

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

**SW-547 - Evaluative Research**

Course Outline

Fall 2003

2003-2004 Academic Year – Fall Semester

Class time: Monday 5:30-8:30

Office Hour: By Appointment

Instructor: Debra Bartelli, DrPH

Office Phone: 725-1334

Home Phone: 725-4932

Email: [debrabar@bellsouth.net](mailto:debrabar@bellsouth.net)

**Course Requirements**

A. Readings

Basic texts have been selected and readings are listed in the bibliography. Additional readings may be assigned in class. In addition to assigned articles, students are encouraged to read from the recommended selections and independently from the professional journals.

B. Assignments and Evaluation

The course grade is based on a combination of class participation, presentations, quizzes, evaluation proposal, and a final paper and will be computed on the following parts.

10%	(10 points)	Class participation
10%	(10 points)	2 quizzes worth 5 points each
10%	(10 points)	Weekly assignments
20%	(20 points)	Evaluation proposal
20%	(20 points)	Class presentation
30%	(30 points)	Final paper

The grading scale is as follows:

A	90-100 points
B+	87-89 points
B	80-86 points
C+	77-79 points
C	70-76 points
D+	67-69 points
D	60-66 points
F	<60 points

## **Required Texts:**

Rossi, Peter H., Freeman, Howard E., & Lipsey, Mark W. (1999). Evaluation: a Systematic Approach, 6th edition. California: Sage Publications.

Patton, Michael Q. (2002). Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. California: Sage Publications.

## **Weekly Assignments:**

There will be brief written assignments for most weeks during the course. These assignments are designed to assist you in developing your research proposal and your final paper.

## **Project Evaluation Proposal Criteria:**

Select a program evaluation research problem which is of interest or concern to you. Ideally, you will select a problem identified in your field placement. You may choose community needs assessment, program monitoring, outcome assessment, or other programmatic or managerial issues to address.

Evaluation proposals must address the following:

- Description of the agency/setting in which the evaluation will take place including:
  - Issue/problem addressed by the agency/program
  - Target population served
  - Services provided
  - Evaluation context
  - Expected outcomes
- The nature of the programmatic problem chosen to evaluate
- The type of evaluation you will use to study this problem
- The rationale for choosing a particular evaluation method to study the problem.
- Justification of the need to conduct the evaluation study with appropriate literature review and references. Justification should include:
  - What has been done in the past
  - What is known and not known
  - Theoretical or conceptual assumptions of the program
- A set of evaluation hypotheses or research questions which you will use to guide and/or test in your study.

In addition to the above, technical aspects of the proposals will also be assessed (format, spelling, grammar, etc.)

## **Criteria for Final Paper:**

You will be expected to carry out and report on the proposed evaluation study during the course of the semester. (Incorporate revised proposal into final paper.) In addition to the above, the final paper will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. Introduction and Background
2. Methods
  - A. Sample
    - a. What kind of sampling technique did you use?
    - b. What was the sample size?
    - c. How representative of the program population is your sample
  - B. Data collection techniques
  - C. Design
    - a. What type of design was used?
    - b. Discussion of any internal/external validity issues
3. Measurement
  - A. What were your variables?
  - B. How were your variables operationalized?
  - C. Are there any measurement reliability and validity issues that should be discussed?
4. Type of Analysis
  - A. What type of analysis did you use?
  - B. What statistical tests were employed, if any?
5. Outcome
  - A. What were the results of the evaluation?
  - B. What were the problems, if any, encountered?
6. Discussion
  - A. What are the implications of the results?
  - B. What recommendations do you have for the program?
7. Tables and Graphs
  - A. Attach any tables and graphs that will help the reader understand the analysis and refer to these in the body of the paper.
8. Technical Issues (Page numbers, headings, spelling, grammar, etc.)

### **Readings and Outline:**

#### **Class 1: August 25**

Structure of the course

Introduction to Evaluative Research

Understanding Evaluative Research

**Assignment 1: Due Sept. 8**

**Class 2: September 8**

Purposes of Evaluative Research  
History and Theories of Evaluation  
Overview of Evaluative Research in Social Work

Readings:

Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey – Chapter 1

Grinnell, R.M., Jr. (2001). Introduction to research. In R.M. Grinnell, Jr. (Ed.), *Social work research and evaluation: Quantitative and qualitative approaches* (6th ed., pp. 1-19). Itasca, IL: F.E. Peacock Publishers.

