

## Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2015

## General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Public Affairs, John Glenn Sch  
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org John Glenn Schl of Pblc Affrs - D4240  
College/Academic Group John Glenn School of Pub Aff  
Level/Career Undergraduate  
Course Number/Catalog 4000  
Course Title Public Policy Evaluation  
Transcript Abbreviation PubPolEvlN  
Course Description The purpose of this course is to develop and apply research design and analytic methods for public policy evaluation. The course will enable students to design and perform policy evaluations focused on policy processes and outcomes, using both qualitative and quantitative data.  
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

## Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week (May + Summer)  
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never  
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No  
Grading Basis Letter Grade  
Repeatable No  
Course Components Seminar  
Grade Roster Component Seminar  
Credit Available by Exam No  
Admission Condition Course No  
Off Campus Never  
Campus of Offering Columbus

## Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites Prereq: Statistics 1350 or above and Economics 2001.01 or equivalent  
Exclusions

## Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

## Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 44.0401  
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course  
Intended Rank Sophomore, Junior, Senior

## Requirement/Elective Designation

Required for this unit's degrees, majors, and/or minors

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

## Course Details

### Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:
- Identify types of policy evaluation designs and describe their implications for policy evaluation research methods.
- Understand different types of data sets and how their structural characteristics dictate the policy evaluation questions that can be addressed.
- Design and implement different types of policy evaluations using both quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Critically assess existing policy evaluation models.

### Content Topic List

- Policy evaluation in the US; history of policy evaluation; purposes of policy evaluation; types/uses of policy evaluation
- Writing policy evaluations: basic components; approaches to presenting information
- Overview of types and sources of data for policy evaluation (qualitative, quantitative, mixed, extant, new; economic data, survey data); description and presentation of data
- Drawing inferences; internal/external validity; experiments and causality; approximating random application to treatment and control groups
- Ethics and normative approaches
- Monitoring and implementation of programs
- Budgetary and Cost Considerations
- Analyzing and drawing inferences from non-experimental data; the role of statistics/regression
- Evaluation using surveys; designing and administering surveys; analyzing and drawing inferences from survey data
- Meta-analysis using extant research

## Attachments

- Econ Concurrence.pdf  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Adams,Christopher John)*
- Poli Sci concurrence for 4000 and 3110.pdf  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Adams,Christopher John)*
- PUBAFRS 4000.pdf: Updated Syllabus per committee feedback  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Adams,Christopher John)*

## Comments

- See 11/3/14 feedback to K. Hallihan. *(by Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal on 11/03/2014 01:25 PM)*
- Sent back to unit for course number change per Christopher Adams. *(by Newhouse,Melissa Ann on 08/26/2014 02:23 PM)*
- After reviewing the syllabus and discussing the syllabus with other units, our faculty determined that this class was better classified at the 4000 level. The initial proposal was for the class to be listed as Public Affairs 3010 but we would like to change that to Public Affairs 4000. *(by Adams,Christopher John on 07/16/2014 09:20 AM)*

**COURSE REQUEST**  
4000 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Greenbaum,Robert Theodore  
11/17/2014

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Adams,Christopher John	01/13/2014 03:59 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Baer,Jillian L	01/13/2014 05:17 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Brown,Trevor Laurence	01/13/2014 05:23 PM	SubCollege Approval
Approved	Brown,Trevor Laurence	01/13/2014 05:24 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	03/11/2014 12:24 PM	Ad-Hoc Approval
Submitted	Brown,Trevor Laurence	03/12/2014 07:37 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Adams,Christopher John	07/16/2014 09:22 AM	Unit Approval
Removed	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	07/17/2014 09:24 AM	Ad-Hoc Approval
Approved	Brown,Trevor Laurence	07/17/2014 09:43 AM	SubCollege Approval
Approved	Brown,Trevor Laurence	07/17/2014 09:44 AM	College Approval
Approved	Newhouse,Melissa Ann	07/23/2014 01:55 PM	OAA Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	07/30/2014 10:52 AM	Ad-Hoc Approval
Submitted	Brown,Trevor Laurence	07/30/2014 09:05 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Adams,Christopher John	08/04/2014 04:50 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Brown,Trevor Laurence	08/04/2014 04:55 PM	SubCollege Approval
Approved	Brown,Trevor Laurence	08/04/2014 04:55 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Newhouse,Melissa Ann	08/26/2014 02:23 PM	OAA Approval
Submitted	Adams,Christopher John	08/26/2014 08:10 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Adams,Christopher John	09/17/2014 10:23 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Hallihan,Kathleen Mary	09/18/2014 06:19 PM	SubCollege Approval
Removed	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	10/03/2014 04:27 PM	Ad-Hoc Approval
Approved	Greenbaum,Robert Theodore	10/03/2014 04:42 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	11/03/2014 01:25 PM	Ad-Hoc Approval
Submitted	Adams,Christopher John	11/12/2014 09:24 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Hallihan,Kathleen Mary	11/17/2014 10:57 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Hallihan,Kathleen Mary	11/17/2014 04:49 PM	SubCollege Approval
Pending Approval	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	11/17/2014 05:08 PM	Ad-Hoc Approval
Approved	Greenbaum,Robert Theodore	11/17/2014 05:08 PM	College Approval

