George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  __X__ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit: Public & International Affairs/ADJ  Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: JLCP  Course Number: 781

Full Course Title: Justice Program Evaluation

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Justice Program Evaluation

Credit hours: 3  Program of Record: Justice, Law, & Crime Policy

Repeatable for Credit?  ___ D=Yes, not within same term  Up to hours
                    ___ T=Yes, within the same term  Up to hours
                    _X_ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  ___ Lecture (LEC)  ___ Lab (LAB)  ___ Recitation (RCT)
                                  ___ Studio (STU)  ___ Internship (INT)  ___ Independent Study (IND)  _X_ Seminar
                                  (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3:3:0  Course Level: GF(500-600) ____ GA(700+) _X_

Maximum Enrollment: 20  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: Fall 2005

Prerequisites or corequisites: PUAD 611/612 or JLCP 780 or 2 graduate-level statistics courses or instructor’s permission.

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses: JLCP 781/PUAD 791 Justice Program Evaluation (3:3:0). Prerequisites: PUAD 611/612 or JLCP 780 or 2 graduate-level statistics courses or instructor’s permission. Practical exploration of assessment techniques used in evaluating the need for and consequences of justice programs and policies. Design and measurement, interpreting and presenting results.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:

Last term offered:  Previous Course Abbreviation:  Previous number:

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Submitted by:  ________________________________  email: smastrof@gmu.edu

Department/Program:  ________________________________  Date:  __________________

College Committee:  ________________________________  Date:  __________________

Graduate Council Representative:  ________________________________  Date:  __________________
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Course Coordination Form

Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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Graduate Council approval: ___________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: ___________________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: ___________________________ Date: __________
Course Description and Overview

Evaluation research is appropriate whenever the need for a policy intervention is being considered, is planned, or has occurred. Evaluation studies are conducted: (1) to identify needs and problems (needs assessments), (2) to identify and weigh alternative courses of action to deal with a problem or need (policy analysis), (3) to determine if policies are being implemented as planned (process program evaluations), and (4) to determine if policies are achieving their intended goals (impact program evaluations). This course offers an overview of doing evaluation research in the field of justice administration.

Students will learn about various forms of evaluation research by reading introductory texts on how it is done, reading examples of evaluation research reports and critiquing them, reading commentary and debates on how to do it, and by planning a small evaluation project of their own, a project that they will develop incrementally by doing and reporting a series of short papers.

Prerequisites

PUAD 611/612 or JLCP 780 or 2 graduate-level statistics courses or instructor’s permission.

Requirements and Grading

Course requirements are indicated below with weights for final course grade shown in parentheses.

Short Papers (40%). These will be 5-7 page double-spaced typewritten pages on "short paper" topics as described in course topics section below.

In-Class Participation and Final Presentation (40%). Quality of presentations of short papers in class, discussion of other students' short papers, and the final presentation of the student's final course paper.

Final Course Paper (20%). A paper of approximately 20 pages that presents a plan to conduct a small evaluation project. This paper should build on short papers written throughout the semester.

Required Texts


**Course Topics**

| Week 1 | Course introduction |
| Week 2 | Overview of policy process and evaluation |
| Week 3 | Needs assessments and policy analysis overview |
| | Short paper: Write a plan to conduct a needs assessment |
| Week 4 | Critique of policy analysis case studies (from *Crime*) |
| | Short paper: Write and present a critique of a policy analysis evaluation |
| Week 5 | Emerging methodologies for justice policy analysis: crime mapping and geocoded data; an operations approach to predicting “prison impact” from anticipated changes in sentencing policies |
| Week 6 | Meta analysis for policy evaluation |
| | Short paper: Summarize implications of a body of research on a policy analysis issue |
| Week 7 | Program evaluation: evaluability and formulation of the question |
| | Short paper: formulate an evaluation question and assess its evaluability for a given situation |
| Week 8 | Measurement: program context, inputs, processes, and outcomes |
| | Short paper: Select a specific justice program and identify key elements of program context, inputs, processes, and outcomes. Describe how these would be measured. |
| Week 9 | Critique and commentary on common measurement methods in program evaluation: survey research, agency data, field observation |
| Week 10 | Case studies in measurement |
| Week 11 | Short paper: Critique of measures used in assigned program evaluation studies  
Evaluation designs: experimental, quasi-experimental, and nonexperimental  
Short paper: Briefly outline how an experimental or quasi-experimental design could be used to assess a specific program’s impact. |
|---|---|
| Week 12 | Short paper: Briefly outline a nonexperimental design to assess program impact and compare its utility to previous week’s design.  
Evaluation designs: Nonexperimental designs |
| Week 13 | Political context, presenting results, the use and abuse of evaluation research  
Student presentations |
| Week 14 | Student presentations |
| Final exam | Student presentations |
JLCP 781/PUAD 791 Justice Program Evaluation (3:3:0). Prerequisites: PUAD 611/612 or JLCP 780 or 2 graduate-level statistics courses or instructor’s permission. Practical exploration of assessment techniques used in evaluating the need for and consequences of justice programs and policies. Design and measurement, interpreting and presenting results.