



Course Syllabus

Course title: Evaluation in Social Work
Course #/term: SW 683 Spring Summer 2019
Time and place: Monday, 1-5 pm, SSW B780
Credit hours: 3
Instructor: Sue Ann Savas, MSW
Pronouns: She/her/hers
Contact info: ssavas@umich.edu
When you email me, please include SW683 in the subject line
Cell: 734-649-6776
Office Hours: SSWB 3848, By appointment

Course Description

This course will cover beginning level evaluation that builds on basic research knowledge as a method of assessing social work practice and strengthening clients, communities and their social programs as well as the systems that serve clients and communities. It addresses the evaluation of promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services. Students will learn to assess and apply evaluation methods from various perspectives, including scientific, ethical, multicultural, and social justice perspectives.

Course Content

This course will focus on the direct application of the analytical skills associated with developing and implementing evaluation designs that are appropriate for social work practice. Students will examine the evaluation of social work programs with particular attention to dimensions of diversity (ability, age, class, color, culture, ethnicity, family structure, gender [including gender identity and gender expression], marital status, national origin, race, religion or spirituality, sex, and sexual orientation). Students will be introduced to models of evaluation derived from social science and social work theory and research. They will learn to apply these models as they develop skills in critically assessing evaluation methods within the social context.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and choose the type of evaluation that is appropriate to answer questions consonant with a program's developmental stage. (Practice Behaviors 6.CO, 6.IP, 6.MHS, 6.SPE, 10.d.CO, 10.d.IP, 10.d.MHS, 10.d.SPE)
2. Specify a program for evaluation and its theory of change. (Practice Behaviors 10.d.CO, 10.d.IP, 10.d.MHS, 10.d.SPE)
3. Recognize and apply evaluation and data collection methods that are appropriate to the evaluation context. (Practice Behaviors 6.CO, 6.IP, 6.MHS, 6.SPE)

4. Plan an evaluation of social work practice. (Practice Behaviors 6.SPE, 10.d.CO, 10.d.IP, 10.d.MHS)
5. Understand strategies that promote involvement of practice/policy communities in disseminating the results of evaluation activities in order to foster changes in programs/policies. (Practice Behaviors 6.CO, 6.IP, 6.MHS, 6.SPE)
6. Critically examine existing evaluation studies for their consistency with the values reflected in the curricular themes. (Practice Behaviors 6.CO, 6.IP, 6.MHS, 6.SPE, 10.d.CO, 10.d.IP, 10.d.MHS, 10.d.SPE)

Course Design

The course will use a project-based engaged active learning approach. Multiple pedagogical methods such as short lectures, participatory discussions, written assignments, student project and presentations, role plays and other experiential exercises will be integrated into the course. Guest speakers may be invited to address special topics.

Theme Relation to Multiculturalism & Diversity

Students will develop the capacity to identify ways in which dimensions of diversity (ability, age, class, color, culture, ethnicity, family structure, gender [including gender identity and gender expression], marital status, national origin, race, religion or spirituality, sex, and sexual orientation) influence evaluation processes and outcomes. Because a collaborative, participatory process is critical to evaluation of social work interventions, attention to diversity is imperative for proper implementation of evaluation in social work contexts.

Theme Relation to Social Justice

Students will develop the capacity to analyze the impact and efficiency of services and policies as they relate to social change and social justice. Participatory, collaborative, change-oriented evaluation processes and appropriate dissemination activities can promote the achievement of social justice and change and therefore are emphasized in the class. Also important are an examination of the role of power in evaluation and the development of knowledge, skills, and capacities that participants of evaluation can mobilize to shift imbalances of power and resources.

Theme Relation to Promotion, Prevention, Treatment & Rehabilitation

Students will develop the capacity to develop and evaluate prevention and promotion as well as rehabilitation programs that are designed to reduce risk of onset of problems and promote healthy development.

Theme Relation to Behavioral and Social Science Research

Students will strengthen their capacity to use theoretical and empirical social science literature to develop and understand whether interventions are appropriately designed and scientifically sound.

Relationship to SW Ethics and Values

Ethical and value dilemmas unique to fundraising will be presented in this course. Students will

be introduced to the potential conflicts of interest that can occur when several different parties are involved in raising, giving, or sharing large sums of money (e.g., intentional and unintentional deception, making decisions that are not in the best interests of the various players, fraud, and corruption). In addition, emphasis will be placed on how to choose, approach, and work with donors (e.g., who should be approached, to give how much and how, for whom, and for what purposes). Other ethical issues will also be discussed, including whether to accept what might be considered "tainted" money and how much donor choice should be permitted in the reallocation of funds raised. Although several fundraising codes of ethics are currently being created by relevant professional societies, few give clear and direct guidelines to action, making this issue of central importance to this course.

