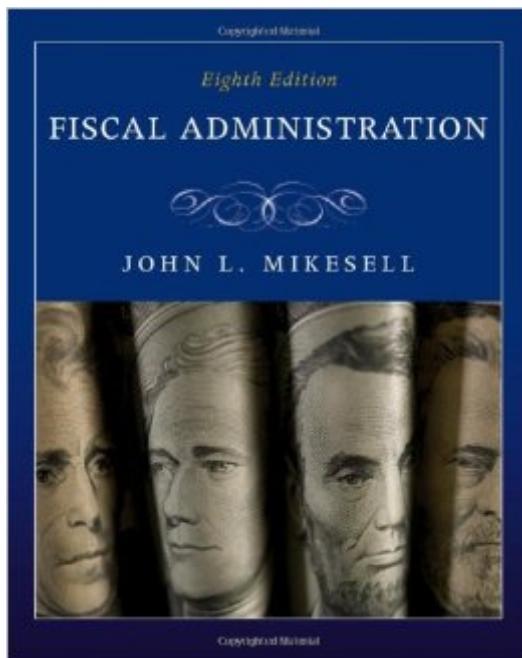


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Fiscal Administration



Synopsis

Ever wonder how federal finance really works? **FISCAL ADMINISTRATION**, Eighth Edition, shows you how public budgets operate and gives you the opportunity to crunch the numbers. With the Obama administration budget information and data from the U.S. federal budget, including its breakdown, you can see for yourself how policymakers allocate money. Plus, each chapter includes stories for discussion from the private sector as well as from public finance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Are you looking for this book for your MPA course? Save some money and buy an older edition.

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I use this book in a public budgeting graduate class. For people with limited knowledge of public budgeting or fiscal administration in general, this book leaves much to be desired. A certain base knowledge is required and one must be able to decode the private language of budget scholars to understand the writings. Examples are frequently presented with no clear connection to the text. This book is regarded as one of the best, but I would not recommend it for anyone without prior knowledge of the subject or to someone looking for a quick and easy explanation of budgeting.

I am currently using this book for a graduate-level public budgeting course for a ranked MPA

program. Mikesell's textbook is a poorly written, discursive and convoluted in scope. There are several basic grammatical errors in this textbook, and this is coming from someone whose first language is not English. The end-of-chapter computational problems are difficult to complete because nowhere in the chapters does the author explain how to do the problems. There is also too much information crammed into each paragraph; I'm lucky if I can read three pages in a row in one sitting. The author does not write well; he uses too many block quotes and lists (e.g, (1), (2), (3)...). Therefore, this book does not read well, and the information he tries to provide does not register in the mind. Most of my classmates have the same complaints as the ones I listed above. This book agitating for many to read, even for someone with a fairly solid economic background. Therefore, I'd strongly recommend not to use this book if at all possible. But to balance out this criticism with some good points, the first chapter is relatively easy to read and useful.

This was one of two books assigned for the public finance & budget course in my MPP program, along with Schick's book dealing exclusively with the federal budget (I recommend that one too, actually). Frankly I'm a little stunned by some of these negative reviews, as my experience with this book hasn't matched theirs whatsoever. I think the author does an excellent job of conveying critical concepts about budgeting and budget development. He spends a fair amount of time on budgeting processes and practices at both the federal and subnational levels. The information is readily digestible and easily internalized, which is partly a testament to the book's organization. It can be a bit long-winded at times, but let's face it, how many textbook authors aren't? If you have little background in budgeting (like me), this is a good book with which to navigate the budgetary waters for the first time. Perhaps the greatest testament I can offer is that the book SIGNIFICANTLY enhanced my appreciation for and ability to engage with the process surrounding President Obama's first budget this past spring. To the reviewer who complained that the calculations for the exercises were too hard: it's not a math book and nor should it be, simply because, as Mikesell points out, budgeting is more than crunching numbers. It's a political and policy process. Plus - and I mean this seriously - the calculations should be easy for anyone who's had high school algebra. I mean come on already.

Once again, I had to purchase this book for another course in my MPA program. My review is probably bias as I didn't like the course. If it wasn't required, this is something I would not have selected. Perhaps the course would have been a little better had the professor selected a different book.

Book is somewhat difficult to read and understand. You need to do a lot of research in order to find related information in an easy and understandable way. Needed it for a class and so far I expend more time trying to understand the book and its content than anything else.

This textbook is very handy when seeking information in regards to financial causes as well as possible solutions. The text is easy to follow and does not read above the understanding of the college student. Great textbook

This book might be a better read if the font style and type was different. The inclusion of a better index and a glossary with a vocabulary section at the end of each chapter including a chapter summary would be helpful. This book was a great disappointment when you think of the ridiculous price charged for it. I paid \$165.00 plus shipping and handling. CK Enterprise

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