version of the telephone game…

Downside:

The tyranny of the majority

Polling driven policy

Mob rule

To be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

A trusted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, entrusted with our trust?

The best and the brightest…

Downside:

Removed from reality

Paternalistic snobs

Elitism

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Separating the legislative body into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ houses

I Am Somebody! I’m a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

National *and* Local Representative

National Government

Local \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Issues

Casework

Personal Staff

At least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ per member

I Heart \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Congressman

Specific approval

Institutional disapproval

And Why Do They Act That Way?

**Representational view**: members vote to please their constituents, in order to secure re-election

**Organizational view**: where constituency interests are not vitally at stake, members primarily respond to cues from colleagues

**Attitudinal view**: the member’s ideology determines her/his vote

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Congress

Separated at Birth

**House**

**Larger (435)**

**Shorter term of office (2 yrs)**

**More \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on members**

**Narrower constituency (they represent a smaller region) average district size: 710,767**

**Policy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Diffused media coverage**

**More powerful leader**

**Powerful Rules Committee; Majority Party Controls Scheduling and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Less Prestigious**

**Briefer floor debates (often 1 hour)**

**Less reliant on staff**

**More Partisan**

**Special Role: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Spending**

**Impeachment Charges**

**Senate**

**Smaller (100)**

**Longer term of office (6 yrs)**

**Fewer procedural restraints on members**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, more varied constituency two per state**

**Policy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**More media coverage**

**Less powerful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Weak Rules Committee; Possible to bypass Committee consideration**

**More Prestigious**

**Longer floor debates (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)**

**More reliant on staff**

**Less Partisan**

**Special Role: Treaties and Appointments**

**Impeachment Trial**

And Why Do They Act THIS Way?

**Things to NOT say to your Constituents - "This Is MY town hall meeting" and "You're not going to tell me how to run my Congressional Office..."**

[http://viewpure.com/63dEQ9NhqWM&feature=related](http://viewpure.com/63dEQ9NhqWM%26feature%3Drelated)

I’m Just a Bill: <http://www.schooltube.com/video/89a42a6866404f4baab7/Im-Just-a-Bill>