Intensive Focus on PODS

This course integrates PODS content and skills with a special emphasis on the identification of theories, practice and/or policies that promote social justice, illuminate injustices and are consistent with scientific and professional knowledge. Through the use of a variety of instructional methods, this course will support students developing a vision of social justice, learn to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice, work toward social justice processes, apply intersectionality and intercultural frameworks and strengthen critical consciousness, self-knowledge and self-awareness to facilitate PODS learning.

Teaching Philosophy

I use an engaged active learning approach. Students will work in teams to complete a time-limited evaluation project to match their practice area of interest. Students will work with their field placement partners to identify an evaluation project or select their class project from a list of community-based evaluation projects provided the instructor.

In addition to the course objectives and the CSWE competencies, I will work to advance the following University of Michigan engaged learning student outcomes: (1) self-agency and innovation, (2) collaboration, communication, and teamwork, (3) social/civic responsibility and ethical reasoning, (4) intercultural engagement, and (5) creativity.

Textbook and On-line Evaluation Modules

Wholey, J.S., Hatry, H.P. & Newcomer, K.E. (2015), Fourth Edition, Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation (First Edition) San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Modules: <https://ssw.umich.edu/my-ssw/msw-forms/modules>

Web-modules were designed to support out-of-class on-line learning and augment the SW683 readings and lectures.

Class Schedule

Date	Theme	Required Readings	Recommended Resources
L1. May 13	Introduction to Course and Logic Modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yarbrough, D. B., Shulha, L. M., Hopson, R. K., & Caruthers, F. A. (2011). <u>The program evaluation standards: A guide for evaluators and evaluation users</u> (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Mathie, A. and Greene, J. (1997, Seminal Article) Stakeholder Participation in Evaluation: How Important is Diversity? <i>Evaluation and Program Planning</i>, 20(3), 279-285. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NASW Code of Ethics American Evaluation Association Guiding Principles. Glossary of Evaluation Terms, Planning and Performance Management Unit, US AID
L2. May 20	Logic Modeling, Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wholey Text, Chapter 2: Assessing the Feasibility and Likely Usefulness of Evaluation, p15-39. W. K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide http://www.smartgivers.org/uploads/logicmodelguidepdf.pdf Holley, M., Recchia, C., and Bickstette, V. (2016). Measuring What Matters: Five Grant Performance Traps and How to avoid them. <i>Stanford Social Innovation Review</i>. Lee, Phillip. What's Wrong with Logic Models, <i>Local Community Services Association</i>, p1-7, (2018) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review sample logic models (canvas) American Jewish World Service Theory of Change
May 27	No Class	University Holiday	
L3. June 3	Evaluation Approaches, Planning, and Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wholey Text, Chapter 21: Managing Evaluation Projects Step-by Step, p510-533 Wholey Text: Chapter 24: Maximizing the Use of Evaluation Results. p576-589 Liket, K. C., Rey-Garcia, M., & Maas, K. E. H. (2014). Why aren't evaluations working and what to do about it: A framework for negotiating meaningful evaluation in non-profits., <i>American Journal of Evaluation</i>, 35(2), p171-188. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Web-Module</i>: Evaluation Questions