**John Glenn School of Public Affairs**  
**Public Affairs 4000**  
**Public Policy Evaluation**  
**Semester 20XX**  
**3 credit hours**

Pre-requisites: Statistics 1350 (or equivalent) and Economics 2001 (or equivalent)

**Course description and learning objectives**

The purpose of Public Policy Evaluation is to develop and apply understanding of research design and analytic methods for public policy evaluation. The course will enable students to design and perform policy evaluations focused on policy processes and outcomes, using both qualitative and quantitative data and using a variety of analytic methods. The knowledge and skills that students acquire in this course will be of value in a wide variety of occupations, particularly those in the public sector. Course content will be communicated via assigned readings and twice-weekly class meetings that consist of lecture (40%), discussion (40%), and labs (20%).

By the end of the semester, students should be able to think and act like policy evaluators, which entails the following:

1. Understanding different types of policy evaluation questions and their implications for policy evaluation design and methods
2. Understanding different types of datasets and how their structural characteristics dictate the policy evaluation questions that can be addressed
3. Designing and implementing different types of policy evaluations using quantitative and qualitative approaches
4. Understanding the policy claims that specific policy evaluation results validate as well as the claims that those evaluation results cannot validate
5. Critically assessing extant policy evaluations

**Basis for Assessment**

Course grades are based on the following graded assignments:

*10%: Logic modeling:* Students will devise logic models illustrating the different “theories of change” public policies and programs. Each student will select one public policy or program. They will submit a 3-4 page, double-spaced paper that carefully documents the goals and logic of the program based on publicly available information related to its enactment and design, that illustrates this logic with a schematic, and, finally, that interrogates this logic.

*10%: Policy evaluation design:* Students will design an evaluation of the policy detailed in the logic modeling assignment. In a 3-4 page double-spaced paper, they will determine what

aspects of a policy or program's logic and outcomes can be evaluated empirically, discuss the data sources and methods that can be used, and finally, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the evaluation in terms of the conclusions one can draw.

*10%: Policy evaluation critiques.* Student will identify and critique from a research design and methods perspective extant policy evaluations that use quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods analyses. Students will be assigned to groups and given a recent policy evaluation to critique. Specifically, students need to critique what aspects of the policy's logic are accounted for in the evaluation, as well as the inferences one can draw based on the analysis. These critiques will be 3-4 double-spaced pages.

*30%: Policy evaluation.* Students will conduct a policy evaluation using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods analyses. Specifically, students will implement a portion of the policy evaluations they begin to design in the logic modeling and design assignments. Students must use at least one source of quantitative data and use a statistical package to provide some basic analysis examining the logic or outcomes of the policy they have chosen. Though the write-up of this analysis will be only 3-4 pages that detail the data, methods, and results, students must also submit a statistical log file that shows how they cleaned and analyzed the data.

*30% (15% each): Examinations.* The student's knowledge and skills will be assessed twice during the semester, midway and at the end.

*10%: Attendance.* Students are required to attend class, as the lectures and in-class exercises are critical for performing well on the assignments and exams.

