**Chapter 5: Congress**

I. Organization of Congress

1. Congressional Membership

* **Congress** –
* **Bicameral Legislature** -
* Congress has more delegated powers than any other branch in government
* When it comes down to making laws Congress has the most power and influence
* How is this different than public perception?
* Legislative Case Study:

1. Congressional Sessions

* **Sessions –**
* Began January 3, of every odd number year
* **Special Session –**
* **Joint Session -**
* What session is marked by 2013?
* Around 10,000 bills are introduced in Congress each year
* How many of those bills are passed?
* How many of those bills are considered to be important bills?

1. House Membership

* 435 members
* Serve 2 year terms
* Allowed up to 18 people on their staff
* State’s population determines their number of representatives
* Each representative represents one district
* All members run for reelection every two years

1. House Qualifications

1)

2)

3)

1. House Representation

* Determined by state’s population
* **Census –**
* **Reapportionment –**

1. Gerrymandering

* **Gerrymandering –**
* First germander looked like a salamander
* Supreme Court has ruled this unconstitutional in most cases but it still takes place in most states
* How you draw the lines matters

1. Senate Membership

* 100 members
* Each state has 2 senators
* Serve 6 year terms
* Each Senator is allowed 40 staff members
* **At-Large –**
* 1/3rd of the Senate is elected every two years

1. Senate Qualifications

1)

2)

3)

1. Salary and Benefits

* High paying salary they receive for the rest of their life
* Office in the capitol building

* Allowed free trips to home state
* **Franking Privilege –**
* **Congressional Immunity –**

1. Rules of Conduct

* **Exclusion –**
* Must make full disclosure of financial holdings
* **Expulsion –**

* **Censure –**
* Accused member stand in front of Congress alone, and listen to the charges against them
* Public spankin’

1. Reelection to Congress

* **Incumbents –**
* A majority are reelected to Congress
* Helps Congress maintain stability