

The University of Manitoba
 Faculty of Education
 Department of Educational Administration, Foundations & Psychology

EDUA 7810 A01 Evaluating Educational Programs

(3 credit hours, CRN: 25014)
 Course Outline Sept. 2024 to Dec. 2024

...over 8 billion served

Time: Wednesdays 5:30 pm to 8:15 pm
 Wednesday September 4, 2024 to
 Wednesday December 4, 2024 (inclusive)

Room: 313 Education Building

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30 to 4:30 or by appointment

Instructor: Robert Renaud, Ph.D.
 227A Education
 Telephone: 204 474 9437
 Email: Robert.Renaud@umanitoba.ca
<http://www.robertrenaud.ca>

While you are welcome to visit my office or phone me anytime, you can reach me most easily by email. Unless otherwise noted, I will usually respond to emails within 48 hours.

Course Description (from U of M course catalogue)

An introduction to current approaches to evaluating educational programs. A review of various evaluation methods/approaches, along with consideration of specific design, ethical, consulting and political issues will be the main focus of this course. Specific skills to be developed are the implementation of educational evaluations, data collection and analysis, and final report writing.

Course Goals

- To become more knowledgeable in the following main areas:
 - the various types of evaluation (e.g., process, outcome)
 - the application of social science research methods to evaluate education programs
 - the challenges of conducting evaluations
- To foster application and evaluation skills by exploring the use of program evaluation in examining current issues and controversies in education
- To develop advanced-level academic writing skills by preparing a written proposal to evaluate an aspect of a selected educational program

Texts

Rossi, P. H., Lipsey, M. W., & Henry, H. E. (2019). *Evaluation: A systematic approach* (8th edition). Sage.

ISBN: 9781506307886 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9781506307893 (Electronic)

I have ordered printed versions of this book to be available in the bookstore. An e-version can also be obtained at <https://us.sagepub.com/hi/nam/evaluation/book243885>

An older edition (either 7th or 6th) will suffice for our purposes. If you obtain an older version, it is up to you to cross reference the chapters between the current version and the older version you have acquired.

Hatry, H. P., Newcomer, K. E., & Wholey, J. S. (2015). *Handbook of practical program evaluation*. John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated. (This book is available online in U of M Library - we will be reading chapters 19 and 20 only)

Suggested Reference

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Course Requirements

Participation

Students are expected to attend all classes, read and reflect critically on assigned readings prior to class, participate actively in class discussions, and to provide meaningful feedback for student presentations. Class participation will be weighted **20%** in the determination of final grades. More specifically, a student who attends all classes and participates actively in most classes will receive 20/20. To ensure that all students have a chance to participate, if I notice that you may not have had the opportunity to contribute to the class discussion over the last few classes, I may call on you occasionally to share your perceptions of relevant issues from assigned readings.

Presentation

Each student will make one 30-minute class presentation on a current topic, controversial issue, or practical application relating to evaluating educational programs. Note that your presentation topic should not be the same as that of your proposal. Your presentation may be given in any class between November 20 and December 4. Presentations will be graded on content, clarity, and facilitation of class discussion. As a general guide, so that we don't have either a presentation that consists of just a few minutes of explanation followed by 25 minutes of discussion, or at the other extreme, little or no group involvement, I would like to see each presentation aim for a reasonable balance of presenting the relevant information and class discussion/activity. The presentation will count **30%** toward the final grade in the course.

Outline of program evaluation proposal

The purpose of this outline is to help clarify your evaluation plan, and obtain formative feedback that can be helpful for you to prepare the full proposal from this outline.

The maximum length (excluding title page, tables, figures, and references) is 5 pages (APA style, double spaced). If you submit an outline that exceeds 5 pages, I will return it to you for revision. Although there will be no grading penalty if I return your outline because it was too long, be aware that it will leave you with less time to complete your full proposal. The outline is due on Wednesday October 23 and is worth **10%** of the final grade. The outline should include:

Introduction

- Identification of a program or area of evaluation
- Brief description of program background information, program goals and objectives (i.e., What is the program intended to do?)
- Brief description of the form of evaluation you plan to do (e.g., needs assessment, outcomes assessment)

Method

- Adequate description of the participants or sources of data
- Identification of applicable ethical issues
- Description of the variables to be considered
- List of instruments to be considered (i.e., how you plan to assess the variables)

Analysis

- Brief outline of what the data will look like and how you plan to analyze the data

Minimum of five references

Complete program evaluation proposal

Develop the outline into a complete proposal to evaluate an educational program. The text (excluding references, tables, appendices, etc.) should not exceed 25 pages (APA style, double spaced). The complete proposal is due on Monday December 9 and is worth **40%** of the final grade.

