



Course title:	Program Evaluation and Applied Research
Course #/term:	SW 678, 802, Winter 2023
Course Website:	https://umich.instructure.com/courses/592702
Live Class Meeting:	Thursday, 6pm-8pm via Zoom in Canvas
Credit hours:	3
Prerequisites:	SW 507
Instructor:	Brian Perron, PhD
Pronouns:	[He, him]
Contact info:	Email: beperron@umich.edu
Office hours:	By appointment

1. Course Statement

a. Course description

This course will provide content on the logic of inquiry and the necessity for an empirical approach to social work practice. The process of formulating appropriate research questions, research design, sampling, methods of data collection, procedures to assess and improve the validity and reliability of data and measures, and the ethics of scientific inquiry will be addressed. As consumers of research, students will learn to locate, assess and critique research studies so as to draw appropriate inference, particularly as it affects diverse populations. In addition, this course will provide students with an introduction to evaluation practice as a method of assessing social work practice, strengthening clients, communities, and service systems. Students will have an opportunity to plan an evaluation project, collect, analyze, report and interpret results. This course will help students understand social work practice through the critical examination of methods and approaches associated with decision-making, critical thinking, and ethical judgment.

b. Course objectives and competencies

- Examine how program evaluation and research inquiry is used by social workers to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness (Essential 25, 44; EPAS 1, 4, 5, 9).
- Discover how to use evaluation and research to support anti-racist practices and social justice (Essential 44, 45; EPAS 1, 2, 3, 5).

- Create a logic model to describe a program's operational processes and outcomes (Essential 21; EPAS 7, 8).
- Design an outcome evaluation plan of a social work practice, program or intervention, including the selection of standard scales and/or culturally responsive outcome collection methods (Essential 27, 44; EPAS 1, 4, 5, 8).
- Describe ethical responsibilities pertaining to social work evaluation and research including human subject protection, informed consent, bias, and cultural awareness (Essential 44; EPAS 1, 5).
- Develop strategies to manage, analyze, and report data results to inform practice improvements at multiple levels (Essential 7, 23, 24, 27; EPAS 4, 7, 8, 9).
- Formulate strategies for involving stakeholders in translating and disseminating data results using multiple formats (Essential 23, 25, 27, 44; EPAS 1, 4, 5, 8, 9).

c. Course design

Many different methods will be used for acquiring knowledge and skills, including: discussion, lectures, projects, exercises, and lab work. This course is designed to increase students' comfort level with research methods and evaluation approaches and increase their appreciation of the relevance of research and evaluation for social work practice.

d. Intensive focus on PODS

This course integrates PODS content and skills with a special emphasis on the identification of theories, practices, 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 in developing a vision of social justice, learning to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice, working toward social justice processes, applying intersectionality and intercultural frameworks, and strengthening critical consciousness, self-knowledge and self-awareness to facilitate PODS learning.

2. Class Requirements

a. Text and class materials

- All readings and resources will be posted to Canvas.
- There is one textbook that you may choose to purchase or rent. Alternatively, you can access the textbook online through the UM Library. The textbook is:

- Grinnell, R. M., Gabor, P. A., and Unrau, Y. A. (2019) Program evaluation for social workers: Foundations of evidence-based programs (8th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Link to textbook (you must be signed in to UM Library in order to access it: [Program Evaluation for Social Workers: Foundations of Evidence-Based Programs](#))

b. Class schedule

This course consists of 13 learning modules that are organized into the following topic areas. All required readings, resources, and videos are posted in this module in Canvas:

Module & Topic	Assessments
Module 1: Introduction to Program Evaluation January 12, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion
Module 2: Using Research to Advance Social Justice January 19, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion
Module 3: Logic Models and Outcomes January 26, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion • Web Module: Evaluation Types, Evaluation Questions • Selection of Program
Module 4: Evaluation Planning February 2, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion
Module 5: Qualitative Data Collection February 9, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion • Draft of Logic Model
Module 6: Quantitative Data Collection February 16, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion • Web Module: Data Collection Methods, Sampling Methods
Module 7: Qualitative Data Analysis February 23, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion • Web Module: Statistical Tests • Final Logic Model • Group: Data Collection Summary
Module 8: Quantitative Data Analysis March 9, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion
Module 9: Data Visualization March 16, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion • Web Module: Evaluation Design Rigor

