

Advanced Seminar in Evaluation Theory, Practice, and Research
Claremont Graduate University
PSYCH 317A
Spring 2010

Professors:

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Course overview

This seminar will provide students with an advanced understanding of the discipline and profession of evaluation. Students will engage in intensive study of “cutting edge” evaluation topics and core concepts in three areas: evaluation theory, practice, and research. There are several course objectives:

- Understand the history, influences, and evolution of evaluation across the globe
- Understand and identify the conceptual distinctions between contemporary theories of evaluation practice
- Become familiar with systems for categorizing evaluation theories
- Become familiar with classic, current, and new directions for research on evaluation

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

1. Examine and critique evaluation theories
2. Conduct evaluations that are theoretically grounded
3. Examine and critique research on evaluation

Session 1

Introductions and Course Overview

No Readings

Session 2

Module One: Overview

Required Reading

Donaldson, S. I., & Lipsey, M. W. (2006). Roles for theory in evaluation practice. In Shaw, J. Greene, & M. Mark (Eds.), *Handbook of Evaluation*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Shadish, W. R. Jr. (1998). Evaluation theory is who we are. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 19(1), 1-19.

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Chapter 1: Social program evaluation: Its history, tasks, and theory. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 19-35). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Chapter 2: Good theory for social program evaluation. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 36-67). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Donaldson, S. I., & Scriven, M. (2003). Diverse visions for evaluation in the new millennium: Should we integrate or embrace diversity? In S. I. Donaldson & M. Scriven (Eds.), *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (pp. 3-16). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Alkin, M.C. & Christie, C.A. (2004). An evaluation theory tree. In M.C. Alkin (Ed.), *Evaluation Roots*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Christie, C.A. & Alkin, M.C. (in press). Evaluation theory tree re-examined. *Studies in Educational Evaluation*.

Session 3 Module 2: Part 1

Module Two: Looking Back

Required Reading

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Part II: Stage one theories: Bringing truth to social problem solving. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 69-71). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Chapter 3: Michael S. Scriven: The science of valuing. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 73-94). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Chapter 4: Donald T. Campbell: Methodologist of the experimenting society. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 119-150). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Part III: Stage two theories: Generating alternatives emphasizing use and pragmatism. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 171-177). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Chapter 5: Carol H. Weiss: Linking evaluation to policy research. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 179-207). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Chapter 6: Joseph S. Wholey: Evaluation for program improvement. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 225-247). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Module Two Discussion of Quiz and Reading

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Chapter 7: Robert E. Stake: Responsive evaluation and qualitative methods. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 270-294). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Session 4 Module 2: Part 2

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Part IV: Stage three theories: Trying to integrate the past. *Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice* (pp. 315-322). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Chapter 8: Lee J. Cronbach:

Functional evaluation design for a world of political accommodation.
Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice (pp. 323-350).
Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Shadish, W. R. Jr., Cook, T. D., & Leviton, L. C. (1991). Chapter 9: Peter H. Rossi:
Comprehensive, tailored, theory-driven evaluations – A smorgasbord of options.
Foundations of Program Evaluation: Theories of Practice (pp. 377-411).
Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Session 5

Module Three Discussion of Quiz and Readings

Module Three – Looking Forward

Required Reading

- Scriven, M. (2003). Evaluation in the new millennium: The transdisciplinary view.
In S. I. Donaldson & M. Scriven (Eds.), *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (pp. 19-42). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Wholey, J. S. (2003). Improving performance and accountability: Responding to emerging management challenges. In S. I. Donaldson & M. Scriven (Eds.), *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (pp. 43-62). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Fetterman, M. (2003). Empowerment evaluation strikes a responsive cord. In S. I. Donaldson & M. Scriven (Eds.), *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (pp. 63-76). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Lincoln, Y. S. (2003). Fourth generation evaluation in the new millennium. In S. I. Donaldson & M. Scriven (Eds.), *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (pp. 77-90). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Mertens, D. M. (2003). The inclusive view of evaluation: Visions for the new millennium. In S. I. Donaldson & M. Scriven (Eds.), *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (pp. 91-108). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Donaldson, S. I. (2003). Theory-driven program evaluation in the new millennium. In S. I. Donaldson & M. Scriven (Eds.), *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (pp. 109-141). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Guzman, B. L. (2003). Examining the role of cultural competency in program evaluation:

Visions for new millennium evaluators. In S. I. Donaldson & M. Scriven (Eds.), *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (pp. 167-182). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Mark, M. (2003). Toward a integrative view of the theory and practice of program and policy evaluation. In S. I. Donaldson & M. Scriven (Eds.), *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (pp. 183-204). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Session 6

Module Four – Research, Practice & Professional Issues

Research

Cousins, J. B., & Leithwood, K. A. (1986). Current empirical research on evaluation utilization. *Review of Educational Research*, 56(3), 331-364.

Christie, C. A. (2003). The practice-theory relationship in evaluation. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 97, 1-35.

House, E. (2003). Stakeholder bias. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 97, 53-56.

Christie, C.A. (2006, Nov). Advancing Empirical Scholarship in Evaluation. Paper presented at the *American Evaluation Association Annual Conference*, Portland, OR.

Mark, M. (2008). Building a better evidence base for evaluation theory: Beyond general calls to a framework of types of research on evaluation. In N. Smith and P. Brandon (Eds.) *Fundamental Issues in Evaluation*. (pp. 111-134). New York, NY: Guilford.

Practice

Donaldson, S.I. (2007). Chapter 1: The emergence of program theory-driven evaluation science. *Program Theory-Driven Evaluation Science: Strategies and Applications* (pp.3-19). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Donaldson, S.I. (2007). Chapter 2: Developing a program impact theory. *Program Theory-Driven Evaluation Science: Strategies and Applications* (pp.20-39). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Donaldson, S.I. (2007). Chapter 3: Formulating and prioritizing evaluation questions. *Program Theory-Driven Evaluation Science: Strategies and Applications* (pp.40-48). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Centers For Disease Control Program Evaluation Framework (1999). 48(RR11); 1-40.

(please pay careful attention to the *Evaluation Standards*)

Professional Issues

New Guiding Principles for Evaluators (2004). *American Evaluation Association Website*.

Donaldson, S. I., Gooler, L. E., & Scriven, M. (2002). Strategies for managing evaluation anxiety: Toward a psychology of program evaluation. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 23(3) 261-273.

Donaldson, S. I. (2001). Overcoming our negative reputation: Evaluation becomes known as a helping profession. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 22, 355-361.

Session 7 -- *Individual Meetings (1/2 hour in length)*

Call information:

To begin a conference call:

1. Participants dial:

toll free: 1-866-210-1669

international: 1-404-835-7069

2. When prompted, participants dial the access code followed by the # sign:

Participant: 8596772

Session	Date	Time (PST)	Theory Session
1	2/17/10	12:30-1:30	Intro – no content
	2/21/10	5:00pm	Quiz 1 due
2	2/24/10	12:30-2:00	Module 1
3	3/10/10	12:30-2:00	Module 2 - Part 1
	3/07/10	5:00pm	Quiz 2 due
4	3/22/10	12:30-2:00	Module 2 - Part 2
	4/8/10	5:00pm	Quiz 3 due
5	4/12/10	12:30-2:00	Module 3
	4/19/10	5:00pm	Quiz 4 due
6	4/21/10	12:30-2:00	Module 4
	5/09/10	5:00pm	Final Exam due
		12:30-	
7	5/12/10	3:00pm	Final Individual Calls