SSCI3010

Evaluation and Applied Social Science

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2021

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

Contents

Disclaimer

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Notice

As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit convenor
Adam Stebbing
adam.stebbing@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
By appointment

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
(SSCI1000 or SSCI100) and (SSCI2010 or SSCI201) and (SSCI2020 or SSCI202)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Social science theories and methodologies have many practical and professional applications
in the workplace, including positions in applied policy and research. What are the main
applications of social science in today's workplace? This unit focuses on evaluation and policy
research, which apply social science theories and methods to ascertain whether a program or
policy intervention is making a difference. This unit has three parts. The first examines the
policy context of evaluation and applied social science. In the second part, we survey
influential research designs for evaluation and applied social science that incorporate
qualitative and/or quantitative methods. And, in the third part, we consider ethical and practical
issues that arise when designing and doing applied social science. Through these three parts,
the unit aims to introduce students to the skills required to design ethical and robust
evaluations and applied social science projects. By doing this, the unit applies knowledge and
methodologies from earlier social science units to practical situations in order to prepare
students for working on a professional social research project as part of the capstone unit.

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:

ULO1: apply existing knowledge of qualitative and quantitative social inquiry to

evaluation problems and applied research

ULO2: design and evaluate how program logic models display the workings of a program or policy

ULO3: display knowledge of key evaluation and applied social science research approaches

ULO4: employ skills in interpreting and assessing data quality in evaluation and applied social science research

ULO5: explain key research problems, methodologies and evaluation approaches using professional writing formats.

General Assessment Information

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is an intergral part of the core values and principles contained in the Macquarie University Ethics Statement. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- All academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- All academic collaborations are acknowledged
- Academic work is not falsified in any way
- When the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately
- Self-plagiarism (resubmitting your own work - including past assignments for this or other units - without attribution) is an unacceptable academic activity

University Grading Policy

The grade that a student receives will signify their overall performance in meeting the learning outcomes of the unit of study. Graded units will use the following grades

HD	High Distinction	85-100
D	Distinction	75-84
Cr	Credit	65-74
P	Pass	50-64
F	Fail	0-49

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University.

Return of Marked Work

As per university policy, written assessments will be returned to students within three weeks of the submission date. Early assignments will not be marked early.

Special Consideration (Extensions)

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable

2. were beyond your control

3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work

4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements

5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

More information about Special Consideration is available in the Policies and Procedures section of the unit guide.

Late Penalties

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Student Wellbeing

Macquarie University offers a range of wellbeing services (including [but not limited to]: health, welfare, counselling, disability and student advocacy services) that are available to you at any time during your studies. Student Wellbeing is here to support you and help you succeed, both academically and personally. More information is available in the Policies and Procedures section of the unit guide.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Program Logic Task	30%	No	05/04/2021
Active Participation	20%	No	Ongoing
Research Proposal	50%	No	05/06/2021

Program Logic Task

Assessment Type [1]: Practice-based task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 21 hours
Due: **05/04/2021**
Weighting: **30%**

1,000 word paper

On successful completion you will be able to:
- design and evaluate how program logic models display the workings of a program or policy

Active Participation

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 11 hours
Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **20%**

Active participation in unit learning exercises.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- apply existing knowledge of qualitative and quantitative social inquiry to evaluation problems and applied research
- display knowledge of key evaluation and applied social science research approaches
- employ skills in interpreting and assessing data quality in evaluation and applied social science research

Research Proposal

Assessment Type [1]: Design Task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 42 hours
Due: **05/06/2021**
Weighting: **50%**

2,000 word paper

On successful completion you will be able to:
- apply existing knowledge of qualitative and quantitative social inquiry to evaluation problems and applied research
- display knowledge of key evaluation and applied social science research approaches
- explain key research problems, methodologies and evaluation approaches using professional writing formats.

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Unit Sessions

Lectures are will be made available online via iLearn by Wednesday 11am of weeks 1 to 12 of semester (inclusive).

Workshops (tutorials) will run online via Zoom for weeks 2 to 12. Please see the weekly tabs for more information.

Required and recommended resources

There is no required textbook for SSCI3010. Required readings are online available via Leganto (see below).

Technology used

The following technologies are used in this unit...

Email

Make sure that you regularly check your student email for correspondence with teaching staff and course announcements.

iLearn

Important information about the weekly schedule, course readings and assessment are all available on the course *iLearn* page. If you do not have access, please contact IT help. You are required to check iLearn and your student email regularly for course updates and information.

Turnitin

All written assessments need to be submitted online via Turnitin only. A link to Turnitin is available via the Assessments tab on the iLearn page. Please contact the convenor if you cannot find it (do not leave it until the day of the assessment). There is no need to submit a hard copy of the assessment or to include a cover sheet.

Grademark

Feedback will be made available online via GradeMark. It will take four forms (in no particular order): specific comments in the text of your paper; overall comments; a score on a qualitative rubric (that cannot be used to calculate your mark numerically); and a numeric score. Once you have received your assignment back, please make sure that you have access to these forms of feedback.

Leganto

Leganto is the electronic system for accessing unit readings that can be accessed via the iLearn page. Readings are allocated via topic. As well as the required readings for each topic, you will find recommended and optional readings. The required readings are available in pdf or electronic format. If you are not able to access the readings, please contact the unit convenor via email.

Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule

The following table identifies the weekly topics for SSCI3010. More information can be found about the weekly topics and required readings on the unit iLearn page. Lectures will be delivered online from weeks 1 to 12 (inclusive), whilst tutorials will run on-campus from weeks 2 to 12.

Week	Topic
1	Introducing evaluation and applied social science
2	Understanding social issues, programs and public policies
3	Program logic models: A critical appreciation
4	What is credible evidence? The politics of evidence-based policy
5	Designing evaluation as applied social research
6	Uses and misuses of quantitative methods in evaluation
7	Participatory and qualitative methods for evaluation
8	Developing indicators and instruments
9	Applying unobtrusive methods: From policy documents to big data
10	Beyond 'gold standards': Demystifying mixed methods research
11	Designing research proposals
12	The ethics of applied social science: Case studies

Week	Topic
13	Revision week

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/ offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

Lectures will be delivered online only.

Readings have been revised and updated where appropriate.

Assessment topics have been revised.

Weekly schedule has been revised.