POL 215 American Government **Spring 2023**
LP Wk. 12 Prof. Miguel Sánchez

Devotion: The 10 Commandments of The Bible
https://scripturememory.com/10commandments?gclid=Cj0KCQiAorKfBhC0ARIsAHDzslsHVMc4P71S0_IkSrFUJar9A4NeYBxHAu-jZm0AMccPJ2GrNE_fuyUaAv4aEALw_wcB

1. **You shall have no other gods before me.**
2. **You shall not make for yourself any carved/graven image.**
3. **You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain.**
4. **Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.**
5. **Honor your father and your mother.**
6. **You shall not murder.**
7. **You shall not commit adultery.**
8. **You shall not steal.**
9. **You shall not bear false witness.**
10. **You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's. (Exodus 20)**

BUSINESS: Last day to complete course withdrawal process is THU. 4/06.

Week 12	Overview
W 4/05	Legislators. House of Representative, Senate, local government structures, process from bill to law, Committees, Caucuses, the federal and local government budgets.
	Activities, Assignments and/or Exams
	HW9 Read Ch. 11 (p.287318) and ONE relevant *current event* article (within last 3 months) Write: Choose *two* concepts/key terms in the Chapter that are new to you. Explain each and how you see they have an impact on American politics/experience today? Apply ONE of the CTD by giving some detail/facts related to your two points. Number your 2 points to make your statements clearly understood (total 300 words). *ALWAYS* include in-text citations (see LP Plagiarism) and Reference to your post, work. Respond to another post (50 words)
Week 13	Overview
W 4/13	The President/ Executive. Roles and duties of the president, Executive branch and agencies, Presidential succession, Moral vs. ethical responsibilities of the office.
	Activities, Assignments and/or Exams
	HW10 Read Ch. 2 (p.29-58) and ONE relevant *current event* article (within last 3 months) Write: Choose *two* concepts/key terms in the Chapter that are new to you. Explain each and how you see they have an impact on American politics/experience today? Apply ONE of the CTD by giving some detail/facts related to your two points. Number your 2 points to make your statements clearly understood (total 300 words). *ALWAYS* include in-text citations (see LP Plagiarism) and Reference to your post, work. Respond to another post (50 words)
Week 14	Overview
W 4/19	The Supreme Court/ State Supreme Courts. Key terms: Court justice appointment processes, Constitutions, statutes, regulations, common-law tradition, legal precedence,
	Activities, Assignments and/or Exams
	HW11 Read Ch. 14 (p.377-404) and ONE relevant *current event* article (within last 3 months) Write: Choose *two* concepts/key terms in the Chapter that are new to you. Explain each and how you see they have an impact on American politics/experience today? Apply ONE of the CTD by giving some detail/facts related to your two points. Number your 2 points to make your statements clearly understood (total 300 words). *ALWAYS* include in-text citations (see LP Plagiarism) and Reference to your post, work. Respond to another post (50 words)
Week 15	FINAL EXAM – covers chapters and Lesson Plans (LPs) that follow Exam 1.
W 4/26	If you cannot make the Final Exam, you must notify the Instructor immediately. Documented proof/excuse is required.

Applying the Critical Thinking Domains (CTD) – How are issues/experiences impacted by:

1. Religion (Religious groups, beliefs, rules)
2. Culture (Social rules)
3. Legal (The law)
4. Ethical (harm)

Lesson Goal: The roles of Congress
DEF: ***Bicameralism*** refers to an entity (Congress) being divided into two bodies or assemblies (see pg. 294)

How does *bicameralism* reflect American ideas?
The original election of the House of Representatives and The Senate embodied respecting States (large versus smaller), and the electoral process common versus elite. This idea of popular versus elite representation is reflected in the historic bicameral body in England's Parliament (The House of Commons versus the House of Lords). The representation in the House of Representatives (voting power based on State population count) versus the Senate (equal voting power regardless of population) are also reflected in the bicameral structure.
House of Representatives – 345 members
The Senate – 50 members

Senate terms and elections

- 100 Senators elected two from each of the 50 States
- Quorum – 51 Members
- Senator – six-year terms
- One-third of Senators are elected every two years
- U.S. Citizen – at least 9 years, and State residency (criteria is determined by the State)
- Minimum 30 years old
- Vice President is the President of the Senate (no vote except to break a tie of 50-50)
- Power to *Try impeachment*, which is carried out by *2/3 affirmative vote* (of those present, minimum Quorum)
- *Expel* Members for misconduct (2/3 affirmative vote)

Original Constitutional Parameters for election of the Senate (Article 1, Section 3).
The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State (chose by the Legislature thereof), for six years, and each Senator shall have one vote.

