

CONPT 260 BELL

Sept 7

Ways state and local government affects you?

Themes of the course

1. The importance of state and local governments
2. Political institutions matter
3. Reform
4. State and local governments differ from one another

Government, Politics, and Public Policy

- **Government** - The authoritative apparatus by which people organize themselves to achieve common goals
 - **Collective Action Problem**: Causes free rider problem. Everyone can benefit whether you help or not

- **Public goods**

- **Politics** - process that a community uses to determine what government ought to do

- Involves: campaigns, elections, lobbying, lawmaking, and "issue uptake"

- **Issue uptake**: you take an issue from your opponent that seems to be a popular issue that they were able to take a stand

- **Public Policy** - decisions and actions by government to accomplish common goals identified through the political process for that jurisdiction.
 - Policy involves the instructions, regulations, laws, and implementation.

Other Differences Across States and Communities

1. Geography and History
2. Social Forces
3. Economic Characteristics
4. Political Values

Political ideology: a coherent and consistent set of beliefs about who ought to rule, what principles ought to be used to govern, what policies rulers ought to pursue

Political Culture: general attitude in an area about what government ought to do - influenced heavily by settlers of that area

1. moralistic
2. traditionalistic
3. individualistic (positive attitude towards government)

The Comparative Method

1. Identify something that varies
2. Hypothesize what causes the variation

- Quantitative approach to a research