

SPRING 2005
Justice Studies 203
Wed 5:30-8-PM
Mac Quarrie Hall Rm. 510

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Justice Studies 203

JUSTICE POLICY ANALYSIS

Course Description: This course emphasizes justice system policy analysis and program evaluation using research and evaluation methodology. Pre-requisites to take this class are: Statistics 95 (or equivalent), AJ 105, and AJ 202.

Course Objectives: The objectives of this course are to expand on the student's basic knowledge of research, program evaluation and policy analysis and to apply that knowledge in designing and implementing a research project.

Course Structure: This is a seminar style course, where both students and instructor share responsibility for learning. Full participation in the class is required. This means more than attendance. It includes reading the assigned materials prior to each class meeting and taking turns leading class discussions. Students are required to critique each other's oral presentation at the end of the semester.

Course Requirements and Grading:

- Bring at least 2 thoughtful questions to class each week based on the reading assignment
- Take turns leading a 30-minute class discussion based on the reading and the questions for that week.
- **Mid-term exam- Multiple choice and essay**
- Turn in assigned writing materials on time
- Meet with Professor Peifer 2 times per semester
- Each person or small group is expected to meet with the instructor before week 4 to define their final project topic.
- Each person or group will meet with the professor a week before their presentation.
- **A Final presentation to the class with a final paper**

Individual grades are based on:

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| ➤ Student lead discussion | 20% |
| ➤ The mid-term exam | 20% |
| ➤ Meet with professor | 10% |
| ➤ Submission of drafts | 10% |
| ➤ Oral presentation of their section of the report | 20% |
| ➤ The final paper | 20%. |

Final Project

Students must choose to either work alone or work in small groups of no more than three students by the fourth week of class. After that time, changes can only be made with permission of the instructor. Students must meet with the instructor by the fifth week of class to discuss their projects.

There are 2 choices for the final project:

Choice # 1. The project will be a research study using secondary data sources or existing primary data for analysis. This project will propose and test a hypothesis.

Choice #2 The project entails a program evaluation based on working with a local organization such as: Probation department, superior court (family, drug, DV court), a police department, immigration, DEA etc.

Required Texts:

Weiss, C.H. (1998). *Evaluation*. Second Edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Class Reader TBA

Class rules:

- No cell phones during class period
- Be respectful and listen to each other
- SJSU has a clearly defined consequence for academic integrity. SJSU Academic Integrity policy defines plagiarism as: "Presenting someone else's work as your own. This includes copying from sources without citing and claiming someone else's original work or ideas as your own." This includes cutting and pasting sections of text or entire articles from one document to another and turning it in as your own work. This includes using material from previously submitted papers for other classes. Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated in this class. There are serious consequences for your grade, for your degree, and for your career in law enforcement for doing so. Please be advised.

Course Outline and Required Reading:

Jan. 26th Introductions, course overview and expectations;
Program evaluation & policy analysis options discussed.

Weiss Chapters 1

Feb 2nd Types of evaluations

Weiss- Chapter 2 Reader: Samples of Logic Models

Discussion questions: What are the differences and similarities between program evaluation and research? What are the differences between process and summative evaluations?

Feb 9th Understanding programs and interventions

Weiss Chapters 3 and 5

Discussion questions: How do politics and the intended use of evaluation finding interact? How can you take these issues into consideration when doing an evaluation?

Feb 16th Study designs

Groups formed and final selection of topic or program for evaluation.

Weiss Chapters 4, 8, 10 Reader selection on study designs

Discussion questions: What is the role of an evaluator in designing a study and how can the challenges inherent in this relationship be resolved to accomplish a quality evaluation?

Feb. 23rd Data collection - Choosing a method to find your answer

Weiss, Chapters 6 & 7

Discussion topic: What are the advantages and disadvantages of using qualitative and quantitative measures? How are design extensions applicable to justice studies topics?

Mar 2nd Data collection: Use of existing measures: Validity and reliability

Weiss, Chapters 9

NO group discussion **Mid-term Exam**

Mar 9th Policy analysis: Economics and Politics.

Reader: Policy analysis

Discussion questions: Present and discuss the relevance of the article on Homeland Security, what does it say and what doesn't it say?

Mar 16th Measures to analysis

Weiss, Chapter 12 Reader: Choosing statistical tests

Discussion questions: How do you determine what kind of statistical test should be used and how are the findings interpreted?

Mar 23rd SPRING Break

March 30th Data analysis continued

Draft outline sections 1 and 2 of final paper due- relevance and scope of research project

Weiss, Chapter 10, 11 & 12 Reader: Choosing the right analytical tools

Discussion questions: What are some of the short falls of using existing primary and secondary data sources?

April 6th Ethics and integrity in research

Weiss, Chapters 14. Reader: Belmont Report

Discussion topic: How can you maintain ethical practice doing quality evaluation, policy analysis and research?

April 13 Presentation of findings and catch-up day

Weiss: Chapter 13

Research group meetings second half of class- Be prepared to discuss questions and problems.

Draft of study design and analysis plan due in class.

April 20 Research Day – In class work on final projects

April 27th Oral Presentations

May 4th Oral Presentations **Draft of Final Papers for early review DUE in class**

May 11th Oral Presentations Drafts returned in class with comments

**FINAL PAPERS DUE ON DAY OF EXAM SCHEDULED FOR THIS CLASS
Wednesday, May 18th at 5:30 PM.**

Please complete this form and return it to the instructor at the end of the first class.

Your Name: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Email address: _____

1. Are you currently employed?
 - A. If yes, how many hours a week do your work? _____
2. Are you currently working in the justice system? Yes / No
 - A. If yes, where and in what capacity? _____

3. What is your previous experience in Justice Studies?

4. What are your career goals in this field?

5. What year did you take your statistics class? _____

6. How would you rate what you have learned about research, evaluation and statistics?

1. Poor	2. Fair	3. Acceptable	4. Excellent
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7. How important do you think research and evaluation will be in reaching your career goals?

1. Not at all	2. Somewhat important	3. Important	4. Very important
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