The 17th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution
Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures. (U.S. Constitution, 1913) – Ratified in 1914.

House of Representatives terms and elections

- The House of Representatives – 435 members
- Quorum – 218 Members
- House Representative – two-year terms
- U.S. Citizen – at least 7 years, and State residency (criteria determined by the State)
- Minimum 25 years old
- Powers: *Impeach* (which is accuse of misconduct), and
- *Expel* Members for misconduct (2/3 affirmative vote)
- Vote for the passage of a law by 2/3 affirmative vote (of those present, minimum quorum).

Congressional Powers and Responsibilities:

- Federal budgeting and borrowing
- Taxation by Congress
  - Capitation (Tax based on individual status)
  - versus Direct tax (based on government charges)
  - Impose import taxes, *never export taxes*
- Regulations of Commerce (between/across States, foreign nations, and U.S. Tribes

- Terms of U.S. Citizenship
- Terms of Bankruptcy (Personal and corporate)
- Money, Coinage and Standards of Measurements (values and standards)
- Roads (roads, railways, and air) and Post Offices
- Counterfeiting Penalties
- Patents and Copyrights
- Establishing lower Federal Courts (under The Supreme Court)
- Punishment of Piracy
- Declaration of War
- Create and Budget for Army, Navy, Armed Forces, National Guard (State militias)
- Create and govern the District of Colombia
- *Make the necessary laws* for carrying out the U.S. Constitutional powers and responsibilities

What can Congress do besides legislative research, lawmaking, and debate?

- Visit *constituents* to gather opinion and information
- Educate the public regarding the role of government
- Make public its work and the positions of Congress Members

Issues: Gerrymandering, a Constitutional practice of redistricting after each U.S. Census
VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFeE9UXN6rU

- *Independent commissions* versus Dominant party control
- Urban areas versus suburban and rural areas

What is the role of Congressional Committees?
Congressional Committees are responsible for Congressional ***oversight,***

- *Making sure the policies and regulations it has passed are being followed.* These include
- *Monitoring the conduct of members* of Congress, federal agencies, and the two other branches of the federal government: the Executive (Presidential), and Judicial (Supreme Court).

What do Congress members do?

- Visit and meet with stakeholders/ constituents/ politicians/ press of their communities and districts
- Raise money for the next personal and party election
- Meet with other national congress members and politicians to discuss policies and proposals
- Participate in oversight and research within Congressional committees and subcommittees
- Work to review, write, sponsor legislation that meets community needs
- Participate in congressional voting in Washington, D.C.

VIDEO: Congress addresses sexual misconduct in the FBI – 3:20 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-WwwhXIPls

- Do you think this is a good role of the Congress?
- What do you think of Congress not having criminal legal powers?

VIDEO: Members propose expulsion of Congressman George Santos (Rep. Long Island) – 13:14
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqsZqOu0K8I

- What process do you recommend for the review or expulsion of a Member of Congress?

Listing of Congressional Committees
https://www.congress.gov/committees

VIDEO: Is Daylight Saving Time here to stay? – 7:28 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6gqHy78c1E

- How is this issue a Congressional oversight issue?

  Daylight Saving Time: Also called summer time, system for uniformly advancing clocks, so as to extend daylight hours during conventional waking time in the summer months. In countries in the Northern Hemisphere, clocks are usually set ahead one hour in late March or in April and are set back one hour in late September or in October.

Encyclopedia Britannica (2023). *Daylight saving time*. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved from https://www.britannica.com/topic/Daylight-Saving-Time