



A 354413

PUBLIC POLICY PRAXIS
THEORY AND PRAGMATISM:
A CASE APPROACH

Randall S. Clemons

Mercyhurst College

Mark K. McBeth

Idaho State University

Prentice
Hall

UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NEW JERSEY 07458

CONTENTS

Preface vii

Part I Theory and Practice **1**

Chapter 1 Public Policy, Power, the People, Pluralism, and You **1**

Case: “Drug Abuse and Waterville” 1

Introduction 3

Value Conflict 3

A Political System 8

Public Policy and Linkage Mechanisms 11

Power and Policymaking 16

An Ideal (Direct) Democracy 16

Representative Democracy 19

Interest Group Democracy 20

Elitism 21

Elite Democracy: The Irony of Democracy 24

Effect of Power Structures on the Policy Analyst 25

Stakeholder Analysis 26

Concluding Thoughts 30

Key Concepts 30

Glossary Terms 31

References 31

*Case: Nightcrawlers and Cappuccino: The Old West versus
the New West* 32

Chapter 2 The Rational Public Policy Method 43

Genesis of the Rational Model	43
A Critical Reaction	47
The Rational Model	48
<i>Mini-Case: McNamara's Retrospective: Rational Decision Making?</i>	49
Rationality or Something Else?	52
<i>Mini-Case: The Small Town Health Clinic</i>	53
Model Evaluation	55
Concluding Thoughts	56
Key Concepts	57
Glossary Terms	57
References	57

Chapter 3 Critiques of the Rational Approach 58

Examples of the Power of Nonrational Explanations	58
Critiques of the Rational Model	60
<i>Mini-Case: Policy Analysis, Ethics, and Role</i>	67
Concluding Thoughts	77
Key Concepts	77
Glossary Terms	77
References	77

Chapter 4 The Nonrational (Political) Approach 79

Essence and Overview of the Policy Process	79
Problem Identification/Gaining Agenda Status	83
Policy Formulation, Adoption, and Funding	87
Policy Implementation	88
Policy Evaluation, Adjustment, Termination	88
<i>Mini-Case: The Pocatello Prison Siting Story: A Case of Politics</i>	89
Concluding Thoughts	93
Key Concepts	93
Glossary Terms	93
References	93
<i>Case: The Expansion of Human Services in Allegheny County, 1968-95</i>	94

Part II Practice and Theory 133**Chapter 5 A Pragmatic Public Policy Analysis Method 133**

The Rational Public Policy Analysis Method: History and Form	134
A Five-Step Method	136
Summary of the Five-Step Method	150

Concluding Thoughts	150
Key Concepts	151
Glossary Terms	152
References	152
<i>Case: Playing Politics: Bison, Brucellosis, Business, and Bureaucrats</i> 152	
Chapter 6 Postpositivist Problem Definition and Praxis	175
The Two Tracks of Policy Analysis	175
The Ambiguous and Subjective Nature of Events in the System	182
What Is the “Truth” and How Are Policies Generated?	190
Stone’s Symbolic Representation of Problem Definition	194
Other Critics of Positivism	196
Postpositivist Tools	198
Using Language in Problem Definition: The Yellowstone Bison Controversy	205
Concluding Thoughts	213
Key Concepts	214
Glossary Terms	214
References	214
<i>Case: School Shooting and Focus Group Research: A Postpositivist Method of Problem Definition</i> 217	
Appendix 6-1: Governor’s Statement on Diseased Bison	224
Appendix 6-2: Focus Groups and the Yellowstone Bison Controversy	226
Appendix 6-3: Content Analysis and the Bison Case	229
Chapter 7 Doing Democracy: A New Fifth Step	234
Defining Democracy	234
Structuring Democracy	244
Democratizing Steps I–IV and the New Fifth Step	250
Doing Democracy: A Postpositivist Approach	253
Ethics as Democracy	265
Concluding Thoughts	268
<i>Mini-Case: Southern-Fried Analyst</i> 268	
Key Concepts	268
Glossary Terms	269
References	269
Chapter 8 The Positivist Toolbox	271
Introduction	272
Sheila the Policy Analyst	274
Tool #1: Sampling and Mail Surveys	274
Tool #2: Extrapolation and Forecasting	287

Tool #3: Measures of Central Tendency	290
Tool #4: Deflating Money	294
Tool #5: Per Capita Analysis	297
Tool #6: Discounting	298
Tool #7: Cost Benefit Analysis	302
Concluding Thoughts	317
Key Concepts	317
Glossary Terms	317
References	317
Problems	318
Answers to Problems	320

Part III Praxis 321

Chapter 9 The Conclusion: Praxis 321

<i>Mini-Case: Drug Abuse and Waterville</i>	322
Concluding Thoughts	323

Appendix: Researching on the Net 324

Use of the Internet for Research	324
Evaluating Internet Sites	325
Key Sites	327
Concluding Thoughts	329

Glossary 330

Index 334