**Assignment 2: Due Sept. 15**

**Class 3: September 15**

Types of Evaluation  
Determining Community Needs and Program Goals  
    Conducting an evaluability assessment  
    Conceptualizing and operationalizing program goals and objectives  
    Conducting a community needs assessment  
    Tailoring evaluations to programs (goals and objectives, formative and summative evaluations, evaluability assessments)  
    Eliciting, expressing and assessing program theory

Readings:

Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey – Chapters 3, 4, 5

Mohr, L. B. (1992). Impact analysis for program evaluation (2nd ed.) Newbury Park: Sage. (Chapters 1-4)

**Assignment 3: Due Sept. 22**

**Class 4: September 22**

Types of Evaluation (continued)  
    Monitoring (process)  
    Program outcomes/impacts

Cost benefit and cost effectiveness analysis  
Quality assurance

Readings:

Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey – Chapters 6, 7, & 11

**Assignment 4: Due Sept. 29**

**Class 5: September 29**

Research questions and evaluative hypotheses  
Theory and Literature Review  
Research Designs for Evaluative Research  
    Quasi- and experimental designs  
    Cross-sectional, exploratory and qualitative designs

Readings:

Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey – Chapters 8, 9, 10

Cook, T.D. & Campbell, D.T. (1979). Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. Chapter 1.

**No Assignment (Evaluation Proposals due Oct. 6)**

**Class 6: October 6**

Research Design (continued)  
    Internal and external validity

Readings:

Cook, T.D. & Campbell, D.T. (1979). Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. Chapter 2.

**EVALUATION PROPOSAL DUE**

**Class 7: October 13**

Sampling  
Review, units of analysis, variables, levels of measurement

Readings:

Taylor-Powell, E. (1998). Program development and evaluation: Sampling. College Station, TX: Texas A & M Agricultural Extension Service. (Accessible on-line at: [http://cf.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/pdf/G3658\\_3.PDF](http://cf.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/pdf/G3658_3.PDF))

Patton – Part 2, Chapter 5

**Assignment 5: Due Oct. 20**

**Class 8: October 20**

Quantitative vs. Qualitative Research:

Data collection

Secondary and primary data

Interviews, surveys, telephone, participant observation

Readings:

Patton – Chapters 1, 4, & review Chapter 5

**Assignment 6: Due Oct. 27**

**Class 9: October 27**

Measurement Issues

Standardized scales and survey questionnaires

Reliability and measurement validity

Bias

Readings:

Review Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey – Chapter 7

Nurlus, P.S. & Hudson, W.W. (1993). Human services practice, evaluation and computers. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks-Cole Publishing Company. Chapter 7.

**Assignment 7: Due Nov. 3**

**Class 10: November 3**

Data Analysis

Graphic and tabular presentation of evaluative research findings

Reporting and disseminating evaluation results

Descriptive statistics  
Understanding chi square, correlation, T-tests

Readings:

Mohr, L. B. (1992). Impact analysis for program evaluation (2nd ed.)  
Newbury Park: Sage. (Chapters 5-10).

**Assignment 8: Due Nov. 10**

**Class 11: November 10**

Cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis

Readings:

Review Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey – Chapter 11

Review Mohr, L. B. (1992). Impact analysis for program evaluation (2nd ed.)  
(Chapters 5-10). Newbury Park: Sage.

**Assignment 9: Due Nov. 17**

**Class 12: November 17**

Selecting an external evaluator  
What to consider  
What to expect

No Reading Assignment

**Assignment 10: Due Nov. 24**

**Class 13: November 24**

Ethical Issues in Evaluative Research

Political and organizational factors involved in the planning, conduct, and  
interpretation of evaluation research  
Professional guidelines for the ethical conduct of evaluation research  
Human subjects protection and informed consent  
Avoiding bias and understanding the perspectives of minority and

disadvantaged groups in the conduct and interpretation of evaluation research

Readings:

Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey – Chapter 12

Patton – Pages 269-273; 405-415

Madison, A. (Ed.) (1992). Minority issues in program evaluation. New Directions for Program Evaluation, 43. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

NASW Code of Ethics in Research (Handout)

**Class 14: December 1**

Project Presentation – **FINAL PAPERS DUE**

## Recommended Readings

- Abt, Clark (Editor), (1976) The evaluation of social programs. Beverly Hills, California: Sage Publications.
- Anderson, Scarvia B. & Samuel Ball. (1978) The profession and practice of program evaluation. Jossey-Bass.
- Benbenishty, R. & Ben-Zaken, A. (1988). Computer aided process of monitoring task-centered family interventions. Social Work Research and Abstracts, 24, 7-9.
- Campbell, D. T., & Stanley, J. C. (1979). Experimental & quasi-experimental design for research (Chapters 2-5). Chicago: Rand McNally & Company.
- Cook, T.D. & Campbell, D.T. (1979). Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Fowler, F. J. Jr. (1988). Survey research methods. Newbury Park: Sage Publications.
- Gabor, P. & Grinnell, Jr., R. M. (1994). Should program decisions be based on empirical evidence of effectiveness? Yes. In W. W. Hudson & Nurius, P. S. (Eds.), Controversial issues in social work research. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Garfinkel, I., Meyer, D. R., & Sandefur, G. D. (1992). The effects of alternative child support systems on blacks, Hispanics, and non-Hispanic whites. Social Service Review, 66, 505-523.
- Greene, Jennifer C. & Valerie J. Caracelli, (Eds.). (1997). Advances in mixed-method evaluation: The challenges and benefits of integrating diverse paradigms. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.
- Isaac, S. & Michael, W. B. (1995). Handbook in research and evaluation (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). San Diego, CA: EdITS/Educational and Industrial Testing Services.
- Johnson, A. K. (1989). Measurement and methodology: Problems and issues in research on homelessness. Social Work Research and Abstracts, 25, 12-20.
- Madison, A. (Ed.) (1992). Minority issues in program evaluation, New Directions for Program Evaluation, 53. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Miles, M. B. & Huberman, A. M. (1984). Qualitative data analysis: A sourcebook of new methods. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- Mohr, L. B. (1995). Impact analysis for program evaluation (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Nasuti, J. P. & Pecora, P. J. (1993). Risk assessment scales in child protection: A test of the internal consistency and interrater reliability of one statewide system. Social Work Research and Abstracts, 29, 28-34.
- Nurius, P. S., & Hudson, W. W. (1993). Human services practice, evaluation and computers. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks-Cole Publishing Company.
- Reichardt, C. S. & Rallis, S. F. (Eds.) (1994). The qualitative-quantitative debate: New Perspectives, New Directions for Program Evaluation, 61. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Shields, J. J. (1992). Evaluating community organization projects: The development of an empirically based measure. Social Work Research and Abstracts, 28, 15-20.
- Silverman, D. (1993). Interpreting qualitative data: Methods for analyzing talk, text, and interactions. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Stake, R. E. (1995). The art of case study research. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Taber, M. (1994). Should program decisions be based on empirical evidence of effectiveness? No. In W. W. Hudson & Nurius, P. S. (Eds.), Controversial issues in social work research. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Taylor-Powell, E. (1998). Program development and evaluation: Sampling. College Station, TX: Texas A & M Agricultural Extension Service. (Accessible on-line at: [http://cf.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/pdf/G3658\\_3.PDF](http://cf.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/pdf/G3658_3.PDF))
- Toomey, B. G., First, R. J., Rife, J. C., & Belcher, J. R. (1989). Evaluating community care for homeless mentally ill people. Social Work Research and Abstracts, 25, 21-26.
- Tracy, E. M., Green, R. K., & Bremseth, M. D. (1993). Meeting the environmental needs of abused and neglected children: Implications from a statewide survey of supportive services. Social Work Research and Abstracts, 29, 21-27.
- Videka-Sherman, L. (1986). Studies of research on social work practice: A bibliography. Silver Springs, MD: NASW.
- Yin, R. K. (1989). Case study research: Design and methods. Newbury Park: Sage Publications.
- Yin, R.K. (1993). Applications of case study research. Newbury Park: Sage Publications.