Transformation of numerical grades to letter grades will correspond to this schedule:

A	93-100	C+	77-79.9	E <	59.9
A-	90-92.9	C	73-76.9		
B+	87-89.9	C-	70-72.9		
B	83-86.9	D+	67-69.9		
B-	80-82.9	D	60-66.9		

### **Required Textbook**

Posavac, Emil J. 2010. *Program Evaluation: Methods and Case Studies (8<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. Pearson. (ISBN # 978-0205804979)

### **Schedule** (C1=Class 1 and C2=Class 2)

#### **Week 1: Overview of policy evaluation**

C1: Types/uses of policy evaluation

C2: History of policy evaluation in the U.S.

Required Reading: Posavac, Ch. 1

**Week 2: Writing policy evaluations**

C1: Basic components

C2: Approaches to presenting information

Required Reading: Posavac, Ch. 13

**Week 3: How to begin**

C1: Planning an evaluation

Required Reading: Posavac, Ch. 2

C2: Developing a theory of the programs

Required Reading: Posavac, Ch. 3

**Week 4: Data**

C1: Overview of types and sources of data for policy evaluation

Required Reading: Posavac, Ch. 4

C2: In-class work on logic modeling assignment

**Week 5: Ethics of evaluations**

C1: Ethics/normative approaches

Required Readings: Posavac, Ch. 5

C2: In-class work on policy evaluation design assignment

Due: Logic Modeling Assignment

**Week 6: Exam week**

C1: Review session

C2: In-class written exam

**Week 7: Drawing inferences**

C1: Internal/external validity; experiments and causality

C2: Approximating random application to treatment and control groups.

Required Readings: Posavac, Ch. 11

**Week 8: Implementing evaluations**

C1: In-class work on policy evaluation design assignment

C2: Budgetary & Cost Considerations

Due: Policy Evaluation Design Assignment

**Week 9: Field experiments**

C1: Designing and administering field experiments

C2: Analyzing and drawing inferences from quasi-experimental data

Required Readings: Posavac, Ch. 10

**Week 10: Evaluation using non-experimental data**

C1: Analyzing and drawing inferences from non-experimental data

C2: The role of statistics/regression

**Week 11: Evaluation using surveys**

C1: Designing and administering surveys

C2: Analyzing and drawing inferences from survey data.

Required Readings: Posavac, Ch. 8

**Week 12: Meta-analysis**

C1: Introduction to meta-analysis

C2: In-class discuss of students' policy evaluation critiques

Due: Policy Evaluation Critiques Assignment

**Week 13: Exam Week**

C1: Review Session

C2: In-class written exam

**Week 14: In-Class work on final assignment**

C1: In-class work on policy evaluation assignment

C2: In-class work on policy evaluation assignment

Policy evaluation assignments due during exam week

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT)***

The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty.

Failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct may constitute "Academic Misconduct." Sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

In the Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct, Section 3335-23-04 defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

***ADA Statement***

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

**From:** [Brown, Trevor](#)  
**To:** [Roberts, Teresa M. \(Teri\)](#); [Adams, Christopher](#); [Hawley, Joshua](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Request for Concurrence  
**Date:** Thursday, April 17, 2014 2:39:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Blau, David" <[blau.12@osu.edu](mailto:blau.12@osu.edu)>  
**Date:** April 17, 2014 at 2:34:16 PM EDT  
**To:** "Brown, Trevor" <[brown.2296@osu.edu](mailto:brown.2296@osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Concurrence

Hi Trevor,

I agree with Trevon that these courses will be complements rather than substitutes for our courses, so I enthusiastically concur with your proposal.

Regards,

David

David Blau  
Department of Economics  
Arps Hall, 1945 N. High St.  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus OH 43210-1158  
614-292-2009  
614-292-3906 (fax)  
[Blau.12@osu.edu](mailto:Blau.12@osu.edu)  
<http://web.econ.ohio-state.edu/~blau/>

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**From:** Roberts, Teresa M. (Teri) [<mailto:roberts.40@osu.edu>] **On Behalf Of** Brown, Trevor  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2014 1:19 PM  
**To:** Blau, David  
**Subject:** Request for Concurrence

David,

The Glenn School faculty has recently approved two new courses: PUBAFRS 3110 (education policy) and PUBAFRS 4000 (public policy evaluation). These courses will be included in the new policy analysis and evaluation specialization proposed for our undergraduate major in Public Affairs, for which you previously provided concurrence. As part of the approval process, ASC has



requested that we also receive concurrence from Economics for these courses.  
Attached are the syllabi for your review.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have about the courses. We are hoping to submit our final package to the ASC Curriculum Office by April 30, so do let us know as soon as possible if you have issues or concerns.

