



EDUCATION 822(G032)
Evaluation of Educational Programs
 (Enroll #7226)

Summer Semester 2009

Instructors: Dr. Sharon Cohen
 Dr. Glenn Galy

Meeting Dates: Thursday, July 2 to Thursday July 16

Location: SFU Surrey Campus

Room: SUR 3340

DATES AND TIMES

July 2	3:30 – 8:30
July 3	8:30 – 1:30
July 6	12:00 – 5:00 (Summer Institute Opening Event, Grand Hall @ 6:00 p.m.)
July 7	3:30 – 8:30 (Preceded by Summer Institute Lecture from 1:00 – 3:00)
July 8	8:30 – 1:30
July 9	3:30 – 8:30 (Preceded by Summer Institute Lecture from 1:00 – 3:00)
July 10	8:30 – 1:30
July 13	8:30 – 1:30
July 14	3:30 – 8:30 (Preceded by Summer Institute Lecture from 1:00 – 3:00)
July 15	8:30 – 1:30
July 16	3:30 – 8:30 (Preceded by Summer Institute Lecture from 1:00 – 3:00)

DESCRIPTION

Program evaluation is a critical component in designing and operating effective programs and schools. Evaluations are frequently used as accountability tools for policy and decision-makers. The ability to understand evaluation methodology and evaluation tools is essential in public education.

This course begins with an overview of the history and philosophical perspectives in the evaluation of educational programs. Students will learn the practical elements of designing a program including the process and tools needed. Students will become familiar with the concepts, methods and applications of evaluation research; learn how to read evaluation reports critically; be able to design and conduct an appropriate evaluation plan to assess the implementation and effectiveness of a program; and understand how to use evaluation results to anticipate or improve program performance. Throughout the course, students will be expected to apply knowledge and understanding of program evaluation to their current settings.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Bracey, Gerald W. (2006), *Reading Educational Research: How to Avoid Getting Statistically Snookered*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Sanders, James R. and Carolyn D. Sullins (2006). *Evaluating School Programs: An Educator's Guide*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Additional resources will be distributed in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Community Reflection & Analysis (20%):**

You are expected to respond to four key questions, where you share your thoughts and learning, in an on-line community via a weblog.

2. **Tool Designs (40%):**

Students demonstrate an understanding of two of the major tools used in program evaluation. These tools can also be used in the Final Project.

a) Focus Group: Students design and run a focus group, including a content analysis of the results. Students write a two-page report on the process of designing the focus group activity, running the actual session and their content analysis (20%).

b) Survey/Questionnaire: Students design a survey and/or questionnaire and pilot with several critical friends. Students write a two-page report describing the process of designing it and what they learned from piloting it (20%).

3. **Program Analysis & Recommendations (20%):**

This is a group assignment. Students will be given program evaluation data and asked to analyze, summarize and make recommendations. Findings, including visual displays of data, will be shared in class.

4. **Project: Program Evaluation Design and Presentation (20%):**

Students design a mini-program evaluation for a given situation in their school. The plan is submitted in a written report and presented on the final day of class.

COURSE TOPICS

Thurs., July 2 **Introduction to Program Evaluation**
Welcome, Introduction Activity
Course Overview, Assignments, Evaluation
Initial Reflections on Program Evaluation

Fri., July 3 **Understanding Evaluation**
Knowing the Difference: Evaluation, Assessment & Measurement
Historical Overview of Program Evaluation
Philosophical, Political and Ethical Implications
Understanding Program Evaluation Purposes
The Mini-Program Evaluation Plan

- Mon., July 6 **Program Evaluation Overview**
Types of Evaluation
Models of Evaluation
Designing a Program Evaluation
- Tues., July 7 **Data & Tools for Evaluation**
SI Lecture Debrief
Data Issues
Quantitative & Qualitative
Learning the Tools of Program Evaluation
- Wed., July 8 **Analysis of Evaluation Data**
Interpretation & Presentation of Data
What are Ways of Representing Data?
- Thurs., July 9 **Looking at Program Evaluation Data**
SI Lecture Debrief
Reviewing, Analyzing & Representing Data
- Fri., July 10 **Evaluating the Evaluation**
Standards of Evaluation
Guiding Principles of Evaluation
Critiquing Research
Peer Feedback/Critique on Project
- Mon., July 13 **Moving to Action**
Communicating Results
- Tues., July 14 **Moving to Action Cont'd**
SI Lecture Debrief
Recommendations & Program Improvement
- Wed., July 15 **School and District Evaluation**
From Accreditation to District Review
Looking at District Reviews
School Plans
Implications for Practice
- Thurs., July 16 **Learning from Experience**
SI Lecture Debrief
Project Presentations and Analysis
Celebration
Course Evaluation

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All members of the University community share the responsibility for the academic standards and reputation of SFU. Academic honesty is a condition of continued membership in the university community. Please review the Policy at <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm>