**Exam 3 Re, view,**

**(Chapter 8, 11, 12)**

Chapter 11: The Congress

**Study Questions for Exam Three Lectures (October 21-November 11)**

What are some reasons why people don’t vote or participate in politics?

Why do people participate in politics?

What is mobilization and how are individuals mobilized?

What variables affect vote choice and which are more powerful than others?

What factors shape political development and why?

* Family, schools, peers, historical events, genetics, and the media
* All of these factors shape development because you spend so much time with these things that the odds of your opinion to change

What might cause opinions to change?

* New job, new community, moving, marriage
  + Being around different people can cause new opinions to form or changing opinions.
  + Also marriage can somehow change stuff to. Crazy

What flaws existed in past surveys and what flaws in modern surveys or types of modern surveys should we worry about?

Why do Americans dislike Congress so strongly? Why can’t Congress solve such problems?

What are Home Style and Hill Style? Why do members of Congress build them and care about them?

* Hill Style: what your plan/what you’re going to do when in D.C. You have the show-horse vs workhorse mentality. Most politicians will end up being show-horses so as to get a higher chance of being reelected
* Home Style:

How do members of Congress make decisions related to participation and voting?

* Personal interests, constituency interests, presidential interests, and group interests.
* Also whether or not the bill is controversial. They won’t jeopardize their constituent’s trust if the bill seems too shady

What does it mean for a president to “go public” and why might it happen? What evidence do we have that presidents are “going public” more readily?

How do presidents get their ideas on the agenda? How is their strategy shaped by Congress?

* Power of persuasion
  + Direct: going to members of congress and telling them this is what is going to happen
  + Indirect: going to voters and telling them that this bad stuff is going on
* Shape news-flow: feeding the media beast
  + Orchestrate media coverage
  + Utilize social media (think Obama’s Twitter)

**Class Questions:**

What roles does congress play in investigation and oversight?

* *Congressional oversight:*the power to investigate and oversee the executive branch, usually carried out by congressional committees
* These things are integral to the checks and balance system
* Typically used through hearings to consider pending legislation; to investigate issues that may require legislation in the future; and, to investigate and oversee federal programs.
* They can perform impeachment of president and other offices
* They oversee judges and stuff

How a bill becomes a law? (pg. 252)

* A bill can be introduced in H or S by committees/person
* After all committees have approved it, it goes to the house, then to the other chamber
* After all that, there is a big conference committee about it where they talk about compromises and hammer out the details
* After that, it goes to the president who can choose to veto it if he wants. However, if house & senate still want it, they can have a 2/3 vote to push it through anyway

How are House seats apportioned? What is gerrymandering?

* Apportioned based on population of states in the census, which are drawn into districts
  + These districts are determined by state legislators
  + Equal representation – *one person, one vote rule* requires congressional districts have equal populations
* Gerrymandering: drawing a legislative district in such a way to maximize the influence of a certain political party.
  + Racial gerrymandering: clustering all of the minority pop together to ensure they get a minority of total seats… this is not cool and totally against the law

What are the different views of representation in congress?

* Trustees: representatives that serves broad interests of the entire society not just narrow interests of constituents
* Delegates: reps that mirrors the views of the majority of constituents
  + Engage in earmarking: catering to small groups back home. They tend to tack on weird parts to a bill about to be passed to help their constituents
* Partisans: more likely to oppose opposing party’s stuff

What is incumbency advantage?

* Incumbents: people who have already been elected to office
* Congressional franking privileges: can mail newsletters at taxpayers expenses
* Professional staffs that can help with campaign
* Lawmaking power – members can claim credit for laws they helped pass during session
* Access to media
* Name recognition
* All of these help when getting reelected

Who are the congressional leadership?

* House of Reps
  + Presidnet of
    - Elected from the House. Paul Ryan is the current one. It is the main person in control and performs all official duties.
    - Assigns members to committees
    - Controls the rules of the game
  + Majority leader: party leader elected by majority party
  + Minority leader: party leader elected by minority party
  + Whips: try and get enough votes to pass a certain bills
* Senate
  + President of senate: vice president serves in this position
  + Majority/minority leaders
  + Whips

What are congressional committee types and which one are influential

* Standing committees: permanent and powerful committees
  + All sorts of policy issues (HELP committee)
  + Subcommittees: more specialized areas of jurisdiction
  + Special, Select and Joint: formed to study specific issues (immigration committee
  + Conference Committees: hammer out differences between senate/house

Describe budgeting process?

1. **Authorization**: created legal basis for government programs
2. **Appropriation**: determines how much money the program is allotted
3. Budget resolutions are the estimated deadlines for passing the budget
4. **Continuing resolutions**: allow a temporary extension of government activities

Roles of President?

* Chief executive: head of executive branch
* Commander in chief: supreme commander of military
* Head of state: represents country to the rest of the world. Attends ceremonies and symbolic activities
* Chief diplomat: receive foreign ambassadors and appoint ambassadors
* Chief legislator:
* Political party leader:

Specified presidential powers in the constitution?

* Specified powers
  + Proposal and ratification of treaties
  + Appoint head of executive departments
  + Direct military
  + Grans pardons and reprieves
  + Oversee congress
  + Can call special legislative session
* Veto power: refusal of president to sign a bill into law
* Line item veto: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How has presidential power expanded?

* Persuasion powers
  + Going public: use public as weapon
  + Direct persuasion: contact members of congress
  + Indirect persuasion: goes to voters and persuade which then contact congress
* Increasing executive orders
* Executive agreements in foreign affairs
  + Military actions in foreign countries don’t really go through congress anymore…
    - War Powers Resolution
    - Nuclear weapons