



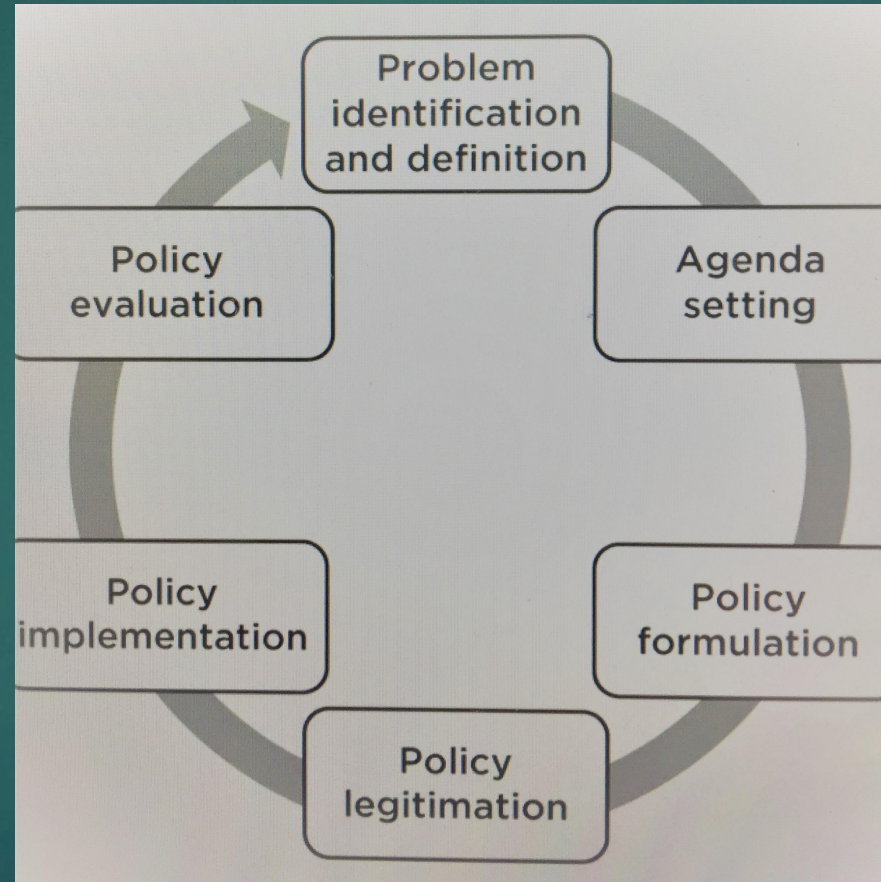
The Legislative Process

THE POLICY PROCESS AND POLICY THEORIES

Public Policy Theories

- ▶ Theory: system of ideas intended to explain something; help us to understand events or conditions
- ▶ Sabatier (2007) suggests five reasons we seek theories of public policy
 - ▶ Who wins and why
 - ▶ Why things happen when and why it takes so long
 - ▶ How policies fit together or not
 - ▶ Why do people approach policy differently
 - ▶ What should government do or not
- ▶ Stages Heuristic Model

Stages Heuristic Model



Policy Legitimation

- ▶ Bill is drafted
- ▶ Introduced to a chamber
- ▶ Referred to committee (and often subcommittee)
- ▶ Committee hearings
- ▶ Amending
- ▶ Voting it to floor
- ▶ Chamber debate and vote
- ▶ Next chamber (same process)
- ▶ Bill moves to executive (signature or veto)



Actors in the Process

- ▶ Official actors: those with a constitutionally defined role in the process responsible for passing law, implementing law, and evaluating constitutionality
- ▶ Unofficial actors: everybody else responsible for monitoring and holding official actors accountable



Louisiana Politics

- ▶ Traditionalist Political Culture
- ▶ North vs. South Louisiana
- ▶ 3 political groups (North, South, African Americans)
- ▶ Role of natural resources
- ▶ Populism

