```
title: "Introduction to Public Policy"
author: "Dr. David P. Adams, Ph.D."
date: "2024-08-27"
theme: "metropolis"
keep_tex: true
slide_level: 2
includes:
  in_header: header.tex
incremental: true
slide_number: c/t
aspectratio: 169
colorlinks: true
urlcolor: teal
```

Course Overview

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- **Define** and explain the nature of public policy

- **Identify** key concepts in public policy

- **Analyze** the various contexts shaping policy decisions

- **Examine** rationales for government involvement

- **Evaluate** public policies using multiple criteria

- **Participate** effectively in the policy process

What is Public Policy?

Core Definition

Public Policy refers to what government officials choose to do—or not do—about public problems.

Reflection Questions: - What makes a problem **public**?
- Who decides what requires **government action**?
- How do we determine the **appropriate response**?

Understanding Public Problems

Key Characteristics

Public problems are conditions that:
- Are **widely perceived** as unacceptable
- **Require intervention**
- Affect the **collective good**

Examples:
- Environmental degradation
- Healthcare access
- Public safety
- Infrastructure maintenance

The Language of Public Policy

Key Terms and Concepts

1. **Intentions**: Purposes of government action

2. **Goals**: Stated ends to be achieved

3. **Plans**: Strategies for achieving goals

4. **Programs**: Authorized means for pursuing goals

5. **Decisions**: Specific actions taken

Policy Results

Outputs vs. Outcomes
- **Outputs**: Formal government actions (laws, regulations)
- **Outcomes**: Actual effects on society (impact analysis)

The Policy Context

Multiple Dimensions

Social Context
- Demographics

- Social values
- Cultural changes

Economic Context
- Market conditions
- Budget constraints

Political Context
- Party dynamics
- Public trust

Why Government Gets Involved

Three Key Rationales

1. **Political Reasons**
   - Public demand

   - Electoral pressures
2. **Moral/Ethical Reasons**
   - Social justice

   - Public good
3. **Economic Reasons**
   - Market failures

   - Public goods

Market Failures

Types of Market Failures

1. **Monopolies/Oligopolies**
   - Market domination

   - Price control
2. **Externalities**
   - Negative: Pollution

   - Positive: Education
3. **Information Failures**
   - Hidden risks
4. **Public Goods**

- Non-excludable

- Non-rivalrous

Citizen Participation

How to Get Involved

1. Voting

2. Joining interest groups

3. Participating in public hearings

4. Leveraging direct democracy tools

Evaluating Public Policy

Key Criteria

1. **Effectiveness**: Does it work?

2. **Efficiency**: Are resources used wisely?

3. **Equity**: Is it fair?

4. **Feasibility**: Is it politically/technically viable?

For Next Class

To-Do List:
- Read **Chapter 1**
- Review **syllabus**
- Log into **Canvas**
- Sign up for **Kritik**

Discussion Question:
Which public policy issues interest you the most and why?