Date	Theme	Required Readings	Recommended Resources
L4. June 10	Qualitative Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholey Text, Chapter 4: Using Qualitative Approaches. P69-95. • Wholey Text, Chapter 14: How to Use Focus Groups, p 338-349 • Halaweh, H., Dahlin-Ivanoff, S., Svantesson, U., Willen C., (2018), Perspectives of Older Adults on Aging Well: A Focus Group Study, <i>Journal of Aging Research</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davies, R. and Dart, J., (2005) <i>Most Significant Change Technique: A Guide to its Use</i>.
L5. June 17	Quantitative Data Collection Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholey Text, Chapter 11: Designing and Conducting Surveys, p271-292 • Wholey Text: Chapter 5: Outcome Monitoring, p96-118 • Bamberger, M. Introduction to Mixed Methods in Impact Evaluation, (2012). <i>The Rockefeller Foundation: Interaction A United Voice for Global Change</i>, p1-38 • Mertens, D. (2009) Participants: Identification, Sampling, Consent and Reciprocity, <u><i>Transformative Research and Evaluation</i></u>, Guilford Press. p199-231. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Web-module</i>: Data Collection Methods • Standardized Instrument Search at http://guides.lib.umich.edu/tests OR http://www.eric.ed.gov/
L6. June 24	Analyzing Qualitative Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perrin, Burt. (2014) Think positively! And Make a Difference Through Evaluation. <i>Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation</i>. 29 (2). • Taylor-Powell, E and Renner, M. (2003) Analyzing Qualitative Data. <i>University of Wisconsin Extension Program Development and Evaluation</i>. p1-10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Create a Successful Story Banking Program (2015), <i>Families USA</i>.
L7. July 1	Analyzing Quantitative Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholey Text: Chapter 17: Using Statistics Appropriately, p389-416 • Dabbling in the Data: A Hands-on-Guide to Participatory Data Analysis, (2015) www.publicprofit.net, p1-46 • Sanders, M., Galindo, C. , Vega-Marquis, L, and Milloy, C., (2017) Marguerite Casey Foundation: Reflecting on 15 Years of Philanthropic Leadership Through a Summative Evaluation, <i>The Foundation Review</i>, Vol9, Issue 2, Article 7. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Web-module</i>: Statistical Tests. • Rockinson-Szapkiw, A. (2013). <i>Statistics Guide</i> • SPSS Tutorial

Date	Theme	Required Readings	Recommended Resources
L8. July 8	Data Visualization, Data Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholey Text, Chapter 6: Constructing Natural Experiments, p 119-132. • Knight, C. and Alarie, R. (2017). Improving Mental Health in the Community: Outcome Evaluation of a Geriatric Mental Health Day Treatment Service, <i>Clinical Gerontologist</i>, 40:2, 77-87. • Pacheco, J. (2014). Measuring and Evaluating Changes in State Opinion across Eight Issues. <i>American Politics Research</i>, Vol. 42(6) 986-1009. • Mertens, D. (2009) Reporting and Utilization: Pathway to the Future, <u><i>Transformative Research and Evaluation</i></u>, Guilford Press. p313-347. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Web-module</i>: Evaluation Types • W.K. Kellogg Evaluation Handbook at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/links/WK-Kellogg-Foundation.pdf • <i>Web-module</i>: Evaluation Design Rigor
L9. July 15	Making graphics, culturally responsive evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gugelev, A. and Stern, A. (2015) What is your endgame? <i>Stanford Social Innovation Review</i>. • Turning Data into Action (2017) www.livestories.com • Waapalaneexkweew (Bowman, N., Mohican/Lunaape), & Dodge-Francis, C. (2018). Culturally responsive indigenous evaluation and tribal governments: Understanding the relationship. In F. Cram, K. A. Tibbetts, & J. LaFrance (Eds.), <i>Indigenous Evaluation. New Directions for Evaluation</i>, 159, 17–31 • Gaotlhobogwe, M., Major, T. E., Kolo-Keaikitse, S., & Chilisa, B. (2018). Conceptualizing evaluation in African contexts. In F. Cram, K. A. Tibbetts, & J. LaFrance (Eds.), <i>Indigenous Evaluation. New Directions for Evaluation</i>, 159, 47–62 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Visualization Checklist and Chart Chooser • Dr. Stephanie Evergreen Data Visualization: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CipJTCb671eX9JOrOUQGhvyOINUipy73/view?usp=sharing • American Evaluation Association Public Statement on Cultural Competence in Evaluation, (2011)
L10. July 22	Evaluation Project Presentations	No readings	
L11. July 29	Evaluation Project Presentations	No readings	

Assignments

Assignment	Due date
Logic Model, 15%	Draft due May 27 Final due June 3 Grade will reflect the average grade of both submissions
Evaluation Planning Test, 20%	July 15
Data Visualization Slides, 15%	July 22
Group Project Slide Deck and Presentation of Results, 30%	Presentations on July 22 or July 29 Final slides due July 31 (exam week)

Students will have time to work on assignments in class in order to receive coaching from peers and the instructor. Students will have an opportunity to share their products and gather feedback on their deliverables from their group members and/or the instructor. Individual student work products/assignments will be uploaded to canvas for grading.

Logic Model, 15%

This written assignment requires the articulation of a program's theory of change using a one-page landscape logic model format. The logic model will include (1) a description of program participants and system conditions that led to the need for the program, (2) major program components, (3) detailed activities, and (4) expected program participant outcomes. Include Reference/Resources (i.e. published references, theorists, research studies, program handbooks, and/or interviews with program staff) used in the development of the logic model. The student will choose their program or policy of focus for the logic model development assignment. The grading rubric is available on canvas.

