# Presentation Title: Introduction to Policy Process Theories

Slide 1:  
Understanding Policy Change  
Introduction to Policy Process Theories  
POSC 315: Introduction to Public Policy  
Lecture 2-2  
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Slide 2:  
Why Study Policy Process Theories?  
Theories help us:  
Understand how policies change over time  
Identify key factors in policy development  
Predict when change might occur  
Analyze past policy successes and failures

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Slide 3:  
Kingdon's Multiple Streams Framework (MSF)  
Policy windows open when three independent streams converge:  
Problem Stream:  
Issues gaining attention (e.g., opioid crisis)  
Policy Stream:  
Available solutions (e.g., harm reduction policies)  
Politics Stream:  
Political conditions (e.g., bipartisan support for intervention)  
Example:  
The Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, where environmental crises, policy solutions, and political leadership converged.

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Slide 4:  
Key Components of the Three Streams Model  
Key Components:  
Policy Entrepreneurs:  
Individuals or groups who promote policy solutions  
Policy Windows:  
Opportunities for policy change when the streams align  
Coupling:  
The process of linking the streams together

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Slide 5:  
Advocacy Coalition Framework  
Policy change through competing belief systems  
Groups form around shared beliefs  
Compete to influence policy  
Learn and adapt over time  
Example:  
The long-term debate between environmentalists and the fossil fuel industry over climate policies.

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Slide 6:  
Technical Details: Advocacy Coalition Framework  
The ACF involves:  
Coalitions:  
Groups of actors who share beliefs and coordinate actions  
Policy Subsystems:  
The focus of coalitions' activities, such as specific policy areas  
Policy Brokers:  
Individuals who mediate between coalitions  
Example:  
Coalitions of environmental groups and industry representatives in the energy policy subsystem.

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Slide 7:  
Key Components of the ACF  
Key Components:  
Belief Systems:  
Deep core beliefs, policy core beliefs, and secondary aspects  
Policy Learning:  
Changes in beliefs or strategies based on new information  
External Events:  
Factors outside the subsystem that can influence policy change  
Example:  
The impact of economic crises or natural disasters on policy learning and coalition strategies.

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Slide 8:  
Punctuated Equilibrium Theory  
Policy changes through:  
Long periods of stability  
Sudden, dramatic shifts  
New policy "equilibrium"  
Example:  
Major civil rights legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which marked a sudden shift after years of incremental change.

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Slide 9:  
Key Components of PET  
Key Components:  
Policy Images:  
How issues are perceived and understood  
Venue Shopping:  
Efforts to move issues to favorable decision-making arenas  
Policy Entrepreneurs:  
Actors who promote significant changes  
Example:  
The shift in gun control policy debates following high-profile mass shootings.

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Slide 10:  
Summary  
Key Takeaways:  
Policy process theories help us understand and predict policy changes  
Kingdon's MSF  
highlights the convergence of problem, policy, and politics streams  
The  
Advocacy Coalition Framework  
focuses on belief systems and coalition dynamics  
Punctuated Equilibrium Theory  
explains long periods of stability interrupted by sudden changes  
Use these frameworks to analyze and interpret policy developments in your term paper.

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Slide 11:  
Looking Ahead: Term Paper  
You'll apply these theories to analyze a policy of your choice  
Choose a policy issue that interests you  
Select one or more theories to analyze it  
Build your analysis step by step  
First step: Topic selection due Week 4

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