

**POLI 100B CONGRESS
2008 MIDTERM STUDY QUESTIONS**

- 1. Explain Why Public Opinion is contradictory about Congress.**
- 2. Why did the authors of the Constitution consider both the Continental Congress and the Confederation Congress abject failures?**
- 3. Define the Sophomore Surge and the Retirement Slump. What do they have to do with the incumbency advantage?**
- 4. What is a *marginal* Congressional district? Why are they important? What does a “Mayhew Diagram” tell us about their number?**
- 5. Using Barbara Sinclair (and what you can see every day on the news!), how does the Senate get its work done? That is, explain the role of the filibuster, blue slips, and holds in the operation of the current Senate.**
- 6. Use Figure 1.1 in Stewart to explain the median voter theorem.**