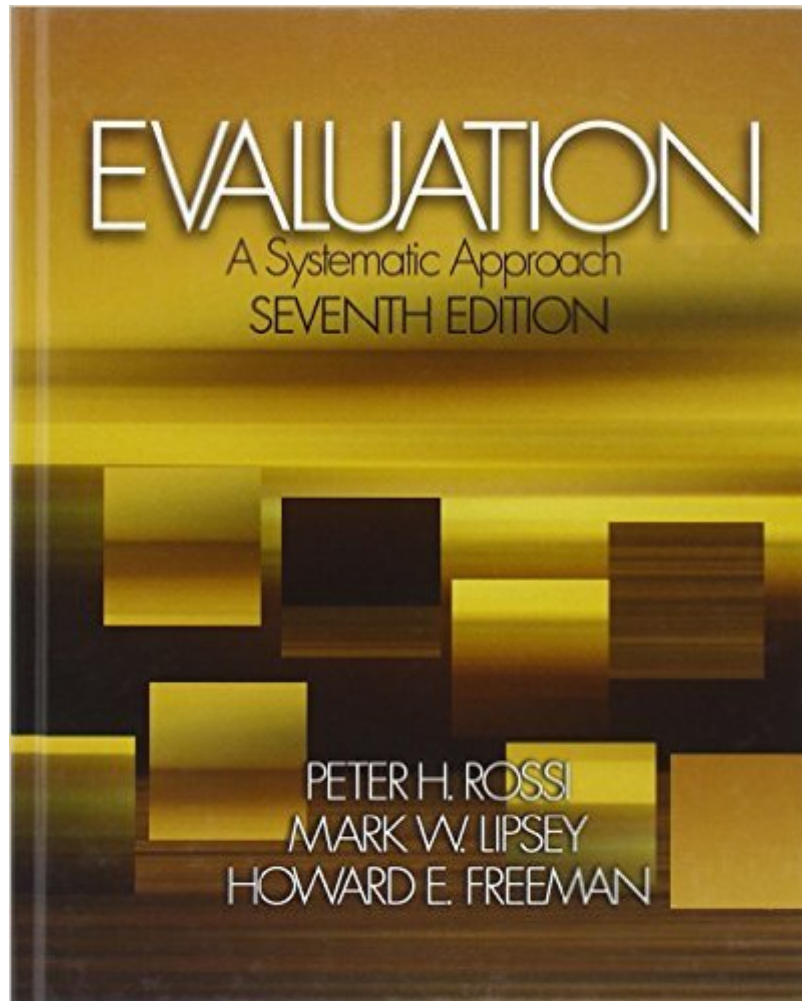


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Evaluation: A Systematic Approach, 7th Edition



Synopsis

Since Peter H. Rossi, Mark W. Lipsey, and Howard E. Freeman first published *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach*, more than 90,000 readers have considered it the premier text on how to design, implement, and appraise social programs through evaluation. In this, the completely revised Seventh Edition, authors Rossi and Lipsey include the latest techniques and approaches to evaluation as well as guidelines to tailor evaluations to fit programs and social contexts. With decades of hands-on experience conducting evaluations, the authors provide scores of examples to help students understand how evaluators deal with various critical issues. They include a glossary of key terms and concepts, making this the most comprehensive and authoritative evaluation text available. Thoroughly revised, the Seventh Edition now includes

- * Substantially more attention to outcome measurement
- * Lengthy discussions of program theory, including a section about detecting program effects and interpreting their practical significance
- * An augmented and updated discussion of major evaluation designs
- * A detailed exposition of meta-analysis as an approach to the synthesis of evaluation studies
- * Alternative approaches to evaluation
- * Examples of successful evaluations
- * Discussions of the political and social contexts of evaluation

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Customer Reviews

While this is a good resource book to sit on the shelf, it is not an interesting, insightful, or enjoyable read. It is one of the most boring textbooks I have ever had to read. My professor was right: I will use this when I am a practitioner, but as a student, it is tough to get through. There are MANY,

MANY spelling mistakes. Whoever edited this book should be ashamed. I can't wait until I am done this class so i never have to read through the book again. STUDENT TIP: Don't bother reading each chapter in its entirety; only read the summaries at the end of each chapter.

