

12th U.S. Government
Mr. Rodefeld Class
November 26th, 2018





Today in Class
4.1 & 4.2 Congress



Next Day in Class Gerrymandering





Next Big Due Date
- Capstone #3 Due on Friday



Homework - Capstone 3

Essential question for this unit

- *How should government meet the needs of its people?*

History of representation in the U.S

- Representation history
 - Because of the distrust for a powerful executive, the colonists/Framers put a strong emphasis in representative assemblies.
 - “No taxation without representation”
 - U.S. first assembly = Continental Congress

Role of Congress in Democracy

- Role of Legislative Branch
 - Framers created the branch built into a system of checks & balances and responsibilities still left to the states.
 - A representatives job was to “enlarge and refine the public views”. In other words help citizens consider the greater good, not just self-interest

The Job / Roles of Congress

- **Role of members of Congress**
 - Legislators
 - Representatives of their constituents
 - *Constituents = voters / electors*
 - Committee members
 - Servants of their constituents
 - politicians

The Job / Roles of Congress

Roles of Members of Congress

ROLES	DUTIES
Legislator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study proposals and draft legislation• Frame public policies
Agent of Constituents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be the people's representative on important matters
Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serve on committees that screen proposals for floor consideration
Servant of Constituents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist constituents with bureaucratic and ceremonial tasks
Politician	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balance interests of constituents and political party

The Job of Congress

- **Representing the people**
 - How do the people's representatives represent the people?
 - On what basis do they cast their votes?
 - Role conflicts
- **Committee work**
 - Work on various legislative bills
 - Oversight function = the process in which Congress checks to see that the executive branch agencies are carrying out the laws Congress set

The Job of Congress

- **Serving the people**

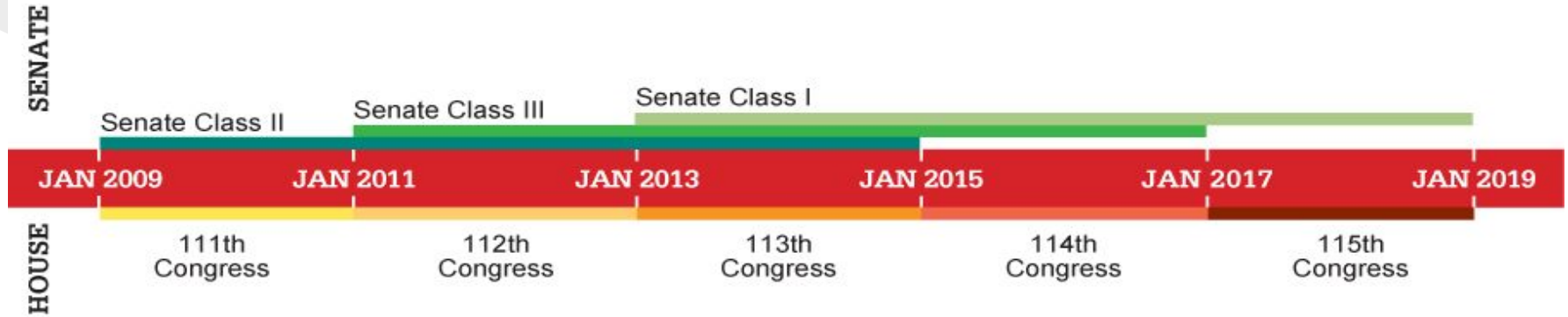
- Members of Congress (or staff aides) try to help people deal with the government.
- *Ex. social security benefit, passport application*

Congressional Terms / Sessions

- Each term of Congress lasts for 2 years.
 - As laid out in Article I
 - Currently the 115th starting in Jan, 2017
- A session of Congress lasts 1 year
 - Congress assembles and conducts business

Congressional Terms / Sessions

Terms and Sessions of Congress



Conclusions / Takeaways

- Quick write and report out:
 - Summarize the structure/organization of the Legislative Branch - make sure to use examples!