Public Policy

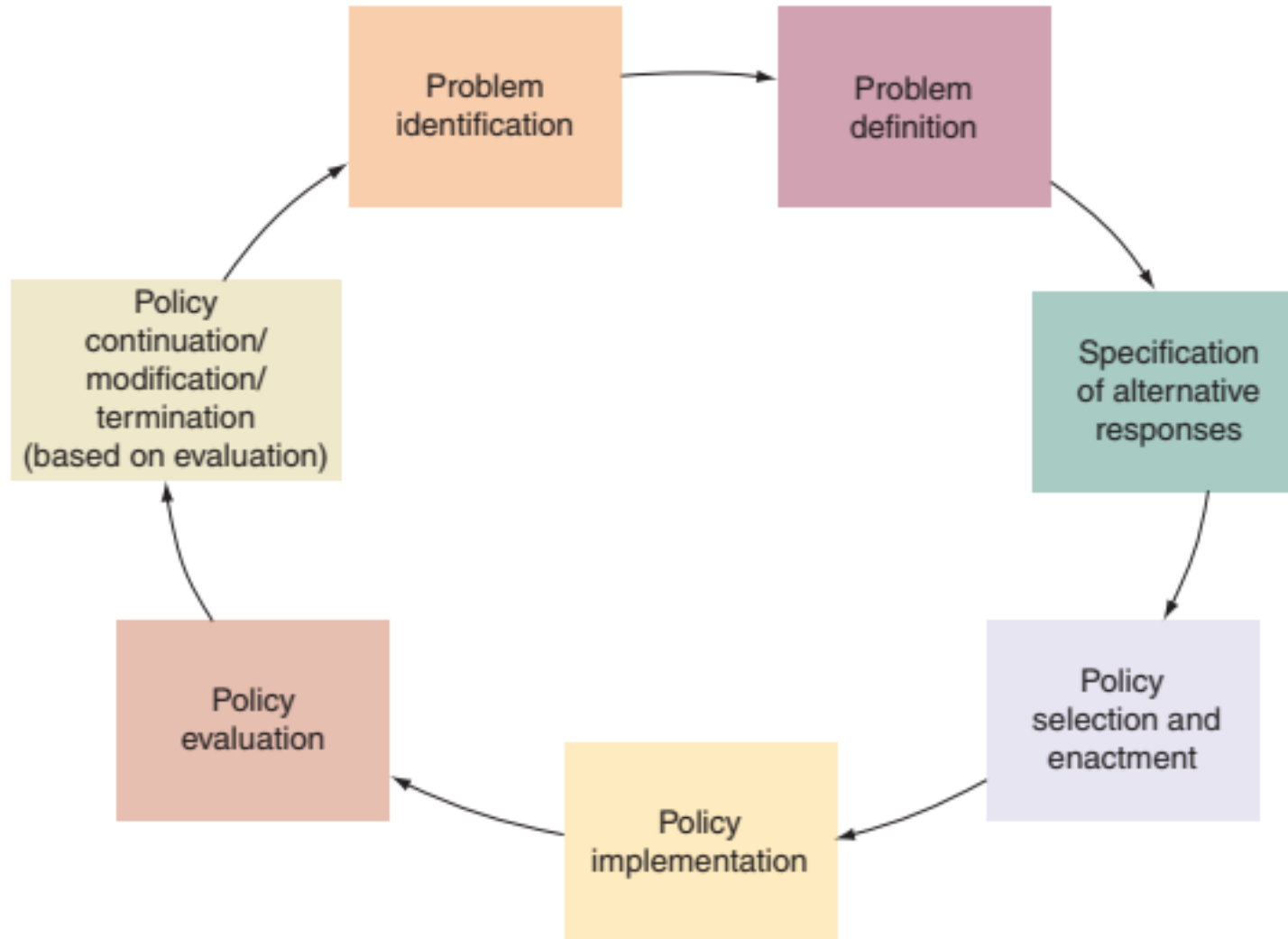## Public Policy Definition

- **Thomas Dye (**1972):

    "Anything a government chooses to do or not to do"

- **William Jenkins (1978)** : "a set of interrelated decision taken by a political actor or group of actors concerning the selection of goals and the means of achieving them within a specified situation where those decisions should, in principle, be within the power of those actors to achieve".

