

**AEC 6552**  
**Evaluating Programs in Extension Education**  
**Summer 2021 (May 10 – August 6); 3 Credits**

**Instructor:**

Sebastian Galindo  
113-C Bryant Space Center/ PO Box 112060  
Gainesville, FL 32611-2060  
Phone: (352) 273-0267; Email: [sgalindo@ufl.edu](mailto:sgalindo@ufl.edu)  
Cell Phone: (352) 283-2884  
-Office hours: available by appointment

**Course Delivery:**

This course is offered online. The e-learning system can be accessed by login on to [elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.ufl.edu) and clicking on “Log in to e-Learning”. When prompted, enter your Gatorlink ID and password. Each module will officially begin on the Monday of each week. The course web page can be accessed 24 hours a day and students may complete the coursework at their own pace within this weekly timeframe. You can learn more about using Canvas here: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/>.

**Course Description:**

This on-line course is designed to cover concepts and research drawn from the social sciences relevant to evaluating youth and adult extension programs. This course will give the student an appreciation of the basic skills needed to conduct evaluations.

**Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, students will be able to conceptualize and carry out the evaluation of educational programs. Specifically, students should be able to...

- define evaluation and describe the role of evaluation in educational programming;
- understand relationships among evaluators, stakeholders, program staff, and clientele;
- compare and contrast different evaluation approaches;
- understand and apply evaluation designs for selected problems;
- choose the most appropriate data collection and analysis method(s) to answer different evaluation questions;
- identify measures and develop valid instrumentation for collecting evaluation data; and
- create rigorous and comprehensive evaluation plans.

**Course Organization:**

This on-line course is designed to be a self-paced course supported and facilitated by the course instructor. The course homepage contains everything you will need to complete this course including: the syllabus, instructions to navigate through the course materials, details for completion of every assignment,

and tools for communicating with the instructor and other students. Within Canvas, the course is organized by weekly modules. Each module will officially begin on the Monday of each week, unless different instructions are provided. A weekly learning module typically contains: 1) the topic and learning objectives for the week; 2) a list of assigned readings from your required textbooks and/or additional sources; 3) recorded lectures and handouts; and 4) information about assignments that are due that week.

### Class Dynamics:

Each week students are expected to complete the assigned readings, review any recorded lectures that might be posted, and submit the required assignment(s). The course instructor is available to answer any questions you have about the course material via the course e-mail system.

### Required Textbook and Readings:

Students are expected to purchase the text (Available at the University of Florida Bookstores or at online providers):

- Newcomer, K.E., Hatry, H.P., and Wholey, J.S. (2015). *Handbook of practical program evaluation* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass. ISBN: 978-1-118-89360-9.

Supplementary readings will be assigned. An electronic copy or web address will be provided within the weekly learning modules.

### Assignments, Dates, and Grades:

<i>Activity/Assignment</i>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Total Point Value</b>
<i>Bio-sheet</i>	05/15/2021	20
<i>Program Description (Evaluand)</i>	05/22/2021	145
<i>Logic Models and Theory of Change</i>	06/05/2021	145
<i>Draft Evaluation Plan</i>	06/19/2021	145
<i>Instruments &amp; Procedures for Data Collection</i>	07/10/2021	145
<i>Final Evaluation Plan</i>	07/31/2021	400
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1000</b>

Every student will develop a comprehensive and rigorous Evaluation Plan for an existing program or project (developing an evaluation plan for a grant proposal may also be an option). This will be a cumulative project that builds upon successive topics being covered in the class and consists of the following pieces:

1. **Program Description** (145 points): Select and describe the educational program, research project, or combined extension/research initiative for which you will develop an evaluation plan throughout the course.
2. **Logic Models and Theory of Change** (145 points): Create logic models and a theory of change to describe how the program/project works and leads to change.
3. **Draft Evaluation Plan** (145 points): Submit a draft of your evaluation plan.
4. **Instruments and Procedures for Data Collection** (145 points): Students will create a plan for evaluating their proposed program that will build on the previous project parts.
5. **Final Evaluation Plan** (400 points): Submit a comprehensive evaluation plan that integrates all the previously reviewed components and expands on data analysis, reporting, budget, and timeline.

Full descriptions of every assignment are posted within the Assignments section of the course site in Canvas. Please see the section on “[A note about written reports](#)” to become familiar with the general instructions for written assignments.

### Course Grading Scale

<b>A</b>	950-1000	<b>A-</b>	900-949	<b>B+</b>	860-899
<b>B</b>	830-859	<b>B-</b>	800-829	<b>C+</b>	760-799
<b>C</b>	730-759	<b>C-</b>	700-729	<b>D+</b>	660-699
<b>D</b>	630-659	<b>D-</b>	600-629	<b>E</b>	599 or less

### Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings*</b>	<b>Due</b>
<b>1</b>	05/10 - 05/15 _ Evaluation Fundamentals	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 1 &amp; 2</b>	_ Bio-sheet
<b>2</b>	05/17 - 05/22 _ Logic Models	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 3</b> _ Supplementary readings	_ Program Description
<b>3</b>	05/24 - 05/29 _ Exploratory Evaluation _ Program Objectives	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 4</b> _ Supplementary readings	
<b>4</b>	06/01 - 06/05 _ Planning an Evaluation _ Types of Evaluations	_ Supplementary readings _ HPPE: <b>Ch. 5</b>	_ Logic Models & Theory of Change
<b>5</b>	06/07 - 06/12 _ Types of Evaluations (cont.) _ Common Evaluation Approaches	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 11 &amp; 12</b> _ Supplementary readings	
<b>6</b>	06/14 - 06/19 _ Evaluation Designs	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 6 &amp; 8</b> _ Supplementary readings	_ <i>Draft</i> Evaluation Plan
<b>SUMMER BREAK (06/21 – 06/25)</b>			
<b>7</b>	06/28 - 07/03 _ Sampling _ Sample Size	_ Supplementary readings	
<b>8</b>	07/06 - 07/10 _ Instrument Development _ Data Collection	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 13 &amp; 14</b> _ Supplementary readings	_ Data Collection Instruments & Procedures
<b>9</b>	07/12 - 07/17 _ Data Collection (cont.)	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 19 &amp; 20</b>	
<b>10</b>	07/19 - 07/24 _ Data Collection (cont.)	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 18 &amp; 21</b>	
<b>11</b>	07/26 - 07/31 _ Data Analysis	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 22 &amp; 23</b> _ Supplementary readings	_ Final Evaluation Plan
<b>12</b>	08/02 - 08/07 _ Reporting Evaluation Results _ Utilizing Evaluation Results	_ HPPE: <b>Ch. 27 &amp; 28</b> _ Supplementary readings	

\* HPPE = Newcomer et al., (2015). Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation; For most weeks, Supplementary Readings will be only recommended and not required.

### **A note about online participation:**

Just like in any social setting, there are expected norms that should guide the different types of interactions that, as a group, we will have in this course. To ensure that you, and everybody else, has a satisfactory and productive experience as we interact during the semester, please read and follow the guidelines included in the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#). That same document also contains relevant information related to **privacy and security** practices that you must follow. You can obtain further information and support related to technology requirements and online security and privacy from the [UF Computing Help Desk](#).

### **A note about written reports:**

Cite all references using APA style format. APA (American Psychological Association) has a reference manual available at the University of Florida Library and they have information about writing and references on their website, which is <http://www.apa.org/>. The format to be used for papers is double-spacing; one-inch margins, and typed in 12-point font, unless otherwise noted. A consistent style is used for grading written papers. Primarily, show that you have learned and are able to apply the course material through your writing. In grading, the instructor looks for student's cognitive understanding and application of theories, principles, concepts, ideas, approaches that have been covered in readings and the course.

### **Grades and Grade Points**

The instructor will complete the grading process and post grades within 7 business days from the due date specified in the syllabus for each activity/assignment. The points obtained by the student in all the assignments will be added to calculate the final grade, the calculation will be done in alignment with the Course Grading Scale shown below. For additional information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Grades will be posted on Canvas where students can securely and privately access them. Please carefully read the whole syllabus for information on additional university's policies and services relevant to grades and grading – contact the instructor if further information is required.

When posting grades, the instructor will include clear, concise, and relevant written and/or verbal feedback to further promote students' learning. If additional clarification is required by the student, the instructor can be contacted via email to schedule an individual phone or Zoom call to discuss the assignment, grade, and feedback provided. Students are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor with any questions they may have related to the course content, activities, and assignments. Email consultations will normally be responded within 24 hours.

### **Attendance:**

Given the importance of class discussion and participation, it is not possible for a student to perform satisfactorily in the course without regularly contributing to the planned activities and assignments. Students are **required** to be active in the course throughout the semester. Only documented doctor's excuses or UF-approved activities will be excused.

### **Lateness Policy:**

A *10% per day* deduction will be assessed for assignments turned in late. Work more than a week late will *not* be accepted. **This policy will be strictly enforced**. All assignment and online discussion deadlines are *critical* for your individual success in this course and the success of the course overall. If you feel that you

will be unable to meet these deadlines, you *must* communicate this to the course instructor *at least one day before the assignment or discussion posting is due*.

### **Absences and Make-Up Work:**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

### **Course Evaluation:**

To enhance the quality and effectiveness of the course, both for current and future students, the instructor conducts a mid-term course evaluation. This is done through a short and anonymous survey that students are encouraged to respond. The survey asks students to identify those aspects/elements of the course that are: 1) working well and should not be changed; 2) not working well, but could be improved with suggestions provided by the students; and, 3) not working well, and should be discontinued/replaced. Students can also provide additional comments and suggestions aimed at improving the course.

Towards the end of the semester, students are also expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

### **Academic Honesty:**

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

### **Software Use:**

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

### **Campus Helping Resources:**

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides

confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [umatter.ufl.edu/](http://umatter.ufl.edu/) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit [counseling.ufl.edu/](http://counseling.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit [shcc.ufl.edu/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/).
- *University Police Department*: Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://police.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).
- *Career Connections Center*, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)

### **Services for Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with the instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **Disclaimer about syllabus:**

Serious effort and consideration were used in formulating the syllabus presented by the instructor. While viewed as an educational contract between the instructor and student, unforeseen events may cause changes to the scheduling of assignments, readings, etc. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes deemed necessary to best fulfill the course objectives. Students registered for this course will be made aware of any changes in a timely fashion using reasonable means. This disclaimer does not abrogate any student rights as described by University rules and regulations.