

**Policy Studies 195.611
Introduction to Program Evaluation
Fall 2007**

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Date	Topic
9/12	Introduction to Course
9/19	Basic Design Issues and Experimental Design Issues I
9/26	Experimental Design Issues II
10/3	Experimental Issues III
10/10	Nonexperimental Methods and Applications I
10/17	Nonexperimental Methods and Applications II
10/24	Nonexperimental Methods and Applications III and Statistical Issues
10/31	Statistical Issues in Evaluations: Sampling, Power, and the Use of Meta Analyses
11/7	Process Studies, Qualitative Assessments, and Theories of change
11/14	Cost-Benefit Analysis: General Concepts
11/21	Cost-Benefit Analysis: Life, Health, and Other Issues
11/28	Cost-Benefit Analysis: Applications
12/5	Performance Management and the Role of Evaluation in Policy Development

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Reading List for Introduction to Program Evaluation
(Numbers refer to week number)

Note: All required readings will be available in reading notebook to be purchased

2. Basic Design Issues and Experimental Design Issues I

Peter H. Rossi, Howard Freeman, and Mark W. Lipsey Evaluation: A Systematic Approach, 7th Edition, Sage Publications, Newbury Park, CA, 2004, chapters 1-4, -8 (especially 1, 2, and 8).

Carol H. Weiss. Evaluation, second edition. Upper saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. Chapters 1-8 (optional).

Charles F. Manski and Irwin Garfinkel, "Introduction," in Charles F. Manski and Irwin Garfinkel, eds., Evaluating Welfare and Training Programs, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 1992.

American Evaluation Association, Task Force on Guiding Principles for Evaluators, "Guiding Principles for Evaluators," and "Program Evaluation Standards" available at www.eval.org

3. Experimental Design Issues II: General Issues

Larry L. Orr. Social Experimentation: Evaluating Public Programs with Experimental Methods. Part 1: Background and Rationale; Part 2: Basic Concepts and Principles; and Part 3: Alternative Random Assignment Models. <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/hsp/qeval/tilepage.htm>.

Gary Burtless, "The Case for Randomized Field Trials in Economic and Policy Research," Journal of Economic Perspectives 9 (1995): 63-84.

James J. Heckman and Jeffrey A. Smith, "Assessing the Case for Social Experiments," Journal of Economic Perspectives 9 (1995): 85-110.

Kevin A. Schulman et al. "The Effect of Race and Sex on Physicians' Recommendations for Cardiac Catheterization," New England Journal of Medicine, February 25, 1999. 618-626; also read letters to the editor and responses from July 22, 1999 issue. <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/340/8/618> Get id and password in class.

Jan Blustein. "Toward A More Public Discussion of the Ethics of Federal Social Program Evaluation." Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Fall 2005. pp. 823-852. Also comments by Rolston and Barnow.

Weiss, chapter 9 (optional).

4. Experimental Design Issues III

Larry L. Orr. Social Experimentation: Evaluating Public Programs with Experimental Methods. Part 5: Implementation and Data Collection. <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/hsp/geval/tilepage.htm>.

Howard S. Bloom et al, The National JTPA Study: Title II-A Impacts on Earnings and Employment at 18 Months, Abt Associates Inc., Bethesda, MD, January 1993. Executive Summary required; rest is optional.

Dennis K. Benson, "Review of the National JTPA Study," Appropriate Solutions, Columbus, Ohio, March 1992.

Fred E. Romero, "The National JTPA Study: Lessons Not Learned," Unpublished, April 1993.

General Accounting Office. [HEHS-96-40] Job Training Partnership Act: Long-Term Earnings and Employment Outcomes pp. 1-15, 28-38.

G.C. Smith and J.P. Pell. (2003). Parachute use to prevent death and major trauma related to gravitational challenge: Systematic review of randomised controlled trials. *British Medical Journal*, 327, 14591461.

Richard A. Berk and Lawrence W. Sherman, "Police Response to Family Violence Incidents: An Analysis of an Experimental Design with Incomplete Randomization," Journal of the American Statistical Association 83 (1988): 70-76. (Optional)

5. Nonexperimental Methods I

Rossi, Freeman, and Lipsey ch. 9.

Edward E. Leamer. "Let's Take the Con Out of Econometrics." American Economic Review. January 1983, pp. 31-43.

Donald T. Campbell and Julian C. Stanley, Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research, Rand McNally, Chicago, 1966. (Optional.)

Burt S. Barnow, Thomas Kaplan and Robert Moffitt "Introduction" in Burt S. Barnow, Thomas Kaplan, and Robert Moffitt, editors Evaluating Comprehensive State Welfare Reform: The Wisconsin Works Program, Albany, NY: Rockefeller Institute Press, 2000.

