POL 100
Introduction to Politics

III Systemic Aspects of Politics
B. Institutions

Policy and policymaking

- Policy
  - Government action toward society
    - Drinking age
    - Taxation
  - (Deliberate) inaction
    - Environmental policy

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Policymaking

- Problem
- Agenda setting
- Implementation
- Policy formulation

Example

- Problem: Drunken Driving
- Agenda setting: Lobbying and petitioning
- Implementation: Police enforcement
- Policy formulation: Congress and laws (penalty for Interstate Highway)
Policymaking
Formal Institutions in Representative Democracy

Legislature
Congress

Executive
Government offices

Elections

Society and Citizens

Legislature/Assemblies

• The British Parliament
  – The Model Parliament of 1295
• Discussion
  – Decision-making
  – Hearing, debate, etc.
• Laws
  – Bills and voting
• Structure
  – Bicameralism
  – Two chambers (the House of Representatives and the Senate in the U.S.)
  – Checks and balances
  – Britain: the House of Commons dominant; the House of Lords secondary

Legislature
Strength of Legislature

• Active: U.S. Congress
  – Extensive negotiations
  – Many and detailed bills
• Passive: National People’s Congress
  – Ceremonial
  – Communist Party’s report
• Intermediate: British Parliament
  – Party Coherence
  – Majority rule
  – Uncompromising government party

Policymaking
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Society and Citizens
Executive

- Chief Executive Officer
  - President
  - Prime Minister
- Cabinet
  - Supporting staff
  - Departments and ministries
- Executive Branch’s Functions
  - Veto (U.S. president)
  - Implementation
  - Executive order
  - Guidance

Party Systems and Cabinet

- One-party system
  - Non-competitive
- Two-party system
  - Majority Single-party cabinet
- Multi-party system
  - Single-party Cabinet
  - Coalition Cabinet

Executive

Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems

Presidential System

U.S.

Parliamentary System

Britain

Citizens

Legislature
(Congress)

President

Cabinet

Prime Minister

Cabinet

Legislature

Citizens