LEcTURe 2

DISPlAYS

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September 7, 2001
KEY SYSTEMS QUESTIONS

▪ What are the subsystems – technical, economic, social, political and otherwise – involved?

▪ What is the degree and nature of their interaction, and where are the important feedback loops between subsystems?

▪ What is the nature and primary source of the system’s complexity – is the complexity mainly internal to the technological ‘artifact’ or related to the social components of the system? [e.g., space program vs. the “big dig” (see Tom Hughes’ Rescuing Prometheus)]

▪ What is the nature of the uncertainty of the system? When are the subsystems inherently unpredictable, and when is the uncertainty due to the interaction of the subsystems? This is a touchstone of ESD.10 and indeed all of TPP.

“Uncertainty is everywhere” -- deal with it.

▪ What is the scale (geographic, temporal, etc.) of the system; what is the magnitude and scope of its impacts? Is this an “important” problem?
KEY POLICY QUESTIONS

• What is the issue (problem)?

• What are the competing values and interests?

• Who are the stakeholders and what is their ability to change things?

• How do we negotiate a “solution” that appropriately weighs the competing interests?

• What methods are appropriate to study the issue?

• What is the process by which policy is changed?

• How does one implement the changed policy and make sure it works in practice?
COMPONENTS OF THE POLICY PROCESS

• Policy Analysis
• Policy Design
• Policy Entrepreneurship
• Decision Making
• Policy Implementation
Policy analysis is a discipline for working within political and economic systems, not for changing them.

Framework for Analysis:

1. Establishing the context.
2. Laying out the alternatives.
3. Predicting the consequences.
4. Valuing the outcomes.
5. Making a choice.

From A Primer for Policy Analysis
Chapter 1: Rational Decision-Making
by Edith Stokey and Richard Zeckhauser
How do we decide what a good decision is?

Welfare

What is Society?

The well-being of Society

Differences in Prediction vs. Differences in Values

The well-being of society depends solely on the welfare of its individual members.

Trade-offs among individuals must be made.

What do we mean by individual welfare?

Who shall be the judge of an individual’s welfare?

The individual (with some exceptions -- young children, e.g.)

How shall we measure individual welfare?

How is individual welfare enhanced?

A far more difficult problem: Evaluating Social Welfare

From A Primer for Policy Analysis
Chapter 13: Public Choice: To What Ends?
By Edith Stokey and Richard Zeckhauser