

POLI 100B: Congress

Agenda Topic 3: Congress and the Political System: 1879 - 2008

- A. The Democrat-Republican Political Party System in Congress: 1879 – 2007**
- B. Where Does the Money Go? The Federal Budget**
 - 1. The Disappearance of the Business Cycle**
 - 2. Basic Outline of U.S. Federal Budget**
 - 3. The Level of Debt**
 - 4. Social Security**
- C. The New World of U.S. Senators (D&O Chapter 1)**
 - 1. Individualism and Partisanship**
 - 2. The Role of Senate Rules**
- D. A Decade of Republican Control of the House (D&O Chapter 2)**
 - 1. The Effect of the Southern Realignment on House Partisanship**
 - 2. The Republican Takeover in 1994**
- E. What the American Public Wants Congress to Be (D&O Chapter 3)**
 - 1. People Tend to Dislike Congress but Vote to Reelect their Representatives**
 - 2. Public Opinion is Contradictory**
- F. Morris Fiorina's *Keystone* Argument (D&O Chapter 7)**

1. **Influence of Fiorina's book**
2. **Mayhew Diagrams**
3. **Presidential "Coattails"**
4. **The Mystery of the Vanishing Marginals**
5. *Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment*

G. Does Redistricting Really Affect Congressional Representation?