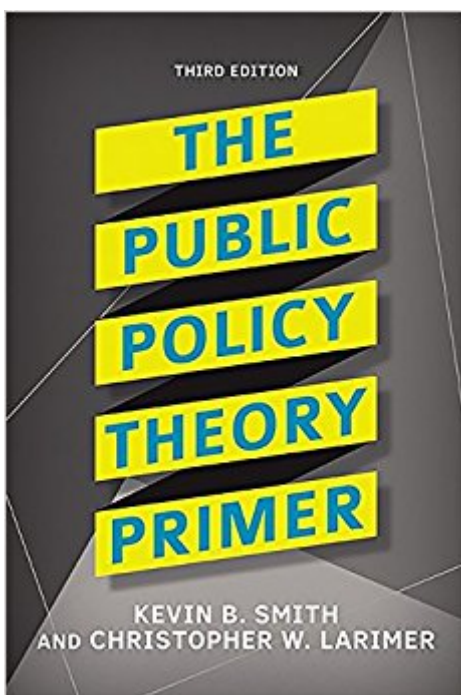


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The Public Policy Theory Primer



Synopsis

Public policy is a broad and interdisciplinary area of study and research in the field tends to reflect this. Yet for those teaching and studying public policy, the disjointed nature of the field can be confusing and cumbersome. This text provides a consistent and coherent framework for uniting the field of public policy. Authors Kevin B. Smith and Christopher W. Larimer offer an organized and comprehensive overview of the core questions and concepts, major theoretical frameworks, primary methodological approaches, and key controversies and debates in each subfield of policy studies from the policy process and policy analysis to program evaluation and policy implementation. The third edition contains the latest scholarship and approaches in the field, including new and expanded coverage of behavior economics, the narrative policy framework, implementation studies, the policy regime approach, and field experiments. Now with an appendix of sample comprehensive exam questions, The Public Policy Theory Primer remains an indispensable text for the systematic study of public policy.

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Praise for Prior Editions: The Public Policy Theory Primer will give students a '30,000 foot view' of the field of policy studies, and provide the necessary context and overview to process the wide variety of perspectives and approaches. This is the much-needed missing piece that will allow the next generation of policy scholars to move the field forward. —Robert Wood,

University of North Dakota; Much more than a primer, this text recognizes the changing dynamics of policy science, emphasizing the latest research in implementation studies. Perfect for graduate seminars and students studying for comprehensive examinations, just about everything you need to know about the field of policy science is in this book. — Jacqueline Vaughn, Northern Arizona University; Smith and Larimer's tour de force provides both summary and serious critique of the field of policy studies. It will contribute to the future development of the field by presenting both students and their professors the first serious holistic evaluation of the entire field, rather than the partial views usually addressed in texts. It will be the standard reference for years to come. — Bryan D. Jones, University of Texas at Austin

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