

Legislative Branch = Congress

- What is Congress?
 - Legislative & oversight body
 - Authority from Art I, Sec 1
 - All legislative power reserved
 - Art I, Sec 8 = express powers
 - SCOTUS allows “implied”
 - Checks other branches
 - Congressional Terms
 - “New” Congress = every two years
 - Referred to by number
 - Term = 2 sessions
 - Impact of 20th Amend
 - NOTE: “lame duck” period
- Design of Congress
 - Based on bicameralism
 - US Senate
 - Intent
 - Design = Art I, Sec 3
 - Specific Powers
 - Operation
 - Meets in Senate Chamber

- Standing rules = operation
- Presiding officer opens session
- Two calendars = proceedings
- 1 of 3 activities
- Noteworthy elements:
 - Procedures = informal
 - Unanimous consent agreements
 - Holds
 - Quorums
 - Most famous = filibuster
 - » Used to debate bill to death
 - » Cloture Rule
- Senate Leadership
 - President of the Senate
 - President *Pro Tempore*
 - Majority/Minority Leader
 - Other major officers/entities
 - » Whips
 - » Party Conferences
 - » Policy Committees
- US House of Representatives
 - Intent

- Design = Art I, Sec 2
- Specific Powers
- Operations
- Meets within House Chamber
 - Standing rules = operation
 - Presiding officer opens sessions
 - Calendar = proceedings
 - Same 3 activities
- Noteworthy elements:
 - Congressional districts
 - » Census for
apportionment
 - » Gerrymandering
 - Quorums
 - Committee of the Whole
- House Leadership
 - Speaker of the House
 - » Selected by majority party
 - » Highest ranking member
 - » Powers from Rules
 - » Behind-the-scenes
 - » Defacto party leader

- Other major officers/entities
 - » Majority/Minority Leaders
 - » Whips
 - » Assistant Speaker of House
 - » Party Conferences
 - » Policy Committees
 - » House Rules Committee

- Congress at work
 - Split personality
 - Law-making
 - Representative assembly
 - » Delegates vs. trustee

 - Legislators as Lawmakers
 - Aided by staff
 - Staff agencies
 - » Congressional Research Service (CRS)
 - » General Accounting Office (GAO)
 - » Office of Technology Assessment (OTA)
 - » Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
 - Legislative Process = 2 steps
 - » Authorization

» Appropriation

- How a bill becomes a law (Fig 11.20)

- Committees

- Standing Committees

(Table 11.2)

- Select Committees

- Joint Committees

- Conference Committees

- Choosing members

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partisan

- Committee procedures

- With Bills

- » Held for long time

- » Hearings – “mark up”

- » “Reports out favorably”

- » Discharge petition

- » Reciprocity w/in

committees

- Investigation & Oversight