

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
(314) 921-6500

PROGRAM EVALUATION  
WGST 505001; POLS 585001

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course covers both the theory and methods of program evaluation. It will provide students with a basic understanding of the approaches and techniques social scientists use to evaluate human service programs. Attention will also be given to the social and political contexts within which social programs operate and are evaluated. To reflect on and engage with the process of program evaluation, students will work in teams during the semester to design an evaluation plan that can be implemented by a local human service agency or educational program.

As an applied process of inquiry, program evaluation involves drawing conclusions about both an empirical state of affairs (that something is the case) and the worth or value of a program. The latter

## PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## TEXTS

The following required texts are:

- Starbuck, Peter H. Rossi, Mark W. Lipsey, and Howard E. Freeman. *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach*, 7th edition. Sage Publications, 2004.
- Patton, Michael Quinn. *Utilization-Focused Evaluation*, 4th edition. Sage Publications, 2008.
- Patton, Michael Quinn. *How to Use Qualitative Methods in Evaluation*. Sage Publications, 1987.
- Yin, Robert K. *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*, 5th edition. Sage Publications, 2014.

There are additional assigned articles. Most are available on Blackboard.

, Something that has implications for your evaluation proposal.

Open

violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member

## COURSE OUTLINE

*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. Any changes will be announced at the beginning of the regularly scheduled class periods.*

## CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS



\*Lawrence H. Gard, et al., "Evaluation of a Single Presentation Format for Education about Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV Disease)", *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* 21(12): 1034-38 (1991).

March 27 Outcome evaluation: Qualitative methods

Michael Quinn Patton, *How to Use Qualitative Methods in Evaluation*, Chs. 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7

\*Lawrence B. Mohr, excerpt from *Impact Analysis for Program Evaluation*, 2nd ed. (Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage Publications, 1995), pp. 259-273

Rebecca A. Lee and J.C.M. Shute, "An Approach to Naturalistic Evaluation", *Evaluation Review* 15(2): 254-65 (1991).

April 3: Case study research

Yin, chs. 1, 2, 5

Joel H. Brown and Marianne D'Emidio Caston, "On Becoming 'At Risk' Through







B. Table of contents, including the headings and subheadings presented in the proposal.

## H. Budget

1. Describe how many people will be needed for each activity in F and G above.
2. Describe what each person's activities will be and how many days they will contribute to the evaluation.
3. Include summaries of the amount of money each person will be paid per day and a total salary per individual and task.
4. Determine rough travel expenses and supply expenditures.
5. Summarize the total budget in a table.

## I. Bibliography