## APGOVPO Interaction Among the Branches of Government

Congress

How a Bill Becomes a Law - Budget Process

## Part I of Two Day Lesson

- Review Wilson textbook 13-5

  How a Bill Becomes a Law (p. 313-319). Also watch and take notes on:
  - Crash Course video How a Bill Becomes Law
  - or this Khan Academy video How a Bill Becomes Law
  - For reference: Bill to a Law Flowchart
- Review your notes on the budget process (<u>textbook pages 464-470</u>)
- and take notes on this AMSCO excerpt on The Legislative Process and the Budget.
- Also see Khan Academy videos:
  - Discretionary and Mandatory Spending
  - <u>Earmarks</u>, <u>Pork-barrel projects and Logrolling</u>

## Part II of Two Day Lesson

 View this video on the federal budget from the Woodrow Wilson Center (from 2018) and use it to answer the following questions.

- It will be helpful to have this Washington Post graphic explaining the budget process as you view and take notes on the video— Pay attention to the terminology.
- Remember that the Budget Process deals with, by and large, discretionary spending (domestic and military). Here is a chart to refresh your memory

  <u>Federal Spending chart</u>

## Questions to be answered with video:

- 1. List the steps in the budget process under normal order. In what ways has the government gotten around this normal order?
- 2. Evaluate the role of the President's budget proposal in the budget process.
- 3. Explain Congress's role in influencing budget priorities and list key facts that help explain to what extent have they fulfilled their own commitment to completing a budget each year
- 4. What are "common misperceptions" about Congress and the budget process identified by the expert in the video? (@ apx. 12:00)
- Now try this budget priority game that illustrates some of the difficulties faced in balancing competing priorities. Choose at least two goals when prompted. (The fundamental challenge of economics - scarce resources to satisfy unlimited wants.)
  - Before playing game check out this graph correlating national debt to the size of our GDP
- Read CNN article on Build Back Better Bill stalling in the Senate

Take note of interaction of branches, factions in the Democrat party, consideration of the bill outside of the normal budget process, power of an individual senator.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>CFU given in class toward end of Part II of Lesson