# Presentation Title: Policy Process Elements

Slide 1:  
Policy Process Elements  
Lecture 2  
Week 2  
POSC 315: Introduction to Public Policy

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Slide 2:  
Overview  
Policy Process Models  
The Public Policy Environment

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Slide 3:  
The Stages Model  
The Stages Model  
Issue Emergence  
: A problem is identified and brought to the attention of government officials and the public.  
Agenda Setting  
: The problem is placed on the government agenda for consideration.  
Alternative Selection  
: The government considers various policy options to address the problem.  
Policy Implementation  
: The government implements the policy.  
Policy Evaluation  
: The government evaluates the policy to determine its effectiveness.  
Policy Maintenance, Succession, or Termination  
: The government decides to maintain, modify, or terminate the policy.  
Issue Emergence  
: What new issues emerge as the policy is maintained, modified, or terminated?  
Stages Model Strengths  
Intuitive  
: The stages model is easy to understand and explain.  
Descriptive  
: The stages model describes the policy process in a way that is consistent with how people think about the policy process.  
Flexible  
: The stages model can be adapted to different policy areas and levels of government.  
Stages Model Weaknesses  
Linear  
: The stages model assumes that the policy process is linear and sequential.  
Oversimplified  
: The stages model oversimplifies the policy process by ignoring the complexity of the policy process.  
Separate  
: The stages model separates the policy process into distinct stages, but in reality, the stages overlap and interact with each other.

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Slide 4:  
The Stages Model

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Slide 5:  
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Slide 9:  
Systems Thinking  
A way of thinking about natural or social phenomena as a system with various inputs that are processed and intermingle to create a discernible set of outputs.  
A way of thinking about the world that emphasizes the relationships among the parts of a system and how the parts interact with each other and the system as a whole.  
The Systems Model  
Public policy is viewed as the response of the political system to forces brought to bear on it from the outside environment.  
A policy environment surrounds the political system.  
Forces enter the political system from the environment either as demands or as support  
The Systems Model  
The Systems Model  
Policy Environment  
: The political, economic, and social context in which the policy is developed and implemented.  
Inputs  
: The demands and expectations of the public, interest groups, and government officials.  
Throughputs  
: The policy process is the interaction between the policy environment and the political system. This is the “black box” of the policy process.  
The Systems Model  
Outputs  
: The policy outputs are the laws, regulations, and decisions that are created by the policy process.  
Feedback  
: The feedback is the response to the policy outputs.  
Policy Outcomes  
: The policy outcomes are the effects of the policy outputs and feedback.  
Systems Model Strengths  
Holistic  
: The systems model is holistic because it considers the policy environment, the political system, and the policy process.  
Dynamic  
: The systems model is dynamic because it considers the interaction between the policy environment and the political system.  
Flexible  
: The systems model can be adapted to different policy areas and levels of government.  
Systems Model Weaknesses  
Complex  
: The systems model is complex because it considers the policy environment, the political system, and the policy process.  
Abstract  
: The systems model is abstract because it does not provide a clear explanation of the policy process.

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Slide 11:  
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Slide 12:  
The Systems Model

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Slide 13:  
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Slide 17:  
The Policy Environment  
The Structural Environment  
Political System  
: The political system is the set of formal and informal political institutions that make and implement collective decisions.  
The basic features of American government are the separation of powers, federalism, and checks and balances.  
The Social Environment  
Political Culture  
: The political culture is the set of shared beliefs, values, and norms that influence the political system.  
The basic features of American political culture are liberty, equality, democracy, civic duty, and individual responsibility.  
The Social Environment  
Changing Demographics  
The population of the United States is becoming  
more diverse, older, more urban, more educated, more mobile.  
The government must respond to these changing needs  
The Economic Environment  
Economic Conditions  
: The economic conditions are the state of the economy.  
The basic features of the economy are the business cycle, inflation, unemployment, and economic growth.  
Measured by GDP, size of industrial sector, unemployment rate, inflation rate, etc.  
The Political Environment  
Often measured by the  
National Mood  
.  
The national mood is the public’s general attitude toward government and politics.  
Measured by the  
Direction of the Country  
question in public opinion polls.  
Measured by the  
Presidential Approval Rating  
question in public opinion polls.  
The Political Environment  
The Most Important Problem Facing the Country Today  
NYT in 2016:  
The Most Important Problem Facing America?  
The Political Environment  
Political Ads try to capture the national mood  
It's Morning Again in America  
Daisy  
Willie Horton  
Swift Boat Veterans for Truth  
Go From There  
Brighter Future  
The International Environment  
Globalization  
: The increasing interdependence of countries on each other.  
The basic features of globalization are the international economy, international organizations, and international law.  
The Overall Policy Environment  
The overall policy environment is the combination of the structural, social, economic, political, and international environments.  
The overall policy environment is the context in which the policy process takes place.  
The overall policy environment influences the policy process.  
The Overall Policy Environment  
Structural  
Social  
Economic  
Political  
International

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Slide 18:  
The Policy Environment

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Slide 19:  
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The Social Environment  
Changing Demographics  
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The Political Environment  
The Most Important Problem Facing the Country Today  
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Slide 25:  
The Political Environment  
Political Ads try to capture the national mood  
It's Morning Again in America  
Daisy  
Willie Horton  
Swift Boat Veterans for Truth  
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The International Environment  
Globalization  
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The Overall Policy Environment  
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Slide 28:  
The Overall Policy Environment  
Structural  
Social  
Economic  
Political  
International

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Slide 29:  
Key Takeaways  
Policy process models help us understand how policies are made  
The stages model provides a linear framework but oversimplifies reality  
Systems thinking emphasizes relationships and feedback loops  
Policy environment shapes and constrains policy decisions  
Multiple environmental factors influence policy: structural, social, economic, political, international

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Slide 30:  
That's it for Today!  
Remember to read Chapter three for next time!

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