Domestic Policy

Class Notes…

Terms to remember…

public policy—broad strategy government uses to do its job; government actions addressing societal concerns; laws, rules regulations made/passed by the government

* agenda—political/economic/personal goals of policymakers
* formulation of policy—what interest groups, donors, etc. have the power to influence policy formation
* implementation of policy—bureaucracy/bureaucrats implement policy under presidential authority
* evaluation of policy—who watches what is going on?

social welfare—social **safety net** of programs to assist citizens who cannot/will not assist themselves

poverty line/level—constantly updated artificial line drawn by the government for benefits

types of spending

* mandatory spending—firm legislative commitments
* discretionary spending—no congressional limitations; waste
* entitlement—program benefits earned (Medicare)
* means-tested—program benefits based upon income evaluation (Medicaid)

types of policy

* regulatory—concentrated costs/diffuse benefits
* distributive—diffuse costs/concentrated benefits
* redistributive—redistribute resource from one group in society to another group; concentrated costs and concentrated benefits

Type of Good	Description of Types of Goods in Society
private	goods provided by private businesses & groups used only by those who pay for them (cars, flat screen televisions, personal computers, etc.)
public	goods provided by taxpayers to government that anyone can use/no fees charged (education, water, most roads and bridges, etc.)
common	goods that all people may use but that are of limited supply (ocean fish, fresh water, etc.)
toll	goods that are available to many people but used only by those who can pay the fee (toll roads, private schools, toll bridges, etc.)

Bureaucracy & The People's $$$…

- debt—total liabilities
- deficit—spending beyond limits of income/ revenue
- wealth—total assets
- income—revenue source
    - **progressive tax**—income style tax; heavier burden on the wealthy; loopholes
    - **regressive tax**—sales style tax; heavier burden on those with lower incomes
    - **excise tax**—tax on specific goods or services as a source of revenue
    - **proportional/flat/fair tax**—based upon a set rate for all citizens; usually including a poverty limit

Publications linked to bureaucracy…

- ***Plum Book***—published by Congress listing civil service & support positions usually gained by noncompetitive appointment
- ***Federal Register***—published new rules/regulations after OMB (Office of Management & Budget) approval

policy advocates—persons working actively to propose or maintain public policy

policy analysts—let decision makers know the implications/possible outcomes of decisions; CBO is one example

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