* Congress’ main goal is to get reelected
  + People really don’t like congress. They have a 9% approval rating.
  + The reason they get reelected is because everyone likes their congressmen
* The members of congress are usually more business oriented, protestant, educated, and wealthy.
  + Minorities are underrepresented in congress
* Congress is bicameral – two houses
  + House has **435 members and the senate has 100**
  + 1/3 of the house is up for reelection at all times
  + Districts have to be same size
  + **17th amendment** let them be popularity elected
* Lawmaking requires the permission of the president and both chambers
* Legislative power is vested in the us congress
* Protected speech during dates off the floor In congress
* Powers and duties of members
  + Judge their own elections
  + Taxing
  + Revenue provision
  + Override vetoes
  + Impeachment
* Article 1.8 – major powers
  + Lay and collect taxies
  + Pay debts
  + Provide welfare and defense
  + Borrow money
  + Regulate commerce with foreign countries
  + Establish laws on naturalization
  + Postal roads
  + Secure patents
  + Declare war
  + ELASTIC CLAUSE – necessary and proper
* Article 1.9 – limits on congress
  + No ex post laws
  + Writ of habeas corpus shall not be surrendered
* The basic organization in congress is a committee
  + Committees tie the congress to the people and their interests
    - Committees affect :
      * Election prospects
      * The fortune of the party
      * Flow of information
      * Flow of legislation
  + Committees divide the labor of legislation
    - Also engages in congressional oversight
* Workload has grown a lot for congress
* Institutionalization
* THE PROCESS BY WHICH RULES AND STRUCTURES TAKES SHAPE and are incorporated into the existing practices of a governmental body
  + Size of staff
  + Workload and leadership
  + Norms
* Formal rules for congress
  + Article 1 : 2 chambers
* Rule of procedure for house and senate
* Senate norms :
  + Apprenticeship
  + Concentrate on senate rather than publicity
  + Defend senate and treat everyone courteously
  + Specialize in relevant issues and committees
* Norms have been slowly declining
  + Campaign centered elections
  + Partisanship
  + Immediate reelection efforts
  + Institution loyalty runs thin when partisanship is high
  + Members of congress must have rules to legislation, these rules are degrading
    - Far from textbook
* LEGISLATION
  + Bill is introduced in chamber of congress
  + Presiding officer of chamber refers bill to committee
    - It holds hearing and report back
  + They vote
  + Then it is sent to the other chamber
  + The other chamber votes on this also
  + Once accepted by both chambers, the bill is sent to another committee to iron out differences and sent to president
* Why no textbook congress
  + Bill proposal and ideas come from multiple sources
  + Writing laws is complex
  + Bill referrals and scheduling is complex
  + President has a large part in the bill
* A referral is where the bill is sent to a committee
* Hold, filibuster, cloture
  + Hold Is when a piece of legislation is considered
  + Filibuster is a threat on continual debate
  + Cannot be used on budget restrictions
  + Cloture vote on ending debate, requires a 3/5 majority unless a rule change it is 2/3
* Conference procedure
  + **When house and senate do not agree**
    - You get some members from both chambers
    - Legislation can be resolved when:
      * Amendments between chambers
      * One chamber gives up
* Congressmen make most of their decisions based on the chances for reelection
  + So they care about the people that vote
* Members face a variety of pressures while voting
  + Constituency
  + Fellow members
  + Party ideals
  + PACS