Class Schedule

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|---|--|
| Foundations in program evaluation | Sept. 4 - Oct. 2 |
| Functions of program evaluation (Chapter 1) | |
| Program theory (Chapter 3) | |
| Social and political context of evaluation (Chapter 12) | |
| Stages in program evaluation | Oct. 9 - Oct. 30 |
| Needs assessment (Chapter 2) | |
| Assessment of program process (Chapter 4) | |
| Outcomes assessment (Chapter 5) | |
| Impact Evaluation (Chapter 6) | |
| Methods for collecting and analyzing data | |
| Qualitative methods (Chapters 19 & 20 - Wholey et al.) | |
| Quantitative methods (Chapters 8 & 9) | |
| Current issues and controversies (potential topics) | Nov. 6 - Dec. 4 (<i>no class during Fall Term Break - Nov. 13</i>) |
| Outcomes assessment in education | |
| Teacher competency testing | |
| Performance indicators in education | |
| Standardized achievement tests | |
| Ethical considerations in program evaluation | |
| Standard setting | |
| Voucher systems | |
| Evaluation and accountability | |
| Student evaluation of teaching | |
| Technology in education | |
| Grade inflation | |
| Distance learning | |
| Computers in the classroom | |
| Teacher training and certification | |
| Accessibility | |
| Randomized experiments | |

Grading

Letter grades will be assigned according to the Faculty of Education grading conversion scheme:

| Letter Grade | Grade Point | Level of Achievement | Percentage Range |
|--------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------|
| A+ | 4.5 | WOW! | 95+ |
| A | 4 | Excellent | 90-94 |
| B+ | 3.5 | Very Good | 85-89 |
| B | 3 | Good | 80-84 |
| C+ | 2.5 | Satisfactory | 75-79 |
| C | 2 | Adequate | 70-74 |
| D | 1 | Marginal | 60-69 |
| F | 0 | Failure | Below 60 |

Expectations

Students are expected to attend all classes and submit assignments by the due dates. If you require any modification to ensure your full participation in this course, please talk to me as soon as possible.

You can expect to receive grades/feedback on your presentation and outline within a week after submission. Feedback and grades for the full proposal will be available within about two weeks after submission.

University policies. The University of Manitoba requires that I point out a number of policies and regulations regarding attendance and withdrawal, academic integrity, and appeals of grades. You will find these explained in the General Academic Regulations section of the 2024-25 General Calendar (<https://umanitoba.ca/registrar/academic-calendar>). Also, please see the University Policies and Procedures section for policies regarding the responsibilities of academic staff with regard to students.

Course Technology

Students are welcome to use technology (e.g., cellphones, laptops, etc.) during class if the technology is used for relevant educational purposes within this course. Unless a student must either send or respond immediately to an urgent personal message (email, text, or phone), I ask that students refrain from using technology during class for purposes that are not relevant to this course.

Class Communication

The University requires all students to activate an official University email account. Please note that all communication between myself and you as a student must comply with the Electronic Communication with Students Policy. You are required to obtain and use your U of M email account for all communication between yourself and the university. For full details, please visit

https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2021-06/Electronic%20Communication%20with%20Students%20Policy%20-%202013_09_01%20RF.pdf).

Recording Class Meetings

The University of Manitoba and I hold copyright over the course materials, presentations and lectures which form part of this course. No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without my permission. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant's private study and research.

Schedule A - UM Policies and Learner Supports for Students

Schedule A of the Responsibilities of Academic Staff with regards to Students (ROASS) policies of the University of Manitoba lists resources and policies for students. It is important that you familiarize yourself with these policies and supports, some of which are listed below...

- Academic Integrity
- Grade appeals
- Voluntary Withdrawal (November 19 2024)
- Academic Learning Centre
- Health and Wellness
- Student Accessibility Services

The link to Schedule A is posted on my webpage www.robertrenaud.ca.