

Public Policy

A.t. Reem Dhaif Abdulmajeed

third level

Theories of Public Policy

Over the years political science, like other scientific disciplines (fields), has developed a number of concepts and models to help us understand political life. The purpose of these is to :

- ١ .Simplify and clarify our thinking about government and politics.
- ٢ .Identify important political forces in society.
- ٣ .Communicate relevant knowledge about political life.
- ٤ .Direct inquiry into politics.
- ٥ .Suggest explanations for political events and outcomes .

Throughout this course we shall try to see whether the concepts and models of political scientists have any utility (effectiveness, usefulness) in the study of public policy. Specifically to examine public policy from the perspective (viewpoint, angle) of:

- ١ .Institutionalism.
- ٢ .Systems theory.
- ٣ .Elite theory .
- ٤ .Group theory.
- ٥ .Rational decision making theory.

٦ .Incrementalism.

Each of these terms identifies (clarifies) a major conceptual approach to politics which can be found in the literature of political science. None of these theories was derived especially to study public policy. Yet each offers a separate way of thinking about policy and even suggests some of the general causes and consequences of public policy .