

EVAL 6010: Interdisciplinary Seminar in Evaluation Fall Semester 2008

Credit and Course Hours

1 Semester hour

The class meets every other Friday from 2:00 PM – 3:50 PM beginning September 5th, 2008 and ending December 12th, 2008.

The course meets at Ellsworth Hall, room 4410, in The Evaluation Center.

Course Description

This course is a graduate seminar of advanced, special topics in evaluation. For the fall 2008 semester, the course topic is “theorists’ views and influences.” This topic is intended to provide students with a historical perspective of influential theorists’ impact on contemporary evaluation thought and practice. During the latter part of the course, we will turn our attention to more practical matters; namely, conceptualizing a doctoral dissertation that will produce a unique, significant contribution to evaluation theory, methodology, or practice. The course is intended to supplement your learning from EVAL 6000: Foundations in Evaluation and other courses taken at the University.

This course is directed to students in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Evaluation (IDPE). At the instructor’s discretion, other students may attend the course.

Professor

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Assistant Professor

Director of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Evaluation

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Office Hours

By appointment (4th floor of Ellsworth Hall in The Evaluation Center)

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Understand the origins and sometimes controversial nature of leading theorists' views on evaluation
2. Engage in dialogue about these theorists with other professionals working in the evaluation field
3. Critically analyze theorists' views about evaluation

Required Text

The text for this course is:

Alkin, M. C. (2004). *Evaluation roots: Tracing theorists' views and influences*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Class Participation & Discussion Facilitation Responsibilities

It is essential that you be present and participative in the class discussion. To improve class discussion, I will ask one person to be responsible for facilitating discussion about each week's reading. You will not be notified of facilitation responsibilities in advance. Therefore, you should always come to class prepared to lead a discussion.

Course Schedule

Topics and readings tentatively follow the schedule below.

Date	Topic	Readings
September 5	Introduction	Syllabus
September 19	Comparison of theorists' views and the "evaluation theory tree"	Alkin (2004) Chapters 1 & 2
October 3	Methods-oriented theorists	Alkin (2004) Chapters 3 – 10
October 17	Value-engaged theorists	Alkin (2004) Chapters 11 – 15
October 31	Use-oriented theorists	Alkin (2004) Chapters 16 – 24
November 14	The "evaluation theory tree" revisited	Alkin (2004) Chapters 25 & 26
November 28	TBA	TBA
December 12	TBA	TBA

Grading and Weighting of Course Components

This is a pass/fail course, with based on the following weights:

Attendance and class participation	50%
Discussion facilitation	50%

Need for Accommodation

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the professor and the appropriate Disability Services office at the beginning of the semester. The two disability service offices on campus are: Disabled Student Resources and Services (269-387-2116) and the Office of Services for Students with Learning Disabilities (269-387-4411).

Diversity Statement

The IDPE maintains a strong and sustained commitment to the diverse and unique nature of all learners and high expectations for each student.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Graduate Catalog (pp. 24-26) that pertain to academic integrity. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity, and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.