Program Evaluation
15:291:520
Fall Semester 2015
Room 208, GSE

Instructor: Greg Camilli

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:45 pm. to 3:45 PM *and by appointment* (best method for insuring sufficient time). I will not be available on "no class" days.

Office Location: GSE building, Room 325

Meeting Details: Classes will meet Tuesdays from 4:50 to 7:30 PM in the computer lab (room 208) of the Graduate School of Education building. Class meets from 9/1 to 12/15. **Please** be aware that according to the University calendar, we will not meet on 9/8 (for both graduate and undergraduate levels, the first **Monday** class of the semester meets on 9/8). Plan your schedule accordingly. Also according to the University calendar, we will meet the week of Thanksgiving. Attendance of the first class and the class Thanksgiving week is mandatory. If you miss a class for reasons beyond your control, note that assignments and reviews (shorts tests) are still due by the designated dates (see below).

Texts and Materials:
        Evaluation: A Systematic Approach (7th Edition) by Rossi, Lipsey, & Freeman. **The 7th edition is required**. The first two chapters are given on the Sakai course website.
        Readings (To be supplied on Sakai)

Software:
        SPSS and Excel (required). This software is available for use in the GSE computer lab (room 208 of the GSE). We will be conducting some statistical analyses at the introductory level, but the focus of the class is not on statistics. SPSS and Excel are available at a number of University computing labs, see https://oit-nb.rutgers.edu/labs for details.

Overview:
        This course provides an introduction to concepts in program evaluation. The focus is on theory, concepts, and terminology, and descriptive statistics. The course does not provide field experience in program evaluation, but a number of real examples are emphasized. The topics of school and teachers evaluation are briefly introduced.

Objectives:
1.   To develop a conceptual understanding of the goals and methods of program evaluation. In short, the goal is to communicate what evaluation is about and why one would conduct a program evaluation.

2.   To develop knowledge about the essential elements of a program evaluation.

3.   To assess the adequacy of an evaluation design. In other words, how well did a program evaluation meet its objectives?

4.   To gain modest facility with SPSS software and Excel spreadsheets. This involves the computation and interpretation of basic descriptive statistics and graphics.

Course Schedule:

Class	Date	Topic(s)	Chapter	Assignment/Review	Due
1	9/1	Review Syllabus; Overview of Program Evaluation	1		
	9/8	**no class**	2	Excel Assignment (online/remote)	Opens: 9/9 8:00 AM Closes: 9/14 5:00 PM
				Review on chapters 1-2 (online/remote)	Same as above, but limited to 1.5 hours
2	9/15	Tailoring Evaluations; ID Issues & Formulate Questions	3		
3	**9/22**	**no class**	4	Excel Assignment (online/remote)	Opens: 9/24 8:00 AM Closes: 9/28 5:00 PM
				Review on chapters 3-4 (online/remote)	Same as above, but limited to 1.5 hours
4	9/29	Assessing Need			
5	10/6	Program Theory	5		
6	10/13	Program Process	6		
7	10/20	Monitoring Outcomes	7		
8	10/27	Experiments	8		
9	11/3	Designs	9	Review on chapters 5-8 (online/in class)	Opens: 5:10 PM Closes: 5:45 PM
10	11/10	Program Effects	10		
11	11/17	Measuring Efficiency	11		
12	11/24	Social Context	12	Final Assignment for SPSS/Excel (in class)	Opens: 5:10 PM Closes: 6:10 PM
	12/1	**no class**	Readings TBA	Review on chapters 9-12 (online/remote)	Opens: 12/2 8:00 AM Closes: 12/7 5:00 PM Limited to 1.5 hours
13	12/8	Discussion of readings and wrap-up			
14	12/15	Final Exam		(online/ in class)	

Attendance:

Your attendance at class meetings is very important, particularly because we'll meet only once per week. I will give extra credit (3 points max) for course participation in two modes: (1) class discussion, and (2) submission of thoughtful questions and responses to the class discussion forum. Absences will reduce extra credit. I won't cover material in missed lectures during office hours, but slides will be available for every class on Sakai. You can also ask questions (but not about Reviews or Examinations) on the class discussion forums.

Evaluation:

Your performance in this course will be evaluated based on the homework, and one final examination.

Reviews (4)	40 points
Assignments (3)	30 points
Final Examination	50 points

The reviews (short tests) will consist of 5 multiple choice questions and Excel or an SPSS exercise. Online reviews taken at home are "open-book," but cannot be completely with help. To take a review, go to the Test & Quizzes folder on the course website.

Excel and SPSS assignments are not timed. For the final examination, there will be 20 multiple choice and 10 short-answer questions covering material from the designated readings, class discussions, and discussion forum. To submit an assignment, go to the folder "Assignment 2" on the Sakai website.

The final exam must be taken in class on December 15. It cannot be taken later, but it can be taken December 14 in my office in case of an emergency (you must submit documentation).

Policy on Academic Integrity:

Please refer to the Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students by going to http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/documents/ and clicking "Academic Integrity Policy." It is your responsibility to be familiar with the terms of this policy. As graduate students, you are held to a higher standard than undergraduates. It's also good to read the policy to protect yourself from possibly well-intentioned, but impermissible, requests for help. If you observe a violation, you can report it to me or the chair of the Department Clark Chinn.