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George Mason University
Department of Criminology, Law and Society
CRIM-516-001: Evaluation of Crime and Justice Policies and Practices
CRIM-781-001: Justice Program Evaluation
Fall 2021

Lecture: Wednesdays 4:30 - 7:10 pm in Innovation Hall 207
Instructor: **Dr. Auzeen Shariati**
Office Location: Enterprise Hall, Room 337B
Email: asharia@gmu.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

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Course Overview

This course presents the major principles and approaches of program evaluation applied to crime and justice policies and provides a conceptual framework for problem evaluation. Troughout the semester, the issues and methods for developing evaluation questions will be explored and various aspects of program theory, operation and outcomes will be assessed.

Learning Objectives. By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Compare and contrast various approaches to program evaluation
- Assess the strength and weaknesses of evaluations conducted by others
- Design a technically sound and useful evaluation
- Identify linkages between program strategies and program goals
- Explain how program evaluation contributes to program development, implementation, and improvement
- Discuss political and ethical issues faced by evaluators in conducting their work

Required Text

Giancola, S. (2021). *Program evaluation: Embedding evaluation into program design and development*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. [Required for all students]

Recommended Reading

Rossi, P. H., Lipsey, M. W., & Henry, G. T. (2019). Evaluation: A systematic approach (8th ed.) Sage Publications. [Recommended for CRIM-781 students]

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Graded Course Requirements

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Assignments for All Students

1. Three **take-home exams (including final exam)** will be given during the semester, accounting for **30% of your final grade**. Exams will consist of scenarios and essay questions, and will be made available to you one week prior to the due date.

2. Four **evaluation project component** assignments will be due throughout the semester; accounting for **40% of your final grade**.

Project Component	Description
PC#1: Program Narrative	Choose a program that you would like to evaluate and write a narrative/overview of your program, including its goals and primary strategies/activities. Your program narrative should be 1–2 pages.
PC #2: Program Theory and Logic Model	Document your program's theory and logic model. Your logic model should be completed in LucidChart and submitted in PDF format.
PC #3: Process Evaluation	Describe the objectives of your process evaluation and outline the steps that will be taken to evaluate the processes involved in the program.
PC #4: Outcome Evaluation	Explain the objectives of your outcome evaluation and outline the methodology that will be used to perform the evaluation.

3. Final **Evaluation Plan Presentation** accounting for **15% of your final grade**.

	Description
Final Evaluation Plan Presentation	A brief **presentation** of your evaluation plan is also required. The presentation should summarize your program theory, logic model, and evaluation design. You should then be prepared to answer questions from your classmates about your plan. Presentation should be no more than 10 minutes, with 5 additional minutes available for Q&A.narrative should be 1–2 pages.

Specific Homework Activities Assigned to CRIM-516 and CRIM-781

4. Two **homework assignments** will be due throughout the semester; accounting for **15% of your final grade**. Two separate sets of assignments will be given to CRIM-516 and CRIM-781 students. These entails published evaluation research review and critique as well as developing evaluation approach infographic.

Grading: The course grade will be computed based on the following components:

Course Requirement	Points	Percent
Take-Home Exams x 3 (including final exam)	100 each (300 total)	30
Program Evaluation Components x 4	100 each (400 total)	40
Final Evaluation Plan Presentation	100	15
Homework Assignments x 2	50 each (100 total)	15
Total	800	100

Grading scale

A+ 97-100
A   93-96.9
A-   90-92.9
B+ 87-89.9
B   83-86.9
B-   80-82.9
C   70-79.9
F   < 70

Course Policies and Requirements

Attendance

Much of the learning for this class will occur during group discussions and class activities. In addition, not all material necessary for the course is in the course textbook; course materials will include supplemental information provided during class. If you will be absent from class, you must notify me through e-mail prior to the absence. It is your responsibility to get any missed course notes or materials from another student in the class.

Blackboard

Please make sure you visit our class blackboard shell and check your Mason email frequently to see announcements and grades, among other important information.

