Congress

Members of Congress
- Constitutional provisions
- Member characteristics
- Representation

Gender composition of Congress over time

Racial composition of Congress over time
*See: racial and ethnic is counted as both black and Asian.*
Leaders and Parties in Congress
- Party and Leadership structure
- Speaker of the House
- Majority and Minority leaders
- Whips

Leaders and Parties in Congress
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- The Senate

Committee System
- Importance of Committees
- Standing committees
- Committee chairs
- Committee membership
- Subcommittees

How a bill becomes a law
$$S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}}$$

How a Bill becomes a law
- *I'm Just a Bill*
- Introducing a bill
- Committee stage
- Floor debate: House
- Floor debate: Senate
- Filibusters
- Reconciliation
- Voting
- Conference Committee
- Presidential Signature

Growth in Filibuster
Features of Law Making

- Difficulty of making new laws
- Specialization and deference to committees
- Cooperation
- Pork Barrel
- Universalism
- Polarization and the difficulty of modern law-making