



Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives, 4th Edition

By Michael E. Kraft, Scott R. Furlong

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All too often, public policy textbooks offer a basic grounding in the policy process without the benefit of integrating the use of policy analysis. Kraft and Furlong, since their first edition, take a different tack. They want students to understand how and why policy analysis is used to assess policy alternatives - not only to question the assumptions of policy analysts, but to recognize how analysis is used in support of political arguments. To encourage critical and creative thinking on issues ranging from the financial bailout to rising gas prices to natural disasters, the authors introduce and fully integrate an evaluative approach to policy. "Public Policy" starts with a concise review of institutions, policy actors, and major theoretical models. The authors then discuss the nature of policy analysis and its practice, and show students how to employ evaluative criteria in six substantive policy areas. "Public Policy" arms students with analytic tools they need to understand the motivations of policy actors-both within and outside of government-influence a complex, yet comprehensible, policy agenda. Enhancements to the 4th edition: all chapters have been comprehensively updated to include recent events, issues, and policy debates including the conduct of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the use of private contractors for military support and operations, the rising cost of gasoline and disputes over energy policy and climate change, the controversy over immigration policy, requirements for financial regulation, heightened concerns over economic and social inequality, and the clash over reforming taxes and entitlement programs, as well as dealing with the federal deficit and national debt; new and updated "working with sources" and "steps to analysis" features that help students to investigate sources of information and apply evaluative criteria; and, new and updated end-of chapter discussion questions, suggested readings, and web sites.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

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*.

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