Internet Access

Please note that lack of internet connection or problems with services are not acceptable excuses for not completing assignments. If you have any internet issues or computer-related problems, please contact the ITS help desk for assistance.

Late Work

Papers and assignments are to be turned in on Blackboard by midnight on the day they are due. Ten points per weekday will be deducted for late submissions. Late submissions will not be accepted after one week past the original due date except in the case of documented illness or emergency.

Extra Credit

Students may earn extra credit for the course by attending relevant lectures and webinars and/or review relevant documentaries and writing a one-page report to be submitted during the final examination period. Each of these is worth 1 point toward the final grade.

Classroom Behavior

It is expected that everyone always treats one another respectfully. Respectful behavior includes being prepared for class, listening attentively (and with an open mind toward different viewpoints), and addressing each other respectfully in class discussions.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity (oai.gmu.edu). See oai.gmu.edu for more detailed information.

Accessibility Resources

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

COVID-19 and Safe Return to Campus

All students taking courses with a face-to-face component are required to follow the university's public health and safety precautions and procedures outlined on the university Safe Return to Campus webpage (*https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus*). Similarly, all students in face-to-face and hybrid courses must also complete the Mason COVID Health Check daily, seven days a week. The COVID Health Check system uses a color code system **and students will receive either a Green, Yellow, Red, or Blue email response.** Only students who receive a "green" notification are permitted to attend courses with a face-to-face component. **If you suspect that you are sick or have been directed to self-isolate, please quarantine or get testing. Faculty are allowed to ask you to show them that you have received a Green email and are thereby permitted to be in class.**

Students are required to follow Mason's current policy about facemask-wearing. As of August 11, 2021, all community members are required to wear a facemask in all indoor settings, including classrooms. An *appropriate facemask* must cover your nose and mouth at all times in our classroom. If this policy changes, you will be informed; however, students who prefer to wear masks will always be welcome in the classroom.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. You will be advised in class and via Blackboard.

Week	Date	Topics and Assignments		Readings
		Topics	**Assignments Due**	**Readings**
1	8/25	Class Introcution; What is Program Evaluation?		• Giancola Ch 1 • Rossi Ch 1 (CRIM-781)
2	9/1	Evaluation Ethics		• Giancola Ch 2-3
3	9/8	Evaluation Approaches	**Homework Assignment #1 DUE**: September 12	• Giancola Ch 4
4	9/15	Understanding the Program; Program Theory		• Giancola Ch 5 Rossi Ch 2 (CRIM-781)
5	9/22	Modeling the Program	**PC #1 Program Narrative DUE:** September 26	• Giancola Ch 6 • Rossi Ch 3 (CRIM-781)
6	9/29	Planning the Evaluation	**Exam #1 DUE:** October 3	• Giancola Ch 7 • Rossi Ch 4 (CRIM-781)
7	10/6	Designing the Evaluation	**PC #2** Program Theory and Logic Model **DUE**: October 10	• Giancola Ch 8 • Rossi Ch 5 (CRIM-781)

Week	Date	Topics and Assignments		Readings
		Topics	**Assignments Due**	
8	10/13	**Guest Lecturer: Dr. Andrea Headley, Assistant Professor, Georgetown University**		
9	10/20	Implementing the Evaluation	**Homework Assignment #2 DUE**: October 24	• Giancola Ch 9 • Rossi Ch 11 (CRIM-781)
10	10/27	Analyzing the Data; Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis	**PC #3** Design a Process Evaluation **DUE**: October 31	• Giancola Ch 10
11	11/3	Intrepreting the Results	**Exam #2 DUE**: November 7	• Giancola Ch 11 • Rossi Ch 9 (CRIM-781)
12	11/10	Using Evaluation Findings	**PC #4**: Design an Outcome Evaluation **DUE:** November 14	• Giancola Ch 12 • Rossi Ch 12 (CRIM-781)
13	11/17	**NO CLASS (ASC Conference 2021)**		
14	11/24	**NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING BREAK)**		
15	12/1	EVALUATION PLAN (IN-CLASS) PRESENTATIONS		
FINAL WEEK		FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE DECEMBER 8, AT 7:10 PM		