Types of Public Policies

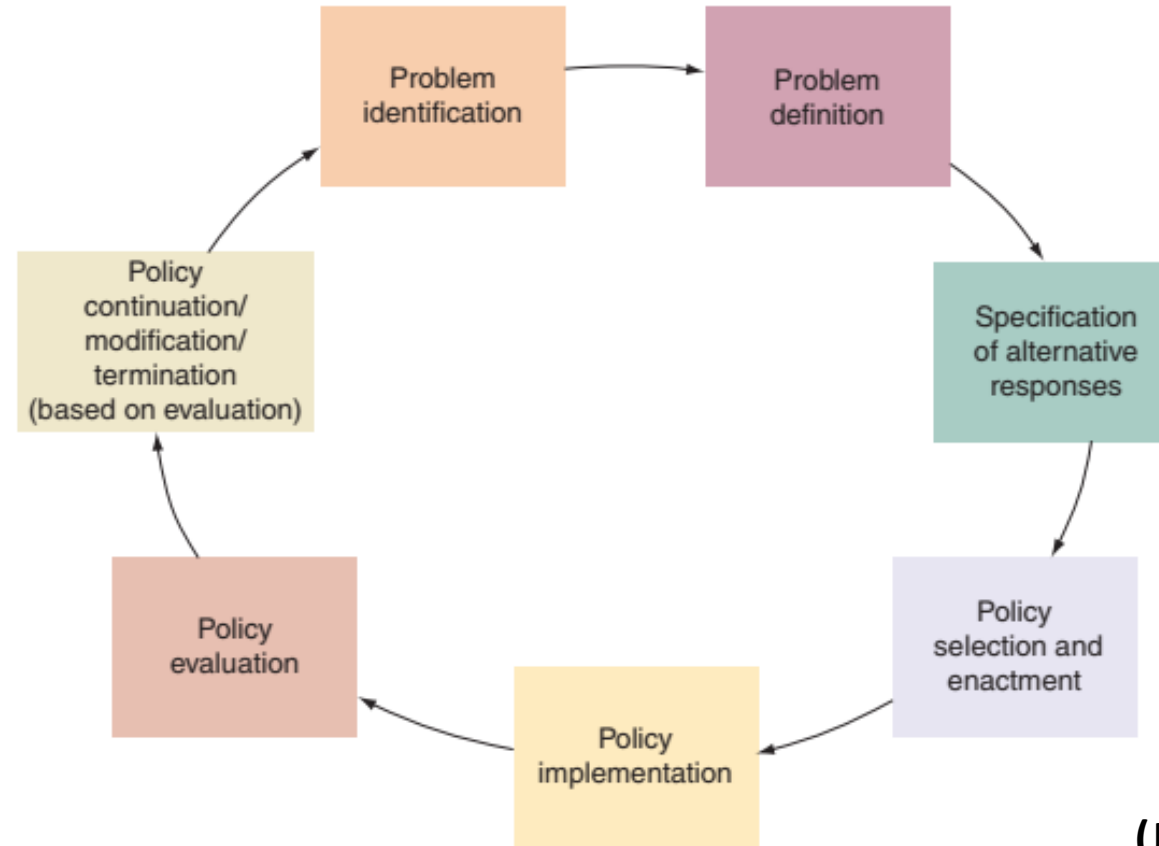|	
Classification of Policies can be base on **functional area**	Education, Health, transportation, safety, environment,
Alternatively, can be based on **Objective of the Policy**	**(1) *Distributive* policies** provide particular goods and services (e.g., the building and maintenance of a system of streets and highways); **(2) *Redistributive* policies** explicitly transfer values from one group to another group (e.g., a policy that provides subsidized housing to those with limited financial resources); **(3) *Regulatory* policies** limit actions (e.g., a policy that prohibits a woman from having an abortion); **(4) *Extractive* policies** take resources from some actors (e.g., a sales tax on purchases); and **(5) *Symbolic* policies** confer honor or disrepute on certain actors (e.g., a medal awarded to a soldier for bravery).

(James Danziger, 2016, pp. 234-235)

Public policy cycle

(James Danziger, 2016, p 237)

Policy Cycle Framework (Howlett et al., 2009)

	Stages in Policy Cycle	**Applied Problem-Solving**
1	Agenda – Setting	Problem Recognition
2	Policy Formulation	Proposal Solution
3	Decision Makings	Choice of Solution
4	Policy Implementation	Putting Solution in to Effect
5	Policy Evaluation	Monitoring Result.

Major Actors of Public Policy

1) Elected Officials/politicians

2) Public

3) Bureaucracy

4) Political Parties

5) Interest Group (Business Actors, Labour, NGOs/ Civil Society)

6) Research Organization/Think Tanks

7) Mass Media

8) International Actors.

i. **Policy Universe**: All possible Actors who may affect the policy.

ii. **Policy Subsystem:** actors with sufficient knowledge of a problem area, or a resource at stake to allow them participate in the process of developing possible alternative course of actions to address the issues raised in the agenda settings stage.

iii. **Government Decision Makers:** elected officials, judges or bureaucrats.

States of public policy

(James Danziger, 2016, p 237-39)

Stages of public policy

1.Problem identification – based on public demand, policy makers may consider some issues or may drop some issues for further actions.

2. Problem definition- what seem to be the causes of the problem, and to define desired outcomes. Public opinion shapes these definitions.

3. Specification of alternatives: at this state alternatives are identified to addresses the problem.

Stages of public policy

4.Policy Selection/Decision making- try to assess the possible **cost and benefits** from the options and select the best suitable option. During this cost-benefit analysis, citizens concerned contribute a significant role. For example- Coal mining.

5.Implementation- for many policies, people and their opinions are considered to **increase the legitimacy and the effectiveness** of the policy.

6.Evaluation- as a main stakeholder of public policy, **citizens' feedback** is always an important defining factor.

References

- Danziger, J. N., & Smith, C. A. (2016). Understanding the political world: A comparative introduction to political science. Boston :Pearson, pp. 234-239.

- Howlett, M., Ramesh, M. and Pearl, A. (2009). Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems. Oxford: Oxford University Press.