

2009-3



**EDUCATION 822 (G031)**  
**Evaluation of Educational Programs**  
**(Enroll # 12191)**

Fall Semester 2009	Instructor:	Cindy Xin, Ph.D.
Meeting Dates: Sept. 11, 12, 25, 26 Oct. 16, 17, 30, 31 Nov. 13, 14, 27, 28	Office:	Surrey 15-555
Times: Fri: 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm Sat: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Telephone:	778-782-7453
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Room: SUR 3150		

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## **COURSE RATIONALE**

How do programs succeed and how do they fail? Do schools, universities, government agencies, non-profit organizations and corporations do what they claim to do? People both inside and outside these organizations have an interest in the answers. Whether or not they realize it, people perform and are impacted by evaluation. It is important to know how to do it and do it well. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the field of evaluation: its key concepts, theoretical groundings, methods, and practices. This introduction aims to equip students with the foundations required to both lead and be effective participants in program evaluations in their organizations.

## **GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The goal of this course is to provide students with an overview of the fundamental issues of educational program evaluation, including the knowledge, understanding, dispositions and skills required to carry it out in practice. Ultimately it should enable students to develop a framework that will guide their future practice and growth as researchers in the field of evaluation. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of the fundamental issues of program evaluation;
- compare and contrast different perspectives on and approaches to evaluation;
- identify measurement reliability and validity issues in program evaluation;
- select, design, and apply appropriate evaluation methods;
- reflect critically on a range of evaluation practices based on real life cases; and
- plan a program evaluation that defines problem situation, measurable indicators, evaluation of process, and evaluation of impact.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Program Evaluation (3rd Edition): Forms and Approaches, by John Owen. 2006.

Additional readings will be provided in class.

## **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

Program Evaluation: Alternative Approaches and Practical Guidelines, by Jody L. Fitzpatrick, James R. Sanders, & Blaine R. Worthen. Published by Allyn & Bacon; 3 edition, 2003.

Program evaluation in practice: core concepts and examples for discussion and analysis, by Dean T. Spaulding. Published by Jossey-Bass, 2008.

Note: The two recommended texts are reserved for the students at the SFU Library Surrey location.

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The field of evaluation is broad, complex and constantly evolving. It is impossible to cover it all within a single semester-long course, so the course content is highly selective. The goal is to provide students with an introductory overview, an interpretive framework, and sufficient tools to begin practice as a professional. The following are some of the major areas that the course will address:

- The foundation of program evaluation in education: key concepts, history, and recent trends
- Alternative views of evaluation
- Evaluation forms and approaches
- Planning program evaluation
- Conducting and using evaluation

The pedagogical approach used in this course is dialogical and activity-based. It capitalizes upon the cumulative knowledge and diverse experiences of the class participants. Students are expected to actively participate in discussion and make intellectual contributions both in class and online. Students will also participate in a variety of activities such as resource gathering, tool building, case study, and evaluation planning.

## **GRADING**

Participation in and contribution to in-class and online discussions, 20%

Case studies and presentation, 30%

Project: Program evaluation design and presentation, 50%

## **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>