How do organized interests engage with how public policy is made?

At one level, that means: **how do interests fight for or against policy change?** That varies with the type of policy, the various stages of the "policy process," and the venues (legislatures, courts, executive agencies, zoning boards, etc.) in which policy is made.

At another level, the question can be phrased as: **what do lobbyists do?** Lobbyists face in two directions: towards policy-makers and towards their clients. That means they spend as much time explaining the government to their clients as vice versa.

At a third level, we might ask: **which interests are best or least able to pursue their interests in the policy-making process, and why?** Which resources matter most, how equally are they distributed, and what does that mean for the fairness or effectiveness of the U.S. political system? This course addresses all three levels, with particular focus on the options from the perspective of an advocate.