Interest groups and lobbying

* David Truman’s the government process
  + Defends interest groups
    - He says that for every oil group there is an environmental group
      * This is biased because groups have different amount of money and influence
* Mancur Olson’s logic of collective action
  + Incentives for collective action and the barriers to organization vary for groups
    - Free riders are a problem
  + Large organizations give incentives to participate
* Tools used by interest groups
  + Trafficking information and access
  + Campaign contributions
  + Advertising
* Campaign finance spending grows since seventies
* Incumbent advantage
* PAC
  + Federal election campaign act required groups to form pacs
  + Bias is dominated by the wealthy

How to regulate campaign contributions

* Allow us to see the source of money
* Disclose use of funds
* Limits on contributions and amount spent

Federal election campaign act of 1974

* Prompted by Watergate

Buckley v valeo

* Campaigns have to disclose requirements
* Contribution limits and public finances were upheld
* Expenditure limits were struck down

Corporate spending limits

* Express advocacy – vote for , elect, support
* By saying these words you are limited in money

Citizens united

* Campaign contributions
* First amendment protects corporations

Super Pacs

* Pacs can spend unlimited amounts of money to support a candidate
* Section 527 can spend as long as they dont express advocacy
  + Magic words
* There is no $5000 limit on donations to super pacs