

## **Discussion Questions for 17.317, U.S. Social Policy**

### **Part III: The Policymaking-Process**

- This portion of the course examines how issues come on the political agenda and how several of the main policymaking institutions – Congress and the Courts in particular – function.

### **Problem Definition and Agenda Setting II**

- Here we discuss another view of agenda setting, the Baumgartner and Jones book
- What is a policy image? Can you think of examples? Who can influence the content of policy images, or change images?
- How does a condition become a problem in B+J's perspective? What are the roles played by problem definition and causal stories?
- What is a policy venue? Why might policy advocates want to change a policy venue? Who would want to change a policy venue?
- What is meant by the "scope of conflict," and who would want to expand it?
- Under what conditions is nonincremental policy change possible?
- What is a Schattschneider mobilization? A Downsian mobilization?
- What role do the media play?