Module 10: Use of Evaluation Results March 23, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion • Data Visualization Slides
Module 11: Communicating and Reporting Culturally Responsive Evaluation March 30, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion • Group: Final Group Report
Module 12: Synthesis April 6, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion • Outcome Evaluation Plan
Module 13: Program Improvement April 13, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion

c. Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	Points/%
Course Engagement & Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate actively in the asynchronous graded discussions in each module. • CLOs associated with this assignment: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 • PODS Capacities associated with course engagement: A, B, C, D, E <p>Initial post due on 4 days before each live meeting Peer responses due on the day of live meeting</p>	260 points (26%)
Web Modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the web modules and upload your certificates • CLOs associated with this assignment: 3, 4 • PODS Capacities associated with course engagement: A, B, C, D, E <p>Due on the day of the respective live meeting in Modules 3, 6, 7, 9. Module 3: January 26, 2023 @ Noon Module 6: February 16, 2023 @ Noon Module 7: February 23, 2023 @ Noon Module 9: March 16, 2023 @ Noon</p>	90 points (9%)
Selection of Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select the program that you will use for the Logic Model assignment • CLOs associated with this assignment: 3 • PODS Capacities associated with course engagement: C <p>Due on the day of the live meeting in Module 3. January 26, 2023 @ Noon</p>	10 points (1%)
Draft of Logic Model	This assignment is due on the day of the live meeting in Module 5. February 9, 2023 @ Noon.	0
Logic Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a logic model to analyze a program's outcomes • CLOs associated with this assignment: 3 • PODS Capacities associated with course engagement: C 	100 points (10%)

	Due on the day of the live meeting in Module 7. February 23, 2023 @ Noon.	
Data Visualization Slides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create graphics that communicate key data findings • CLOs associated with this assignment: 6, 7 • PODS Capacities associated with course engagement: C Due on the day of the live meeting in Module 10. March 23, 2023 @ Noon	150 points (15%)
Final Group Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a report reflecting results from your data analysis • CLOs associated with this assignment: 7 • PODS Capacities associated with course engagement: A, B, C Due on the day of the live meeting in Module 11. March 30, 2023 @ Noon	250 points (25%)
Outcome Evaluation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline an outcome evaluation plan • CLOs associated with this assignment: 4, 5, 6 • PODS Capacities associated with course engagement: A, B, C Due on the day of the live meeting in Module 12. April 6, 2023 @ Noon	140 points (14%)
Total		1000 points (100%)

d. Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all the live, synchronous class sessions. In addition, students are responsible for all content of this course, including the content provided in the asynchronous and synchronous contexts.

- Students must notify the instructor 24 hours in advance.
 - Making up missed sessions: Students are responsible for watching the live session recordings. Students will need to submit a descriptive summary of the live session and assigned readings.
 - Getting missed material: Students are responsible for obtaining missed material from another student. A Slack Team has been set up to facilitate communication.
 - Students may miss 2 class sessions for any reason. Grades will be reduced by 1 letter grade for each additional absence, and may result in a non-passing grade.
- e. Students who are consistently miss class sessions or do not attend the entirety of the sessions will be referred to the Program Director and may be advised to withdraw.

Live class participation

Students are strongly encouraged to keep their cameras on and remain free from distraction during every session. Students who are unable to do so should contact the instructor in advance to explain the circumstances.

f. 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

g. Late Assignments

- Assignments are due at or before the dates/times listed on the syllabus and on Canvas.
- Please submit all work on time. Except for the grant application assignment, 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.
- **Note: Late submissions for the grant application assignment will not be reviewed and will receive a score of 0. I use this policy because if you submit a grant late to a funder, it will not be reviewed.**

h. 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) as opposed to nebulous references to “fairness.” 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.

i. Class Recording and Course Materials

Audio and video recording of in-class lectures and discussions is prohibited without the advance written permission of the instructor. Students with an approved accommodation from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities permitting the recording of class meetings must present documentation to the instructor in advance of any recording being done. The instructor reserves the right to disallow recording for a portion of any class time where privacy is a special concern. If the instructor chooses to record a class, they will decide which classes, if any, are

recorded, what portion of each class is recorded, and whether a recording is made available on the course management website. On days when classes are recorded, students will be notified a recording is occurring. Class recordings and course materials may not be reproduced, sold, published or distributed to others, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the instructor.

j. Health-Related Class Absences

Please evaluate your own health status regularly and refrain from attending class and coming to campus if you are ill. You are encouraged to seek appropriate medical attention for treatment. School of Social Work students who miss class due to illness of any kind will be given opportunities to access course materials online or provided with alternative learning opportunities. Please notify me by email about your absence as soon as practical, so that I can make accommodations. Please note that documentation (a doctor's note) for medical excuses is *not* required.

Additional School and University policies, information and resources are available here: <https://ssw.umich.edu/standard-policies-information-resources>. They include:

- *Safety and emergency preparedness*
- *Mental health and well-being*
- *Teaching evaluations*
- *Proper use of names and pronouns*
- *Accommodations for students with disabilities*
- *Religious/spiritual observances*
- *Military deployment*
- *Writing skills and expectations*
- *Academic integrity and plagiarism*