

Program Evaluation
ORGB-C365-Z51

Tuesday
615 – 1015PM
Bobet 219

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Office Hrs: M, T, W 4 – 6 pm
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Required Texts:

Berk, R.A., & Rossi, P.H. (1999). Thinking about program evaluation 2. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Hoover, L.T. (1998). Police program evaluation. Washington, D.C.: Police Executive Research Forum.

Course Description & Objectives:

This course is intended to provide the undergraduate student insight into the realm of police program and evaluation. While the course will be aimed primarily at police program evaluation there will many instances where general, broad sweeping concepts will be placed into a more generic framework so as to accompany many aspects of program evaluation. Thus, there will be numerous illustrations where program evaluation occurs in the social sciences outside of policing.

By the end of the 8 week term, students should be able to identify key concepts and conceptualizations within the broader area of program evaluation. In addition, students should also be able to critically analyze many existing police programs and policy issues with a better sense of politics, research findings, and practicality.

Attendance & Participation:

Class attendance is expected and required. Due to the fast paced nature of this course no student can expect to earn a passing grade without attending class.

Assignments & Exams:

Students will be asked to complete an end-of-semester writing assignment in accord with instructions provided in class. Each student is required to write a brief, one page summary of their chosen topic. No paper will be graded until this

summary is written. The entire assignment will be due, December 9. No late papers will be accepted as the instructor will be unavailable until mid January due to personal issues.

In addition, 4 quizzes will be proctored throughout the course of the 8 week term at the instructor's discretion.

Make-Up Exams & Quizzes:

There will be NO make-up quizzes given.

Grading:

The end of term writing assignment will be worth 150 points. Each quiz will be worth 25 points. The grading scale can be found below;

225 – 250	A
200 – 224	B
175 – 199	C
150 – 174	D
BELOW 149	F

Class Schedule:

October

- 21 Introduction
Berk: Chapter 1 – What This Book Is About
PERF: Chapter 1 – Rationale for Police Program Evaluation
- 28 Berk: Chapter 2 – Key Concepts in Evaluation Research
Synopsis of paper topic due

November

- 4 Berk: Chapter 3 – Designing and Testing New Programs
Article: Funding Community Policing to Reduce Crime: Have COPS Grants Made A Difference? [full text on-line in Criminology & Public Policy by Zhao]
- 11 Berk: Chapter 4 – Examining Ongoing Programs
PERF: Chapter 2 – Tactical Patrol Evaluation
- 18 PERF: Chapter 3 – Community Policing Evaluation
Article: The Effectiveness of Community Policing in Reducing Urban Violence [e-reserve on library site]
- 25 PERF: Chapter 4 – Proactive Investigations Evaluation

December

2

PERF: Chapter 5 – Differential Police Response: Evaluation

9

Final Exam turn in paper

Paper Assignment

I. Writing Assignment

You should choose a topic within the field of criminal justice that has interest to you. Choose a topic that can be evaluated, as that will be your task. You are given the task of developing a research proposal for the evaluation of a program or method of operations within some field of criminal justice.

II. Topic Choices

The topic you decide to utilize for your paper is entirely up to you. However, find a topic within the area of criminal justice that is of interest to you. This will make the assignment much easier. You may pick a topic within any area of criminal justice: corrections, policing, juvenile issues, courts, etc. The choice is yours. You will be required to write a brief one page synopsis describing your topic and what you plan to evaluate. The due date for this is on the syllabus.

III. Body of Paper

The body of your paper should approximate as closely as possible a journal article. In other words, the major headings and information found in any journal article should be included in your paper.

A. Issue

The issue you have decided to write about should be defined and described as clearly and succinctly as possible. You will need to include any theoretical perspectives you will use in your evaluation. In addition, if your topic is controversial in any way, that should be included and described.

You will need to determine and explain the purpose of your proposal: Why does the topic need to be evaluated at all?; Why are you the person to undertake this evaluation? Will this evaluation have some significance for society or the field of criminal justice?

Finally, you will need to identify any pertinent variables you might want to consider in your evaluation. Follow the methods described in your texts as well as the 2 articles listed on the syllabus for an example.

B. Literature Review

You will need to provide your readers (me) with a review of recent and past literature concerning your topic. You should pay attention to what others have had to say about your topic. Theoretical issues, academic debates, scholarly controversies, or practical matters can be addressed in your literature review. The review is precisely as it sounds – it is a review of what other scholars in the field have written about your topic. You will need to provide at least 20 references.

C. Methodology & Hypothesis

You should provide, with as much detail as possible, what method(s) you will utilize in your evaluation or examination of your topic. A perusal of literature will assist you in developing your methodology. Bear in mind, you do not have to build a Nobel winning essay. You might notice something missing in other studies or something you might want to explore further. Replication is always a valid choice. However, if you choose to replicate someone else's research you need to make yours a bit different in some aspect. Again, looking at past and present literature on your topic will assist you in this. You need to make your research unique. If you were an actual researcher this would be very important.

D. Expected Results

For this section, you will not actually have any results to describe. However, I want you to provide a synopsis of what you expect to discover. This is similar to your hypothesis. All researchers have some idea of what they expect to uncover in a research project. I want you to provide me with what you expect to find, and why you expect to find it. Again, past and present literature will help – look at what they find and try to determine if you might find the same thing. Remember this is an evaluation proposal, so if you think your topic is in need of alteration then provide a valid and logical rationale for your thoughts and then tell your readers (me) why you think your program needs to be overhauled. On the other hand, your topic may be just fine. You may simply want to substantiate your position that it is fine and in no need of changing. In that case you need to provide support for why you think your topic is functioning properly.

E. Discussion

This section ties everything else you have written together. You will paraphrase your opening paragraphs. You will again tell your reader your purpose, your hypothesis, and expected results. This is very similar to a conclusion. You need to provide a bit more detail than a typical conclusion, though.

Closing Remarks:

Here are some requirements for the final paper;

1. Typed
2. Double spaced
3. 12 font
4. White paper
5. Proper APA style, including use of headers and headings
6. Separate reference section
7. 20 references
8. 20 pages of text, not including reference section
9. Start early
10. Make good use of your available resources – me, library, internet

If you have ANY difficulties ask me. Remember no late papers will be accepted.