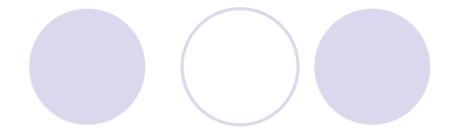
# Introduction to the American Political Process

Legislative Behavior: The Committee Model

## Making Laws



- Lawmaking is a shared responsibility: SOP
  - Congress
  - President
  - Judiciary

### How is legislation made?

- A bill becomes a law
  - Bill Introduced
  - Referred to relevant committee
  - Referred to relevant subcommittee
  - Hearings
  - Subcommittee Approval
  - Committee approval
  - Rules Committee
  - Floor debate
  - Passage
  - Conference Committee
  - Veto/Law Signed

#### **Congressional Committees**

- Woodrow Wilson: "Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, whilst Congress in committee-rooms is Congress at work."
- Why Committees?
  - Institutional Reasons
  - Personal Reasons
    - The Trinity of Congressional goals: reelection, power, public policy

#### Congressional Committees: Effects

- Assignment to committees
  - Committee on Committees
  - Role for self-selection
- The possibility of bias
  - Preference outliers
  - Advantages and disadvantages