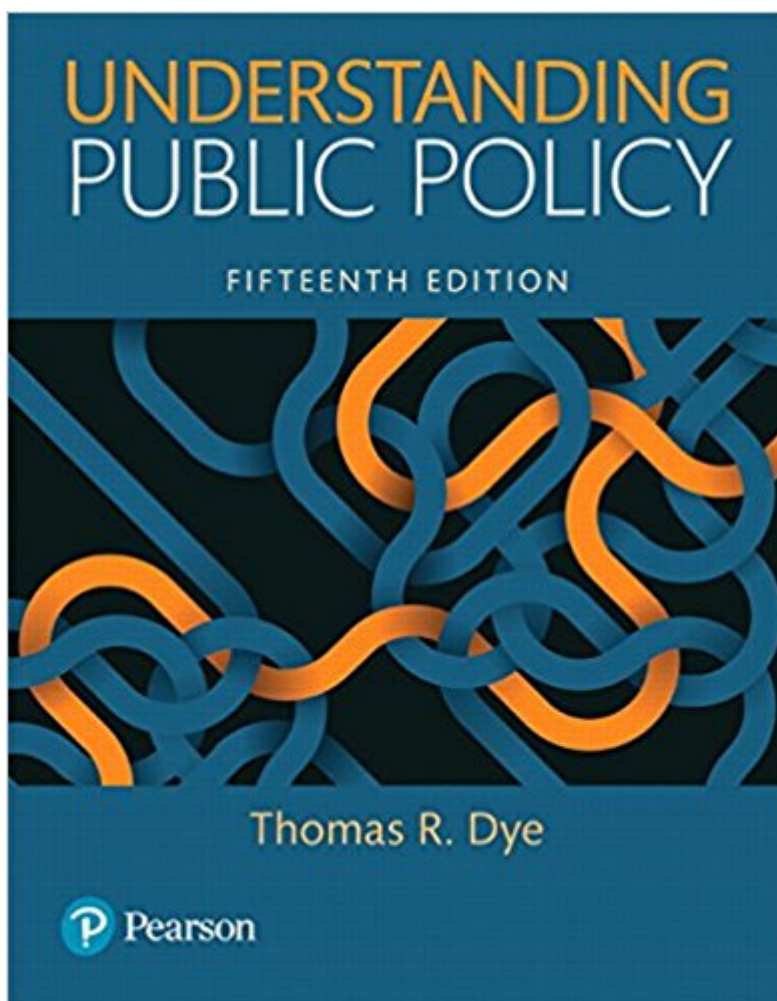


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Understanding Public Policy (15th Edition)



Synopsis

For courses in Public Policy An introduction to public policy that helps students learn how to think critically about politics. Understanding Public Policy provides an introduction to the study of public policy, as well as an overview of the models that political scientists use to describe and explain political life. Offering students the tools needed to analyze public policy, author Thomas Dye highlights why governments pursue particular policies, and helps students understand the consequences of these policy choices. The fifteenth edition has been updated to reflect the key issues that have defined President Obama's second term, with plenty of examples drawn from the headlines to help students see how public policy affects their own lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I would describe this textbook as a textbook that provides a lot of information in a succinct, easy to understand format. This textbook provides a sound link between theory and actual public policies thus providing a well-rounded text for an introduction to public policy course. "Jessica Ice, Florida State University It has an excellent, well-balanced coverage of the key issues that challenge our government. I would add that I admire it has been kept current as civilization and governance evolve." Minzi Su, Tennessee State University "The primary advantage of this book is the application of theories to different public policy areas. I find it an excellent opportunity to teach students about empirical approach in public policy: posing their own hypotheses and selecting theories that suit best their favorite public policy topics." "Olga Smirnova, East Carolina University The main strengths of the book include overall

comprehension, cohesiveness, and use of theories. Each chapter manages to cover a wide array of related concepts, and is densely packed with information. Yet, this is done with articulate brevity. My favorite aspect of this textbook is the use of different theories which makes this textbook an excellent tool to teach students how to empirically test theories. • • “Olga Smirnova, East Carolina University” --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Thomas R. Dye, Emeritus McKenzie Professor of Government at Florida State University, regularly taught large introductory classes in American politics. He received his B. A. and M. A. degrees from Pennsylvania State University and his Ph. D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of numerous books and articles on American government and public policy, including *The Irony of Democracy*; *Politics in States and Communities*; *Understanding Public Policy*; *Who’s Running America?*; *American Politics in the Media Age*; *Power in Society*; *Politics, Economics, and the Public*; and *American Federalism: Competition Among Governments*. His books have been translated into many languages, including Russian and Chinese, and published abroad. Dye has served as president of the Southern Political Science Association, president of the Policy Studies Organization, and secretary of the American Political Science Association. He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Georgia, and served as a visiting scholar at Bar-Ilan University, Israel; the Brookings Institution in Washington, D. C.; and elsewhere. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi and is listed in most major biographical directories.

I first studied public policy over 20 years ago and have purchased successive editions of Thomas Dye’s “*Understanding Public Policy*”. My current library has his fifth, eleventh and twelfth editions. I have had other editions - long discarded. I was always impressed by both the comprehensiveness and depth of his analysis of selected topics. Indeed I used it as a standard reference book in formulating my views on a range of topics even though I am an Australian looking at an American academic text book. I regarded it as far superior to many local public policy books. However, I recently obtained the fourteenth edition and found that it not only repeated a lot of old material about the policy models but that its actual treatment of topics lacked the depth of previous editions. It was simply an overview lacking much of the depth and opinion which has characterised his previous works. The chapter on the Environment was particularly disappointing and he seems to have backed off his legitimate critique of global warming and the “cost-benefit” analysis of particular courses of action. I am not suggesting that he should firmly adopt an opinion one way or the other

but at least the earlier versions made one think about the topic and what students and the general reader should consider in any analysis of the subject matter, whereas the latter version is simply a summary of the topic which you could get from any number of other policy sources. I thought this edition was not as good as its predecessors.

Yes, the book, like others have mentioned, is not unbiased. You'd be advised to go into it knowing that you're going to have to read around the bias to get something out of this book. However, I imagine that if you already realize that this book is biased then you won't drink the Kool-Aid. There are things I like about this book. It is straight forward and clear. I like the fact that the author has kept chapter lengths reasonable without a lot of unneeded fluff.

This book is apparently not compatible with Kindle for PC. It can also not be used on Kindle Cloud Reader. I have no other devices in order to try and use this. I have gone through three weeks of "support" with to try and get this fixed, and the "support" has become more and more ridiculous. Just get the physical book. I just placed an order for the physical book and will be requesting a full refund on the kindle book order.

Good quality

Great book Each chapter talks about different societal issues and the policies implemented for said issues, while also applying Political Science theories where applicable. My first class in Public Policy and it helped simplify what the whole public policy process is about. Definitely a book I would recommend!

I'm using this book to clarify public policy concepts for a graduate course. Contrary to other posts, Dye's writing style is not simple. He just avoids using all the jargon academics typically like to fill textbooks with. That jargon defeats the purpose of clarity for students. I appreciate the straight shooter writing style that is clear and easy to understand. The book is a good supplement to the more dense and difficult-to-read policy textbooks out there.

Way overpriced! This is a \$50 textbook at best. No wonder college costs keep rising!

Enjoyable read for academic pursuit. There are some unsupported statements throughout the book.

Most the material, however, is factual, with applicable references. Information is presented primarily from a historical context, with little emphasis on future policy-making. Thirteenth edition does discuss recent changes in federal policy and structure, i.e. chapters on Homeland Security, and Defense Policy.

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