Howard Bloom, Charles Michalopoulos, Carolyn Hill, Ying Lei (2002). *Can Nonexperimental Comparison Group Methods Match the Findings from a Random Assignment Evaluation of Mandatory Welfare-to-Work Program?* New York: Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation. Chapters 1,2, and 4 required; rest is optional.

David H. Greenberg, Charles Michalopoulos, and Philip Robins. "Do Experimental and Nonexperimental Evaluations Give Different Answers about Government-funded Training Programs?" Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Summer 2006, pp. 523-552.

6 and 7. Nonexperimental Methods II

W. Norton Grubb, "The Varied Economic Returns to Postsecondary Education," Journal of Human Resources 28 (1993): 365-382. Read carefully--some interesting points, even if problems.

Thomas J. Kane and Cecilia Elena Rouse, Comment on W. Norton Grubb, "The Varied Economic Returns to Postsecondary Education," Journal of Human Resources 30 (1995) 205-221. (Optional--but note that they point out errors in reading data by Grubb!)

Joshua D. Angrist and Alan B. Krueger. "Instrumental Variables and the Search for Identification: From Supply and Demand to Natural Experiments." Journal of Economic Perspectives, Fall 2001. Pp. 69-85.

Richard J. Marcantonio and Thomas D. Cook, "Convincing Quasi-experiments: The Interrupted Time Series and Regression-Discontinuity Designs," in Joseph S. Wholey, Harry P. Hatry, and Kathryn E. Newcomer, eds., Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1994. (Optional)

Richard A. Berk and David Rauma, "Capitalizing on Nonrandom Assignment of Treatments: A Regression-Discontinuity Evaluation of a Crime-Control Program," Journal of the American Statistical Association 78 (1983): 21-27.

Burt S. Barnow, "The Impact of Welfare Reform in New Hampshire on the TANF Caseload: Final Report." Baltimore, MD: Institute for Policy Studies, January 2003.

Howard Bloom, Carolyn Hill, and James Riccio. "Linking Program Implementation and Effectiveness: Lessons from a Pooled Sample of Welfare to Work Experiments." Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Fall 2003.

Steven Garasky and Burt S. Barnow, "Demonstration Evaluations and Cost Neutrality: Using Caseload Models to Determine the Federal Cost Neutrality of New Jersey's REACH Demonstration," Journal of Policy Analysis and Management 11 (1992): 624-636 (optional).

8. Statistical Issues in Evaluations: Sampling, Power, and the Use of Meta Analyses

Rossi, Freeman, and Lipsey ch. 10.

William G. Cochran, Sampling Techniques, 3rd edition, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1977, pp. 72-83. (Optional)

Larry L. Orr. Social Experimentation: Evaluating Public Programs with Experimental Methods. Part 4: Sample Design. <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/hsp/qeval/tilepage.htm>.

Mark W. Lipsey and David B. Wilson. Practical Meta-Analysis. Chapters 1, 6, and 7. (Optional.)

Lisa A. Gennetian, Greg J. Duncan, Virginia W. Knox, Wanda G. Vargas, Elizabeth Clark-Kauffman, Andrew S. London, 2001. How Welfare and Work Policies for Parents Affect Adolescents: A Synthesis of Research. Read report and Appendixes A and B with emphasis on meta analysis.

Howard S. Bloom "Minimum Detectable Effects: A Simple Way to Report the Statistical Power of Experimental Designs." Evaluation Review, Vol. 19, No. 5, October 1995, pp. 547-566. (optional.)

Weiss, Chapter 10 (optional).

9. Process Studies, Qualitative Assessments, and Theories of Change

Rossi, Freeman, and Lipsey ch. 6,7.

Pamela A. Holcomb and Demetra Smith Nightingale. "Conceptual Underpinnings of Implementation Analysis" in Mary Clare Lennon and Thomas Corbett, eds. Policy into Action, Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press.

John Trutko, "Process Evaluation." Chapter 2 in Evaluability Assessment of Responsible Fatherhood Programs. Available on the internet at <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/fathers/evaluaby/intro.htm.##>

James P. Connell et al., eds. New Approaches to Evaluating Community Initiatives: Concepts, Methods, and Contexts. Washington, D.C.: The Aspen Institute, 1995. pp. 1-21.

Karen Fulbright-Anderson et al., eds. New Approaches to Evaluating Community Initiatives, Volume 2: Theory, Measurement, and Analysis. Washington, D.C.: The Aspen Institute, 1995. pp. 15-44.

Weiss, chapter 11 (optional).

10. Cost-Benefit Analysis: General Concepts

Boardman et al. Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practice. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey, 1996. Chapters 1-5.

Rossi, Freeman, and Lipsey. Chapter 11.

Lisa Heinzerling and Frank Ackerman. "Pricing the Priceless". Washington, DC: Georgetown University, 2002.

11. Cost-Benefit Analysis: Discounting, Life, Health, and Other Issues

Boardman et al. Chapters 6, 7, 10, 13, 14. Skim ch. 8, 9.

