1) Discuss the nature and various stages of public policy.

Ans: Stages of Public Policy.

This diagram illustrates the cyclical and iterative nature of the American public policy process. While applicable to a whole range of types of policy, we'll be focusing in on this specifically for energy and climate policy this semester. As you begin to formulate your Capstone Policy project, keep the components of this diagram in mind, recognizing that in order for your policy to be successful, careful consideration of each component will be critical.

Problem identification is really the starting point in this process, and will set the tone for the remainder of the cycle. In order to achieve successful public policy, the problem must be clearly defined and understood at an appropriate scale.

In many ways, what is described in this diagram as policy formulation could really be its own cyclical diagram, representing an evolution of an idea and solution that addresses the problem and does so in a way that is socially acceptable and politically palatable. Rest assured, that's more than one step! Much of what we'll explore in this class centers around federal US legislation, so policy formulation and adoption involve iterative work from both Houses of Congress.

The adoption of the policy is an important formality, representing a governing entity’s commitment to enforcing the policy’s tenets. Much like policy formulation, policy implementation is also an iterative process and may involve many stakeholders across agencies and governing bodies.

Successful implementation of a policy will be dependent not just on the actors who are responsible for enforcing it, but also on how well it was crafted during the problem identification and policy formulation stages.

Policy evaluation is an important perspective-building exercise to assess successes and failures of the policy that will inform the development of subsequent policies. Evaluation can be either quantitative or qualitative in nature, addressing progress toward tangible goals as well as intended and unintended social, economic, and environmental outcomes as a result of the policy’s implementation.

2) What are the major constraints in public policy formulation?

Ans: Challenges to public policy formulation and evaluation may be similar at times. In this trajectory, the author draws them from the questions of;

- What is public policy?