Thank you, Trevor

The Ohio State University



Trevor Brown

Director

John Glenn School of Public Affairs

350C Page Hall | 1810 College Road, Columbus, OH 43210

[glenn.osu.edu](http://glenn.osu.edu)

**Recently published:** *Complex Contracting -- Government Purchasing in the Wake of the US Coast Guard's Deepwater Program* (Cambridge University Press). Pick up a copy from [Cambridge](#) or [Amazon](#).

**From:** [Brown, Trevor](#)  
**To:** [MacGilvray, Eric](#)  
**Cc:** [Haddad, Deborah](#); [Herrmann, Richard](#); [Adams, Christopher](#); [Roberts, Teresa M. \(Teri\)](#); [Hawley, Joshua](#)  
**Subject:** RE: concurrence request  
**Date:** Thursday, May 08, 2014 11:55:39 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi Eric,

Thanks for getting back to me with the concurrence for PA 4000 and 3110. We're looking forward to moving ahead with those courses.

Thanks also for making us aware of duplication in the PA 3500 and 4510 courses with your existing courses. We will review the syllabi to identify areas of overlap, restructure the courses to eliminate any overlap, and then bring those back to you for concurrence. Both of these are courses that are very commonly taught in undergraduate public affairs and public administration programs (they mirror courses we offer at the graduate level in our professional degree programs). I'm confident we can structure them in such a way that they are distinctly different from Political Science offerings.

Best,

Trevor



Trevor Brown

Director

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**Recently published:** *Complex Contracting -- Government Purchasing in the Wake of the US Coast Guard's Deepwater Program* (Cambridge University Press). Pick up a copy from [Cambridge](#) or [Amazon](#).

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**From:** MacGilvray, Eric  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 06, 2014 11:46 AM  
**To:** Brown, Trevor  
**Cc:** Haddad, Deborah; Herrmann, Richard  
**Subject:** Re: concurrence request

Dear Trevor,

The Political Science can concur in PUBAFRS 4000 and, as I said in my previous note, 3110. However we do not concur in PUBAFRS 3500 or 4510 as proposed. My colleagues are concerned, and I agree,

that these courses substantially replicate existing Political Science offerings. Specifically, PUBAFRS 3500 overlaps substantially with POLSCI 4115 (Bureaucracy and Public Policy), and PUBAFRS 4510 overlaps substantially with POLITSC 4130 (Law and Politics), 4135 (American Constitutional Law), 4136 (Civil Liberties) and 4137 (Politics of Legal Decision Making). In the latter case our concerns are “generic,” in that it seems to us that this is the kind of course that is traditionally offered in a Political Science department.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Eric

ERIC MacGILVRAY  
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On Apr 21, 2014, at 2:01 PM, Brown, Trevor <[brown.2296@osu.edu](mailto:brown.2296@osu.edu)> wrote:

Eric,

The Glenn School faculty has recently approved four new courses for the specializations in our undergraduate major: PUBAFRS 3110 (education policy), PUBAFRS 3500 (Public Management), PUBAFRS 4510 (law and public affairs), and PUBAFRS 4000 (public policy evaluation). As part of the approval process, ASC has requested that we receive concurrence from Political Science for these courses. Attached are the syllabi for your review.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have about the courses. We are hoping to submit our final package to the ASC Curriculum Office by April 30, so do let us know as soon as possible if you have issues or concerns.

Thank you, Trevor

<image001.png>

Trevor Brown

Director

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**Recently published:** *Complex Contracting -- Government Purchasing in the Wake of the US Coast Guard's Deepwater Program* (Cambridge University Press). Pick up a copy from [Cambridge](#) or [Amazon](#).

<PUBAFRS 3110.pdf><PUBAFRS 3500.pdf><PUBAFRS 4510.pdf><PUBAFRS 4000.pdf>