



SOC 818

Evaluation and the Policy Process

S1 Day 2014

Sociology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MPASR or PGDipPASR or PGCertPASR or MAppAnth or PGDipAppAnth or PGCertAppAnth or MPP or PGDipPP or PGCertPP or MIntPubDip

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to policy evaluation and accounts for its place in the policy process and social sciences respectively. Students will acquire a knowledge of different approaches to evaluation as well as the ethical and political issues surrounding this process. The unit also focuses on how trends informing public sector management have an influence on the evaluation process and the actual implementation of evaluations.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- A practical introduction to evaluation methods & policy
- Insight into theoretical accounts about evaluation and policy
- Professionally useful skills in writing evaluation reports
- Professionally useful data analysis skills

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Participation	10%	Ongoing
Exam	35%	Week 7
Report	35%	Week 13
Presentation	20%	Ongoing

Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

Active participation in discussions and other activities

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Insight into theoretical accounts about evaluation and policy
- Professionally useful data analysis skills

Exam

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **35%**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Insight into theoretical accounts about evaluation and policy

Report

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **35%**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A practical introduction to evaluation methods & policy
- Professionally useful skills in writing evaluation reports
- Professionally useful data analysis skills

Presentation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A practical introduction to evaluation methods & policy
- Insight into theoretical accounts about evaluation and policy
- Professionally useful skills in writing evaluation reports
- Professionally useful data analysis skills

Delivery and Resources

The course is offered in a two-hour seminar format, comprising a lecture, group discussion and practice based workshop each week.

The readings for each week can be accessed from e-reserve and/or iLearn. However we would recommend the following textbooks, that you may find useful for this course and as a resource for evaluation research more generally.

- Fitzpatrick, Jody, et al. (2012) *Program Evaluation. Alternative Approaches and Practical Guidelines* (Fourth Edition) Pearson.
- Owen, John (2006) *Program Evaluation. Forms and Approaches* (Third Edition) Allen & Unwin.

Unit Schedule

	Introduction
1	Introduction – What is Evaluation
	Evaluation Approaches
2	Expertise and Consumer Oriented and Program Oriented Approaches
3	Decision Oriented and Participant Oriented Approaches
	Policy and Stakeholders
4	Social Policy in Australia
5	Stakeholder Views and the Evaluation Process

6	Matching Stakeholder Views and the Evaluation Process: Examples
	Conducting a Policy Evaluation
7	Planning and Implementing an Evaluation
8	Conducting an Evaluation
9	Conducting an Evaluation
10	Conducting an Evaluation
	The Impact of Evaluation
11	Report Writing
12	Report Writing
13	Study Week

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- A practical introduction to evaluation methods & policy
- Insight into theoretical accounts about evaluation and policy

- Professionally useful data analysis skills

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- A practical introduction to evaluation methods & policy
- Insight into theoretical accounts about evaluation and policy
- Professionally useful skills in writing evaluation reports
- Professionally useful data analysis skills

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- A practical introduction to evaluation methods & policy
- Professionally useful skills in writing evaluation reports
- Professionally useful data analysis skills

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Professionally useful skills in writing evaluation reports

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in

relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- A practical introduction to evaluation methods & policy
- Professionally useful skills in writing evaluation reports

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- A practical introduction to evaluation methods & policy
- Insight into theoretical accounts about evaluation and policy
- Professionally useful data analysis skills

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
19/02/2014	The Description was updated.
16/01/2014	The Prerequisites was updated.