Evaluation: A Systematic Approach, 7th Edition, by Rossi et al., is the required textbook for CJ 6392, at Sam Houston State University. This review is solely my opinion and NOT the opinion of SHSU, the faculty, or the CJ program. I don't like this book. First, the Kindle Edition is \$100. The hardback is only \$5 more. E-books don't need to be this expensive. This price is ridiculous. Secondly, the book is hard to read. There are many unnecessary words and paragraphs which say nothing about the subject. The text reads like a very boring paper written by someone who is trying to fill out a three hundred page book in order to charge students \$100 for the Kindle edition. Lastly, the information presented is done in a way that is not interesting to me. As I read through the chapters, I couldn't help to think the author's were getting paid for each comma they used to make long sentences seem scholarly. See? I could have used the word "erudite" to make this sentence more understandable, but opted instead for a word that was clear, concise, and to the point. If you have to read this book, I suggest not while operating heavy machinery or while driving. Here are my pros and cons: Pros: Um... There aren't any Cons: Poor format for a textbook; E-book too expensive, writing is horrible, authors don't present the material in an engaging and interesting way. I hope the authors read this review and consider an "8th Edition" that is more interesting, easier to read, and less cost inflated.

Lots of fluf, hard to read, harder to generate interest. 90% of this book is useless content, written only for the author's self-gratification and an egotistical infatuation with admiring their own complex writing style. Good opportunity for the writers to show off at a cocktail party among other PHDs, not very good for students.

The prose in this book is so convoluted and each point takes so long to develop that you'll be soon asleep. What's worse, the book is neither a solid academic overview of the field nor is it a useful handbook for the practitioner. Rossi and his co-authors make many attempts to give us the grand theoretical frameworks but they quickly get lost in qualifying themselves into a tepid soup in which nothing is ever black or white, hot or cold, true or false. Although there are some capsule summaries and references to real programmes, these callouts are helpful only to break the tedium. They are not presented in sufficient detail that normal people could ever learn from them. There is never any

clear instruction about how one should begin an evaluation or how one should proceed. Possibly this book is useful for an intermediate-to-advanced evaluation practitioner who is interested in comparing his broad generalizations with Rossi's.

Too many stories and not enough depth. Might be great for a VERY simple introduction and for someone who loves tons of examples, but I found myself skipping half the book and wanting more in-depth details. Maybe it would work for an undergrad class, but definitely not a graduate level book.

I found this book to be moderately helpful, although I found the format to be somewhat cumbersome and confusing. In order to successfully write an evaluation proposal I had to use this book in tandem with other resources. There are plenty of foundations that offer step-by-step guidelines for conducting an evaluation, for free. This book is not worth its cost.

I am a PhD student in Public Health taking a master's level course in evaluation. I can say that based on prior coursework and work experience that there is quite a bit in this book that is useful. However, is its prose dense and convoluted? Yes, very much so. The authors could benefit from applying some of the systematic approach of the title and re-organize the book according to the stages of evaluation rather than broad principles. The book probably could be 50-75% of what it is currently and still cover the relevant areas in sufficient detail. Reading the headings is sometimes sufficient in each chapter as there are few instances of case studies where solid and practical advice is presented.

Required material for grad students: the nuts and bolts of evaluation is here without the entertainment factor one usually expects from a textbook. Excellent as a sleep aid. I call it Ambien on Paper. I would prescribe this to anyone that has difficulty falling asleep. I can usually get through about 3 pages. Acceptable for daytime or nighttime use. The other reviewers that noted the repetitive nature of the text are correct. This book could use some slash-and-burn editing. The case examples, however, are illuminating.

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