

Professor R. Roberg  
MH 508  
924-2941

AJ 204  
JUSTICE POLICY ANALYSIS

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An analysis of justice system policies and procedures, with an emphasis on how policies are formulated, evaluated and interpreted.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The major objectives of the course are fivefold: (1) to provide a basic understanding of the evaluation and policy analysis process; (2) to gain entree into a criminal justice agency program; (3) to identify and detail an operational problem; (4) to establish evaluation criteria for problem measurement; and (5) to hypothetically evaluate the problem and determine policy implications for program improvement.

**TEXTS**

C.V. Patton and D.S. Sawicki, Basic Methods of Policy Analysis & Planning. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1986).

C.H. Weiss, Evaluation Research, (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1972).

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

The course will be conducted in a seminar style, which means that both the student and the instructor share responsibility for the success of the course. Participation in the class is mandatory and will be necessary for the successful completion of the course. Participation is considered to be more than being in attendance; it includes discussions indicating knowledge of the subject matter and/or asking probing questions. Thus, it is imperative that the assigned materials be read and "digested" prior to each class meeting.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Evaluation/Policy Analysis Paper (including presentation, outline, and bibliography)	75%
Participation	25%

## Evaluation/Policy Analysis Paper Requirements

A research paper detailing a hypothetical evaluation of an ongoing criminal justice program, and a discussion of the policy implications resulting from the evaluation, is required. You will seek out an agency official or representative who can describe an operational problem within their agency they would like evaluated (in general, the program should not have been previously evaluated). Your charge is to verify the problem, design an evaluation method for defining and assessing the problem, and to describe the policy implications (based on the hypothetical findings), that, if implemented, should improve program effectiveness.

Note: If you currently work in a criminal justice agency, you may not use your agency for evaluation/policy analysis purposes. In other words, you must seek out and gain entree to a "nonfamiliar" agency; however, this does not preclude other students from using your agency.

Grading: In addition to the normal expectations for a graduate research paper, this paper will also be assessed from the standpoint of its potential utility to the criminal justice agency. The central question would be: Does the paper provide sufficient information to properly conduct the evaluation effort and to guide the policy decisions?

Length: The length of the paper shall not exceed twenty-five (25) typewritten, double spaced pages, including footnote and bibliography pages. Not included in the length limit will be the inclusion (appendices) of the instrument(s) used in your hypothetical analysis.

Standards: The following standards apply to the final paper:

- typewritten and double spaced
- correct punctuation, spelling and mechanics
- properly footnoted (e.g., Turabian, Campbell, APA, ASR or MLA)
- proper bibliography
- appendices
- no plagiarism

## Paper Format

### Part I Introduction

Describe Criminal Justice Agency Program including  
problem definition  
Brief Historical Background

### Part II Literature Review

Describe previous research (3 to 5 studies?) of a similar nature;  
"outside" studies may be necessary  
Describe designs and quality of the research efforts (i.e.,  
expert/quasi-expert/survey; control vars., etc.)  
Report the findings

### Part III Design of the Hypothetical Evaluation

Research Design: type, important variables, etc.  
Sample  
Instrumentation: measuring instruments/methods  
Data Analysis

### Part IV Findings and Policy Implications

Hypothetical results: based on lit. rev. and knowledge of  
program  
Recommended policy changes

### Part V Summary

Overall Summary  
Prospects for the future

### Part VI Presentation of Paper

Due to the class the day of the presentation:  
Outline (1-2 pps)  
Bibliography

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COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jan. 29th	Introduction
Feb. 5th	P. and S. Chaps. 1 & 2 W. Chaps. 1 & 2
Feb. 12th	P. and S. Chap. 3 W. Chap. 3
Feb. 19th	W. Chap. 4 P. and S. pps. 306-326
Feb. 26th	Overlap Discussion: Instrumentation/Topics
March 5th	Research Day/Agency Visitation
March 12th	W. Chap. 5 P. and S. Chap. 4
March 19th	P. and S. Chap. 5 Discussion: Topics/Evaluation
March 26th	Individual Meetings (one-half) Research Day (one-half)
April 2nd	Individual Meetings (one-half) Research Day (one-half)
April 16th	W. Chap. 6 P. and S. Chap. 6