Study Guide for Chapter 11 = Congress

You are also responsible for knowing all of the key terms from the chapter.

Key Questions:

• What is the most “attractive” thing about serving in Congress? What unattractive parts of the job do most Americans not see? (Explain.)
• What are the qualifications to serve in the House of Rep’s? the Senate?
• Describe a “typical” member of Congress in terms of: sex, race, age, religion, prior occupation, and wealth.
• What is the difference between descriptive and substantive representation?
• List and explain five advantages incumbents have over their opponents in congressional elections.
• What is the difference between casework and pork barrel?
• List and explain three ways that an incumbent might be defeated.
• What are the “pros” and “cons” of term limits?
• What are the main functions of the House Rules Committee?
• The Senate has a unique procedure called the “filibuster.” What is it? How can a filibuster be stopped?
• List four formal powers of the Speaker of the House.
• List the leadership positions that exist in the House & Senate.
• List the four types of congressional committees.
• What is meant by legislative oversight?
• How does the seniority system work?
• What is a Congressional “caucus”? What purpose do they serve?
• What is the difference between the personal staff and the committee staff?
• List three congressional staff agencies.
• Draw a diagram of how a bill becomes a law.
• What is the difference between trustees, instructed delegates, and politicos?
• In what ways do lobbyists try to influence the decision-making process?
• What are some of the ways that Congress is very “unrepresentative”?
• How does the structure of Congress contribute to the expanding scope of government?

~ The End ~