Introduction to the American Political Process

Legislative Behavior: The Committee Model
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