

**WWS 515b: Program Evaluation
Fall 2005**

10:40-12:10 T and Th; Room xxx Wallace Hall

Instructor:

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Office Hours:

By appointment

Assistant:

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Daily 9-5

This course, which will be taught in both the fall and spring. It will be limited to a total of 20 students. 507 is a prerequisite.

Texts:

1. ***Required Text. Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation, 2nd Edition, 2004. Edited by Wholey, Hatry, and Newcomer. ISBN 0-7879-6713-0 [Jossey-Bass]. An excellent reference book with well-written chapters addressing many evaluation areas—such as developing survey, running focus groups, etc.***
2. ***Social Experiments: Evaluating Public Programs with Experimental Methods. 1999. Larry Orr. Sage Publication. An excellent book on random assignment evaluations.***
3. ***Evaluation, 7th 2004 Ed. By Rossi, Lipsey, and Freeman, Sage, 2004.***
4. ***Learning more from Social Experiments. 2005. Edited by Howard Bloom. Russell Sage Foundation. ISBN 0-87154-127-0***
5. ***Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs by Shadish, Cook and Campbell (2002) is an excellent reference for those that want a more technique, statistically oriented book.***

Several of the cases we will use are available at the U-Store--in yellow envelopes. Readings which are not in the required text can be found on the Princeton University Library Electronic Reserves. All 5 texts are on reserve in the library.

Sept. 15. Tailoring Evaluations—The Art of Evaluation

Readings:

Wholey et al Chap 1 pp. 7-32 (logic models)

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide December 2001, pp. 35-48

<http://www.wkkf.org/Pubs/Tools/Evaluation/Pub3669.pdf>

Chapter 1; read more if you desire

Homework on Logic Models (Due *before* class starts on Sept. 20)

Sept. 20. JFK Case: Auditing the Auditor

Sept 22. Implementation Evaluation and Monitoring

Readings:

1994 Wholey, Hatry and Newcomer: Ch 3 Designing and Using Process Evaluation
2004 Wholey et al., Ch. 4 Performance Monitoring pp. 98-125 ok

Sept 27. Case: The Overcrowded Clinic

(Major) Homework: Implementation and Monitoring Design (Due xxx): Design an Implementation and Monitoring evaluation of a program of your choice. You should work in small groups (of 3-4 people). Groups must come see me to talk about their design. The final paper should be **emailed** to me.

Sept. 29. Strategies for Assessing Impacts

Readings:

Orr, pp 1-22

Precedent and Prospects for Randomized Experiments

Ch1 in *Learning More from Social Experiments*

Oct 4. Rescheduled for Oct 7

Oct 6 & 7. Experimental Design Evaluations

Readings:

Orr Chapter 2, pp. 46-64

Orr Chapter 3, pp. 69-100

Oct. 11. Sample Size Issues

Readings:

Orr, Chapter 4, pp. 103-115, pp. 132-134

Here are 4 examples of random assignment evaluations. Skim one or more to see how the experiments were done and how the results are presented.

1. Impacts of Title V Abstinence Education Programs 2. Does Job Corps Work?
Summary ---<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/SearchList.aspx?jumpsrch=yes&txtSearch=Job%20Corps>
3. School Choice in New York City---<http://www.mathematica-pr.com/publications/SearchList.aspx?jumpsrch=yes&txtSearch=school%20choice%20in%20New%20York%20City>
4. An Experimental Investigation of the Indian caste system—on Blackboard, Course materials

Oct. 13. Experimental Design Case

Case: Cognitive Abilities of Malnourished Children in Columbia in Newman, Rawlings and Gertler pp.191-193

Homeworks (Due before class starts)

For Case--Provide written answers case questions.

Homework on Sample Size --Calculate minimum detectable differences + costs

Implementation papers due Wednesday, xxx. 23 and should be emailed to me at jgrossma@princeton.edu

Oct. 18. Introduction to Quasi-Experimental Design Program Evaluations

Reading:

Wholey et. al, Ch 5 pp. 126-149.

Optional: Valadez and Bamberger, Ch 8 Quasi-Experimental Designs pp. 227-288 (provides dozens of international examples of quasi-experimental designs)

PSM reading:

Are Experiments the Only Option? Agodini and Dynarski, Mathematica Policy Research, August 2001.

Readings: Here are 2 examples of comparison group evaluations. Skim one or more to see how the evaluations were done and how the results are presented.

1. Rural Road Rehabilitation Project in Viet Nam Evaluation (in course documents—example of PSM)
2. Evaluation of Clinical Pharmacy Demonstration Projects (in course documents—example of matched comparison groups)

Oct 20. Techniques, Pros and Cons of Quasi-Experimental Evaluations

Heckman and Smith JSTOR JEP 1995

Glazerman et al. (<http://ann.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/589/1/63>)

–read for results, not for methodology

Shadish, Cook and Campbell, pp. 484-504 (optional—more advanced)

Oct 25. Quasi-Experiment Lecture continued

Oct 27. Case: Team READ

Homework for Case (Due before class starts): Provide written answers case questions.

BREAK WEEK (Oct 29-Nov. 6)

(Major) Homework: Designing an Impact Study (Due Dec. 6 on or before 5:00 pm): Design an Impact study on a program of your choice. Again, work in teams, come see me at least once and email me the final paper.

Nov. 8 +10 Full Coverage Program Impact Evaluation

Reading:

In New Approaches to Evaluating Community Initiatives

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/Programt1.asp?i=83&bid=1263>

Weiss <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/Programt1.asp?bid=1272>

Skip from “Theories of Change Underlying CCIs: A First Take” until “Possible Problems with Implementing Theory-Based Evaluation”

Hollister and Hill <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/Programt1.asp?bid=1274>

Nov. 15 +17 Choosing a Right Evaluation Design

Reading:

Wholey Ch 19—Pitfalls in Evaluation pp. 547-570

Shoestring Evaluation: Designing Impact Evaluations under Budget, Time and Data Constraints

Nov 22. Guest Speaker

Nov 29. Guest Speaker

Dec 1+6. Cost Effectiveness and Benefit Cost Analysis Reading:

Greenberg and Appenzeller, Chapter 4 (on measuring program costs)

Wholey et al., Ch 18 Cost-Effectiveness and Cost-Benefit Analysis

Orr, Chapter 6, pp. 220-229

Thornton, et al. Evaluating the Benefits and Costs of the Job Corps.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, vol. 1, no. 1, fall 1981, pp. 55-76

Dec. 8. Benefit Cost Example

Impact papers should be emailed to me at jgrossma@princeton.edu on Dec. 15th by noon

Dec 13 Topics in Evaluation

Dec 15 Questions