Mark A. Moore et al. "'Just Give Me a Number!' Practical Values for the Social Discount Rate." Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Fall 2004. pp. 789-812.

Janusz R. Mrozek and Laura O. Taylor. "What determines the value of life? a meta-analysis." Journal of Policy Analysis and Management Volume 21, Issue 2, Date: Spring 2002, Pages: 253-270.

V. Kip Viscusi, "The Value of Risks to Life and Health," Journal of Economic Literature 31 (1993): 1912-1947. (optional)

Paul R. Portney, "The Contingent Valuation Debate: Why Economists Should Care," Journal of Economic Perspectives 8 (1994): 3-18

W. Michael Hanemann, "Valuing the Environment through Contingent Valuation," Journal of Economic Perspectives 8 (1994): 19-44

Peter A. Diamond and Jerry A. Hausman, "Contingent Valuation: Is Some Number Better than No Number?" Journal of Economic Perspectives 8 (1994): 45-64.

12. Cost-Benefit Analysis: Applications

Boardman et al. Ch.11, 12.

Gayle Hamilton and Daniel Friedlander, Final Report on the Saturation Work Initiative Model in San Diego, Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation, New York, November 1989.(optional)

Sheena McConnell and Steven Glazerman. National Job Corps Study: The Benefits and Costs of Job Corps. Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research (June 2001). Executive Summary, Chapters 1 and 2.

Larry L. Leslie and Paul T. Brinkman, The Economic Value of Higher Education, New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1988, chapters 4 and 5 (optional).

13. Performance Management and the Role of Evaluation in Policy Development

U.S. General Accounting Office. Performance Measurement and Evaluation: Definitions and Relationships Act. 1998. GAO/GGD-98-26. Available on the internet at the GAO home page.

Ann B. Blalock and Burt S. Barnow. "Is the New Obsession with 'Performance Management' Masking the Truth about Social Programs?" in Dall Forsythe editor. Quicker, Better Cheaper: Managing Performance in American Government. Albany, NY: Rockefeller Institute Press, 2001.

Burt S. Barnow "Exploring the Relationship Between Performance Management and Program Impact: A Case Study of the Job Training Partnership Act." Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Winter 2000. (Skim)

Beryl Radin. Testimony before the Senate on PART .

Burt S. Barnow and Jeffrey Smith (2004). "Performance Management of U.S. Job Training Programs: Lessons from the Job Training Partnership Act." Public Finance and Management,

David Greenberg, Marvin Mandell, and Matthew Onstott. "The Dissemination and Utilization of Welfare-to-Work Experiments in State Policymaking." Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Vol. 19, 2000, pp. 367-382.

Charles E. Metcalf. "Presidential Address: Research Ownership, Communication of Results, and Threats to Objectivity in Client-Driven Research." Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Vol. 17, 1998, pp. 153-163.

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This course will provide the student with an introduction to the use of quantitative and qualitative evaluations for social programs. The course will begin by reviewing the rationale for evaluations in the policy process, covering their use in fields such as budgeting, policy assessments, research and development, and program improvement. The course will then deal with quantitative evaluation techniques and approaches. The student will become familiar with the use of experimental and quasi-experimental designs, the types of problems that arise in conducting evaluations, such as selection bias, and methods of overcoming such problems. We will review how statistical techniques such as regression analysis are used and abused in evaluations. The course will then cover the design and functions of qualitative evaluations. The course will provide a review of the use and applications of cost-benefit analysis and similar techniques, and how such techniques can be used in making policy decisions. Finally, the course will include sessions on performance management and its relationship to evaluation and the role of evaluation in the policy process. Reading material for the course includes actual evaluation reports and articles as well as conceptual articles and texts.

Students will be required to prepare three papers for the course:

- The first paper, due October 31, is to be a critique of an impact evaluation selected by the student. This paper should summarize and critique the approach used in the paper. If there are two or more related studies on the same program, you can include more than one study and contrast the studies. You should describe any modifications to the studies that would be appropriate; reconcile, to the extent possible, the findings if you select more than one study; discuss additional work that should be performed; and discuss the policy implications of the work.
- The second paper, due November 28, is to be prepared by self-selected four-person teams. Students should select a request for proposals issued by a federal, state, or local government agency, an international organization, a foundation, or a private company and prepare the technical response. On request, I will provide several RFPs, but students are encouraged to identify their own RFPs in their areas of interest.
- The third report, due December 7, is to be a critique of a cost-benefit analysis. In this paper, the student should provide a critique of the impact evaluation as well as the manner in which the impact findings are used in the cost-benefit analysis.

Grades will be determined by the three reports and class participation. Each paper will count for one-third of the grade unless the student does an excellent job of participating in class. In that case, each paper counts for 25 percent and class participation will count for 25 percent. Participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged.