

**FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY**

- Structure, functions and scope of the Bureaucracy
- Similarities and differences between the Cabinet, Executive Office of the President, Executive Departments Independent Agencies, Regulatory Commissions and Government Corporations. Cite examples of each.
- Identify ways in which Congress, the President and the federal courts have oversight over the federal bureaucracy and evaluate the effectiveness of that oversight.
- Separation of political decision-making from administration/execution of policy (top down management, red tape, rigid procedures, rigidly enforced standards)
- Merit system vs. spoils system; civil service/competitive service/excepted service
- Structure of Federal Bureaucracy: Cabinet (State, Defense, Treasury, HHS, HUD, Labor, Commerce...); Government Corporations (USPS, TVA, FDIC); Independent Agencies (GSA, NSF, NASA, CIA), Independent Regulatory Commissions (FCC, Federal Reserve Board, SEC)
- Federalism and sharing responsibility and power
- Public observation and contesting bureaucratic decisions
- Agency culture/ conflict between political leaders and bureaucrats?
- Constraints on bureaucratic action
- Efforts to reform the bureaucracy (Pendleton Act, Hatch Act, Freedom of Information Act, Whistleblower Protection Act, REGO, Dept. of Homeland Security)
- Iron Triangle (examples: agriculture, defense), Issue Networks, and the “revolving door”

**PUBLIC POLICY**

- Public Policy: What is Public Policy?
- Describe the steps and the key players involved in the Public Policy Process: 1) Problem Identification/Agenda Setting, 2) Policy Formulation, 3) Policy Adoption, 4) Policy Implementation, 5) Policy Evaluation
- Discuss why Congress gives federal agencies policy-making discretion in carrying out federal law. How does Congress make sure that federal agencies follow legislative intent? [expertise, lack of time, efficiency]
- Economics: fiscal policy and monetary policy, federal budget, taxes, deficits and surpluses, entitlements, Keynesian theory, GDP, the Federal Reserve, OMB, CBO,
- Social Welfare: grants in aid, block grants, categorical grants, entitlements, welfare, food stamps, welfare reform, health care, Medicare, Medicaid, social security, supplemental social security, child labor, worker safety, worker compensation, unemployment, Welfare Reform Act (1996)
- Focus particularly on the problems with Social Security and Healthcare Reform (Medicare and Medicaid)
- Environment: global warming, acid rain, nuclear waste, other toxic waste, auto emissions, wilderness, GMF, pesticides, water, wildlife, renewables, conservation, exploration, clean up (who pays?)
- Foreign Policy/National Defense: Cold War hangovers, WTO, IMF, World Bank, NAFTA, NATO, UN, proper use of military, proper level of military readiness, proper level of military spending (armaments), intervention (economic, diplomatic, military), independence/ interdependence,
- The Budget Process: steps in the process, Gramm-Rudmann-Hollings, Budget Act of 1974, budget terminology, economic theory (monetary policy, fiscal policy, Keynesian, supply-side)
- Why is it so difficult to pass a budget (factors, competing interests, etc.)
- Describe the current political debate over issues like healthcare and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and immigration reform

**Key Review Handouts:**

- Structure of the Federal Bureaucracy
- Cabinet Departments
- Key Government Agencies & Corporations
- Economic Policy 101
- The Federal Budget Process
- Public Policy: Social Welfare
- Legislation Review: What You Need to Know