Evaluation Plan Test, 20%

Each student will complete a 30 item multiple choice test to demonstrate their understanding of evaluation planning. The test will cover the purpose of the evaluation and evaluation approach, types of evaluations given the developmental stage of the program, key evaluation questions, outcome design, reasons why other more rigorous designs were not feasible, limitations of the design, qualitative methods, quantitative methods, data analysis strategies, reporting and ways to facilitate use of results.

Data Visualization Slides, 15%

Students will work individually to design 3 different charts to communicate evaluation results. The slides should demonstrate the student's understanding of data visualization principles.

Group Project: Slide Deck and Presentation, 30%

Over the course, students will work in small groups to plan and implement a short-term community-based evaluation project. The projects will be identified by students (usually field placement projects) or by the instructor. Students will meet with the client in the community, engage in evaluation planning, and implement an evaluation plan (including the collection and analysis of data). Using data visualization principles, students will generate a slide deck of results (at least 15 slides) to present to the community client at the end of the term. The students will facilitate a data interpretation session of preliminary results with classmates on one of the last two class sessions. All members of the group are expected to fully participate in the project and the presentation.

Grading

Final grades are based on 100 percentage points. Letter grades are assigned to point totals according to the following schedule:

100	A+	88-90	B+	78-80	C+	68-70	D+
94-99	A	84-87	B	74-77	C	64-67	D
91-93	A-	81-83	B-	71-73	C-	<64	E

Course Engagement	10%
Attendance	10%
Logic Model	15%
Evaluation Plan Test	20%
Data Visualization Slides	15%
Group Project Evaluation Slide Deck and Presentation	30%
Total	100%

A brief note about grading: Your grade will be a reflection of both your effort and the quality of your engagement in the course and assignments.

Course Engagement, 10%

I expect you to be engaged in all in-class activities, including contributing comments and questions in class discussions. Some people naturally speak up in class more than others. I recommend that if you are someone who is comfortable talking a lot, you consider “stepping back,” and if you are less comfortable talking a lot, you consider “stepping up.” However, your engagement score is not predicated on the number of times you speak in class; rather I will focus on your participation in activities and whether it is obvious that you are engaged during class. (Hint: using devices for anything other than classwork \neq paying attention in class.) Misuse of electronic devices in class will be reflected in your engagement score.

Class Attendance, 10%

Class attendance is imperative for both your own learning and the learning of your peers, and certainly for my learning. I expect students to attend class. If you need to miss a class, please contact me in advance to let me know. More than one absence will result in a lower grade or require a class make-up assignment. Routine tardiness will also reduce the attendance grade. If personal or professional circumstances require your absence from more than one class, please contact me as soon as possible. Note that, even if you are absent from a class, you are still responsible for submitting any assignments due that day.

Please review the [Policy on Class Attendance](#) found in the MSW Student Guide.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at or before the dates listed on the syllabus and on Canvas, except where noted. Please submit all work on time. Except where indicated, late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for the first day past the due date and time, and a full letter grade

for each additional day thereafter. I am not inclined to waive this policy, though I do understand there may be exceptional circumstances.

Grade Dispute Process

If you believe you have been graded unfairly on an assignment, I ask that you please wait 24 hours before contacting me. In general, I do accept challenges to grades. However, challenges must be in writing (not verbal); must be specific, and must be based on substantive arguments (or mathematical errors). I reserve the right to re-read, and re-grade, the work in its entirety in the case of a challenge. The grade may be adjusted upwards or downwards.

Expectations for Written Work

Development of professional writing is a goal of the course, and I will consider writing quality in grading. Proofread written work carefully; I strongly recommend that you have a colleague read your documents for clarity, typos, omitted words, etc.

Purdue University's OWL website <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> is an excellent resource for general writing and formatting advice.

The Sweetland Writing Center (SWC) is located at 1310 North Quad (corner of W. Washington and State St.). Graduate students are eligible for seven sessions per semester. For help with your paper, please free to consult them for writing support. They can help you develop your argument, improve your paper organization, correct grammar mistakes, and craft effective prose. You can register with them on line and schedule an appointment: Website: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/>


In addition, social work students can receive individual writing assistance from Betsy Williams, Writing Skills and Study Skills Coordinator, through the UM SSW Career Services office. Students may schedule an appointment and bring a draft of their paper (at any stage) along with the text of the assignment and any questions or concerns they may have. Email ssw-cso@umich.edu or call 734-763-6259. Finally, another resource is the English Language Institute: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/eli>

Additional Course Information and Resources

Safety and emergency preparedness

All University of Michigan students, faculty and staff are required to familiarize themselves with emergency procedures and protocols for both inside and outside of the classroom. In the event of possible building closure (i.e. severe weather conditions, public health notices, etc.) you may contact (734)764-7793 for up-to-date school closure information.

