

APGoPo – Unit 6

BUREAUCRACY AND THE JUDICIARY VOCAB

Ch. 12 – Bureaucracy

1. **Bureaucracy** – A form of organization that operates through impersonal, uniform rules and procedures.
2. **Bureaucrat** – A career government employee.
3. **Department** – Usually the largest organization in government with the largest mission; also the highest rank in Federal hierarchy.
4. **Independent (stand-alone) agency** – A government entity that is independent of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
5. **Independent regulatory commission** – A government agency or commission with regulatory power whose independence is protected by Congress.
6. **Government corporation** – A government agency that operates like a business corporation, created to secure greater freedom of action and flexibility for a particular program.
7. **Senior Executive Service** – Established by Congress in 1978 as a flexible, mobile corps of senior career executives who worked closely with presidential appointees to manage government.
8. **Civil service** – Federal employees who work for government through a competitive, not political selection process.
9. **Spoils system** – A system of public employment based on rewarding party loyalists and friends.
10. **Patronage** – The process of awarding favors to the party in power.
11. **Merit system** – A system of public employment in which selection and promotion depend on demonstrated performance rather than political patronage.
12. **Office of Personnel Management (OPM)** – Agency that administers civil service laws, rules, and regulations.
13. **Hatch Act** – Federal statute barring Federal employees from active participation in certain kinds of politics and protecting them from being fired on partisan grounds.
14. **Implementation** – The process of putting a law into practice through bureaucratic rules or spending.
15. **Administrative discretion** – Authority given by Congress to the Federal bureaucracy to use reasonable judgment in implementing the laws.
16. **Regulation** – A precise statement of how a law is implemented. (The formal instructions that government issues for implementing laws.)
17. **Rule-making process** – The formal process for making regulations.
18. **Federal Register** – The official record of what the federal bureaucracy does.
19. **Uncontrollable spending** – The portion of the Federal budget that is spent on programs, such as Social Security, that the president and Congress are unwilling to cut.
20. **Entitlement programs** – Programs such as unemployment insurance, disability relief, or disability payments that provide benefits to all eligible citizens.
21. **Federal Reserve Board** – A variation of an independent regulatory agency with a chairman and board that controls the supply of money that flows through the U.S. economy.
22. **Oversight** – Legislative or executive review of a particular government program or organization. Can be in response to a crisis of some kind or part of routine review.
23. **Public policy** – A specific course of action that government takes to address a problem.
24. **Politics** – The interaction of the people and their government, including citizens, interest groups, political parties, and the instructions of government at all levels. Politics is concerned with who gets what, when, where, and how from government.
25. **Policy makers** – Individual and groups that make the actual choices to create a public policy.
26. **Distributive policy** – A public policy such as Social Security that provides benefits to all groups in society.
27. **Redistributive policy** – A policy that provides to one group of society while taking benefits from another through policy solutions such as tax increases to pay for job training.
28. **Policy agenda** – The list of issues that the federal government pays attention to.
29. **Think tank** – A nongovernmental organization that seeks to influence public policy through research and education.
30. **Iron triangle** – A policy-making instrument composed of a tightly related alliance of a congressional committee, interest groups, and a federal department or agency.
31. **Issue network** – A policy-making instrument composed of loosely related interest groups, congressional committee, presidential aides, and other parties.

Ch. 13 – The Judiciary

1. **Judicial review** – The power of a court to review laws or government regulations to determine whether they are consistent with the U.S. Constitution or, in a state court, the state constitution.
2. **Adversary system** – A judicial system in which the court of law is a neutral arena where two parties argue their differences.
3. **Criminal law** – A law that defines crimes against the public order.
4. **Civil law** – A law that governs relationships between individuals and defines their legal rights.
5. **Prosecutor** – Government lawyer who tries criminal cases, often referred to as a district attorney or a U.S. Attorney.
6. **Defendant** – In a criminal action, the person or party accused of an offense.
7. **Plea bargain** – Agreement between a prosecutor and a defendant that the defendant will plead guilty to a lesser offense to avoid having to stand trial for a more serious offense.
8. **Justiciable dispute** – A dispute growing out of an actual case or controversy and that is capable of settlement by legal methods.
9. **Plaintiff** – The party instigating a civil lawsuit.
10. **U.S. attorney general** – The chief law enforcement officer in the United States and the head of the Department of Justice.
11. **Solicitor general** – The third ranking official in the Department of Justice who is responsible for representing the United States in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.
12. **Public defender system** – Arrangement whereby public officials are hired to provide legal assistance to people accused of crimes who are unable to hire their own attorneys.
13. **District courts** – Courts in which criminal and civil cases are originally tried in the federal judicial system.
14. **Circuit courts of appeals** – A court with appellate jurisdiction that hears appeals from the decisions of lower courts.
15. **Supreme Court** – The court of last resort in the United States. It can hear appeals from federal circuit courts or state high courts.
16. **Original jurisdiction** – The authority of a court to hear a case “in the first instance.”
17. **Appellate jurisdiction** – The authority of a court to review decisions made by lower courts.
18. **Precedent** – A decision made by a higher court such as a circuit court of appeals or the Supreme Court that is binding on all other federal courts.
19. **Writ of habeas corpus** – A court order requiring explanation to a judge why a prisoner is being held in custody.
20. **Senatorial courtesy** – Presidential custom of submitting the names of prospective appointees for approval to senators from the states in which the appointees are to work.
21. **Judicial activism** – Philosophy proposing that judges should interpret the Constitution to reflect current conditions and values.
22. **Judicial restraint** – Philosophy proposing that judges should interpret the Constitution to reflect what the framers intended and what its words literally say.
23. **Writ of certiorari** – A formal writ used to bring a case before the Supreme Court.
24. **In forma pauperis** – A petition that allows a party to file “as a pauper” and avoid paying Court fees.
25. **Docket** – The list of potential cases that reach the Supreme Court.
26. **Amicus curiae brief** – Literally, a “friend of the court” brief, filed by an individual or organization to present arguments in addition to those presented by the immediate parties to a case.
27. **Opinion of the Court** – An explanation of the decision of the Supreme Court or any other appellate court.
28. **Dissenting opinion** – An opinion disagreeing with a majority in a Supreme Court ruling.
29. **Concurring opinion** – An opinion that agrees with the majority in a Supreme Court ruling but differs on the reasoning.
30. **Stare decisis** – The rule of precedent, whereby a rule or law contained in a judicial decision is commonly viewed as binding on judges whenever the same question is presented.