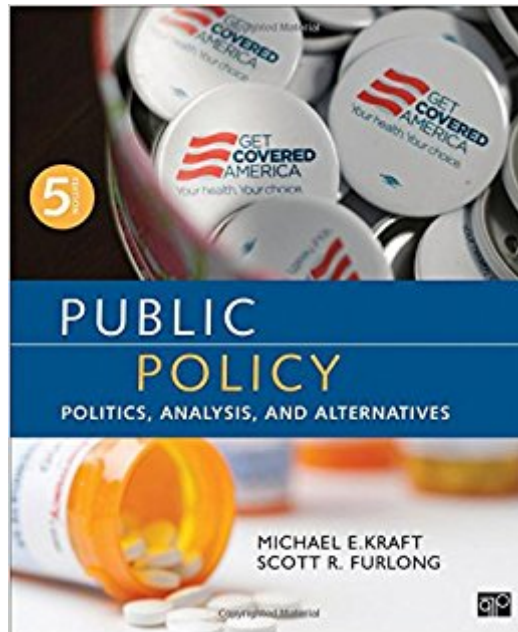


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Public Policy; Politics, Analysis, And Alternatives



Synopsis

Encouraging students to understand how and why policy analysis is used to assess policy alternatives, this book takes a fully integrated and evaluative approach to policy and arms students with all the analytic tools they need

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I have used other books, but Kraft and Furlong's Public Policy is appealing because it's broad enough to satisfy students' curiosities in different policy areas, yet specific enough to home on key issues, controversies, and topics." -- Marcus D. Mauldin

Michael E. Kraft is professor emeritus of political science and public affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. He is the author of, among other works, *Environmental Policy and Politics*, 6th ed. (2015) and coauthor of *Coming Clean: Information Disclosure and Environmental Performance* (2011), with Mark Stephan and Troy D. Abel. In addition, he is the coeditor of *Environmental Policy: New Directions in the 21st Century*, 9th ed. (2016), with Norman J. Vig; *Toward Sustainable Communities: Transition and Transformations in Environmental Policy*, 2nd ed. (2009), with Daniel A. Mazmanian; and *Business and Environmental Policy: Corporate Interests in the American Political System* (2007) and *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Environmental Policy* (2013), with Sheldon Kamieniecki. He has long taught courses in environmental policy and politics, American government, Congress, and public policy analysis. Scott R. Furlong is dean of the College

of Liberal Arts and Sciences and professor of political science and public affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. His areas of expertise are regulatory policy and interest group participation in the executive branch, and he has taught public policy for over twenty years. He is the author or coauthor of numerous book chapters and coauthor of *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Laws and Make Policy*, 4th ed. (2011), with Cornelius M. Kerwin. His articles have appeared in such journals as *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Public Administration, Research and Theory*, *Administrative Studies Quarterly*, *Administration and Society*, *American Review of Public Administration*, and *Policy Studies Journal*.

This is a fine textbook in public policy--largely because of its coverage of substantive policy areas. It is also hideously overpriced. As a college instructor, I am often stunned by what publishers do to their customers. There are many other texts that are equivalent but much less expensive. As a result, I would never adopt this text. Nonetheless, it is a fine volume. Part I considers the study of public policy. Three chapters are included: (1) a chapter on policy and politics; (2) another on relevant government institutions and policy actors; (3) chapter that focuses on understanding public policymaking (e.g., theories of policy, stages of the policy process, tools of policy). Part II looks at analyzing public policy. Three chapters also comprise this part: (1) an introduction to policy analysis; (2) problems and policy alternatives to address these; (3) assessing alternatives (including cost-benefit analysis). Finally, Part III. Here, we learn about various substantive policy fields. Included here: Economic and budgetary policy; Health Care Policy; Welfare and social security policy; Education policy; Environmental and energy policy; Foreign policy and homeland security. Each gives a sense of the issues associated with each policy arena. The last chapter concludes with a general evaluation of larger issues, such as citizen participation in public policy, policy and its impacts, and so on. The cost is way too high. The first two sections provide an introduction to the subjects, but (in my mind) do not provide enough detail for the reader to get a good idea of the issues at stake. Still and all, a good textbook with some drawbacks. . . .

The public policies contain a matter of public policies that implement the subject and topics clearly and well detailed. It covers most of the 21st century in light of the public policies that are being handled today. The best thing about this book is its insertion, and the number of policies that it contains from chapter to chapter. I would definitely purchase this book today.

But it was surprisingly enjoyable for a textbook. Very up to date and relevant.

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THANKS

Readable, affordable textbook with useful anecdotes, examples, charts, etc. Definitely good for an introductory public policy class and a very useful reference in this political climate.

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