Be prepared. Familiarize yourself with the emergency card posted next to the phone in every classroom/meeting room. Review the information on the emergency evacuation sign (located nearest the door) and locate at least two emergency exits nearest the classroom.

Each SSW classroom is equipped with door locks. Pressing the  button (located on the door handle) to lock the door from within the room.

If you are concerned about your ability to exit the building in the case of an emergency, contact the Office of Student Services (Room 1748) at (734) 936-0961 or via email at ssw-ADAcompliance@umich.edu.

All University of Michigan students, faculty and staff are required to familiarize themselves with emergency procedures and protocols for both inside and outside of the classroom. [Click here to read more about the School of Social Work's emergency policies and procedures.](#)

Additional resources:

- [Report a hate crime or bias-related incident](#)
- [Register for UM Emergency Alerts](#)
- [View the annual Campus Safety Statement](#)

Mental health and well being

The University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and well being of all students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact:

- [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\) at \(734\) 764-8312](#)
 - The SSW embedded CAPS Counselor is Meghan Shaughnessy-Mogill, LLMSW. She is dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of social work students and the SSW community and offers short-term, solution-focused individual therapy. All services are free and confidential. Contact her at (734) 763-7894 or via email at mshaughm@umich.edu.
- [University Health Service \(UHS\) at \(734\) 764-8320](#)
- [Additional campus health and wellness resources](#)

The Office of Student Services' Health and Wellness Program provides supportive services to MSW students which promote wellness, self care and maintenance of a healthy academic and mental health balance, as well as to increase disability awareness.

- [SSW Health and Wellness Guide](#)
- Contact the Health and Wellness Program at ssw.wellness@umich.edu

Teaching evaluations

The best way for me to learn how students are experiencing the class is...from you! Please fill out the mid-semester survey and the end of semester evaluations. You are “paying it forward” for students who come after you by completing the end of semester evaluations. I take them very seriously and adjust my courses accordingly. Teaching evaluations are administered via Canvas and will be emailed to students during the last weeks of classes. Student identity is completely anonymous, and instructors cannot view evaluation reports until after grades are submitted.

Proper use of names and pronouns

All students will be referred to by the names and pronouns they use (e.g. she, they, ze, he). If you have a name that differs from the one that appears on the roster, please inform me before the second class period so that I use your correct name and pronouns. [Students can designate their](#)

[personal pronouns on the class roster via Wolverine Access](#): *Student Business > Campus Personal Information > Gender Identity.*

There are two inclusive restrooms in the SSW building: room 1784 (1st floor, near Registrar's Office) and B833T (Lower Level). [Click here for the Spectrum Center's map of gender inclusive restrooms on campus.](#)

Accommodations for students with disabilities

If you are in need of an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. [Additional information about accommodations for students with disabilities, as well as a list of appropriate accommodation forms, is available here.](#) Please present the appropriate paperwork at least two weeks prior to the need for the accommodation (test, project, etc.).

For more information, contact:

Services for Students with Disabilities
G-664 Haven Hall | 505 South State St.
(734) 763-3000 | ssdoffice@umich.edu

Religious/spiritual observances

An overview of the process for students who have conflicts with religious observances:

- Students are responsible for work acquired during their absence
- Students will have a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete any academic work
- Reasonable notice must be given to faculty before drop/add deadline of term
- Any concerns or conflicts should be brought to the Dean or Ombudsperson

[Please click here to find more information about the University's policy concerning religious holidays as well as a non-exhaustive list of religious holidays.](#)

Military deployment:

[Please click here for more information and resources for students called to Active Duty status while enrolled at the University of Michigan.](#)

Writing skills and expectations: Strong writing and communication skills are essential to students' academic success and professional career. The Writing Coordinator for the School of Social Work is open to meeting with students during any phase of the writing process. The Writing Coordinator's office is housed within the Career Services Office. The Career Services Office also offers workshops, resources and individual assistance to help improve skills and confidence in written communication.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact:

[SSW Writing Assistance](#)
[Career Services](#) (Room 1696; (734) 763-6259; ssw-cso@umich.edu)

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Plagiarism is prohibited in any academic writing at the University of Michigan. [More information on academic integrity policies can be found in the MSW Student Guide.](#)