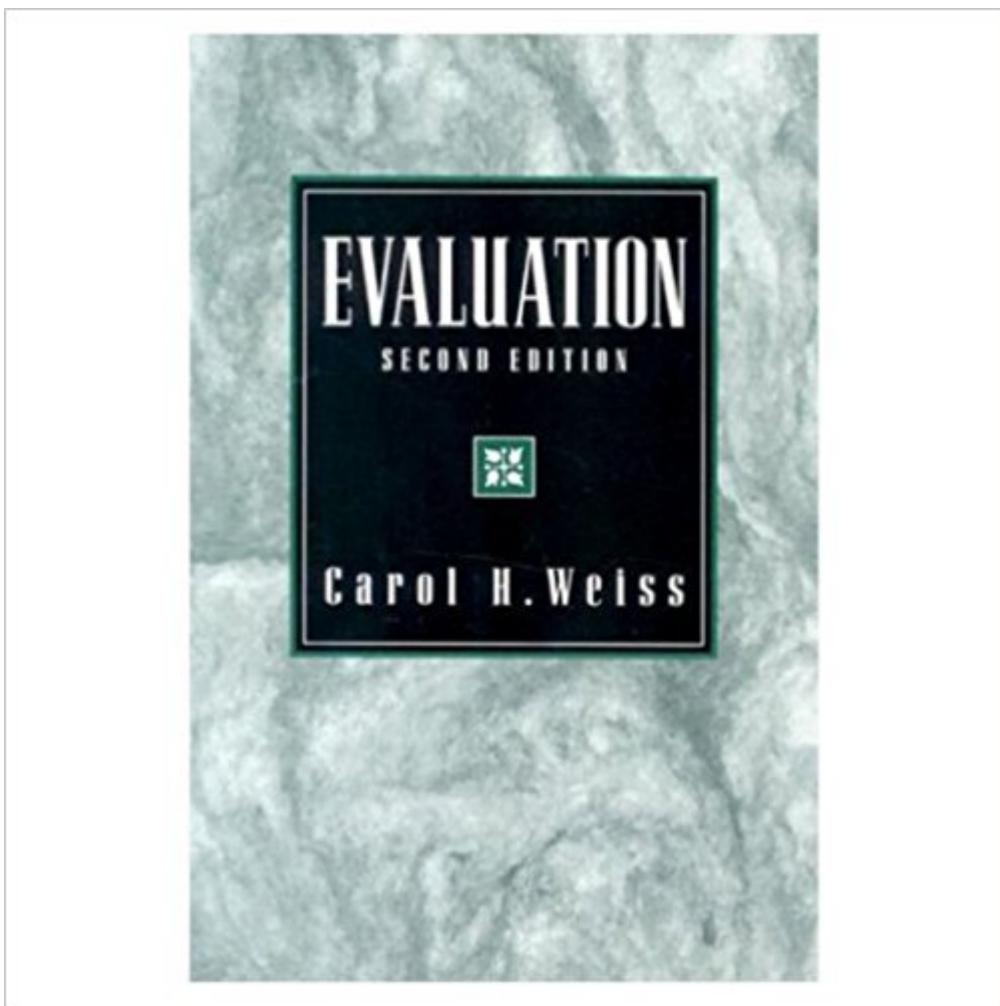


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# Evaluation: Methods For Studying Programs And Policies, 2nd Edition



## **Synopsis**

This timely and accessible guide on the conduct of evaluation studies explores how we apply research methods in evaluating social programs, illustrating its points with reference to a variety of fields, including education, social services, and criminal justice. Offers practical advice on understanding the reasons for the study, identifying key questions to be answered, and planning and implementing the overall design of the study, including measurement, qualitative methods of inquiry, data collection, analysis, reporting, and dissemination. Stresses that understanding the underlying theory of the program is essential to developing the most appropriate evaluation, and emphasizes the need to take ethical considerations into account all along the course of the study. Covers meta-analysis, cost-benefit analysis and includes a non-technical discussion of the logic of data analysis. Includes references to further sources on measurement, existing longitudinal data sets, statistics, and qualitative analysis. For professionals in psychology, sociology, public health, public policy/affairs, education, and criminal justice.

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## **Customer Reviews**

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This book was surprisingly easy to read and comprehend. As a grad student, you get used to books and articles that are seemingly written solely to prove that the author is smarter than you. This book was a breath of fresh air! It has been easy and enjoyable to read, as well as providing useful knowledge, proving that readings do not have to maintain an 80% or higher rate of seven syllable words to impart wisdom. Carol Weiss has a new fan!

The content of the book is pretty great! However, the quality of the book is not, as I started reading the first chapter, pages started coming out. This is not a cheap book, so I expected better in this regard.

I agree with the second reviewer of this book who reviewed it in 1999 and which I quote following this sentence. "Weiss fails to place the concept of evaluation within a larger theoretical framework. Her book contains a short discussion of the political legislation that triggered the growth of evaluation science, but it does not outline the assumptions or the alternatives behind the legislation. Evaluation is best used as a reference for clarification on particular evaluation research issues, and not as a text from which to understand the implicit assumptions of evaluation science." I agree particularly with the reviewer's last statement that EVALUATION is best used a reference book, and that's how I will use it in the future.

This book was assigned as our main textbook for a Program Analysis & Evaluation course. I thought the book was organized well, but it's also possible to skip around and read the chapters out of order. Weiss is able to include a lot of detail and cover a lot of ground while still being engaging. This is definitely a book I'll be keeping for reference as I continue down a research path.

Weiss' writing style is very consumable and accessible. It also gives a reasonable scope of the politics behind evaluation, and - combined with a wonderful professor - this has been a very useful

tool to teach me evaluation approaches, skills, considerations, and ways of thinking.

Thank you!!

I purchase this because it is a required textbook. The book and delivery met expectations. The book is pricey for the quality of paper and print. Hence the four stars rather than five.

The author is very clear and concise, very helpful, although the author takes some odd liberties such as referring to a control group as a comparison group, she really should keep her book up to par with scientific terminology and not just make up her own.

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