SOCIAL POLICY EVALUATION (SOPE)

SOPE 501 - INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY
Short Title: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course provides an introduction to the study and evaluation of public policy as practiced across and within different levels and types of governments. Policy making in United States is the principal, but not the exclusive focus of the course. Different models and theories of policy making serve as the focus of the first half of the course. The course will explore how different academic disciplines including, anthropology, economics, political science, psychology sociology and philosophy approach the study and evaluation of public policies.

SOPE 502 - APPLICATIONS OF PROGRAM EVALUATION – CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Short Title: APPS IN PROG EVAL- CRIM JUSTIC
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course introduces students to the program evaluation literature in the area of criminal justice. There are reform projects underway at every stage of the American criminal justice system. Understanding the impact of these reforms is crucial for the future of criminal justice in the United States. We will study policies and interventions at various stages of criminal justice, from policing to reintegration.

SOPE 503 - QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION
Short Title: QUANT METHODS FOR PROG EVAL
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture/Laboratory
Credit Hours: 5
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course provides an in-depth introduction to the methods of program evaluation. The associated lab provides concrete examples for the students to gain practical experience in applying these methods. The methods presented will include: Randomized Controlled Trials, Instrumental Variables, Difference in Difference, Propensity Score Matching, and Regression Discontinuity Design. At the end of this course, students should be able to use these methods to conduct impact evaluations of social programs and to do a critical assessment of evaluations performed by others.

SOPE 504 - APPLICATIONS OF PROGRAM EVALUATION – LABOR MARKETS
Short Title: APPS IN PROG EVAL-LABOR
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course introduces students to the program evaluation literature in the area of labor markets. Students will critically read existing evaluations of labor market policies and evaluate for various types of validity and for generalization, draw on methodological best practices and apply empirical tools to their own evaluations of labor market policies, identify and access important datasets commonly used in influential employment-related research, and discuss with policy professionals the salience, outcomes, workings, and broader context of a variety of public programs designed to improve labor markets.

SOPE 505 - MICROECONOMICS FOR POLICY EVALUATION
Short Title: MICROECONOMICS FOR POLICY EVAL
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course will introduce students to economic principles and tools relevant for policy analysis. The course covers topics such as household decision-making, the economics of information, risk and uncertainty, markets and market structure, externalities and other types of market failure, behavioral economics, game theory, and welfare economics. Students will see how the application of economic theory to policy questions informs and guides social policy analysis.

SOPE 506 - APPLICATIONS OF PROGRAM EVALUATION – HEALTH
Short Title: APPS IN PROG EVAL- HEALTH
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Public health and healthcare service delivery play a crucial role in shaping population health and in influencing health systems at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. The ability to systematically and critically assess the health program evaluation literature is requisite for understanding how to identify and implement effective, evidence-based legislation, policies, and reforms. This course will provide a framework for analyzing the evidence base for public health programs and interventions, and will help students understand how such programs and interventions can impact health policy and affect the health of populations and individuals.

SOPE 508 - APPLICATIONS OF PROGRAM EVALUATION – EARLY CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
Short Title: APPS IN PROG EVAL- CHILD DEV
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course introduces students to the program evaluation literature in the area of early childhood education. In recent years, significant investments have been made in increasing and improving early learning opportunities for children. The course will provide students with an understanding of the evidence on the extent to which early childhood education program offerings have long term impacts on later success. It will examine the policy contexts of early childhood education and discuss the importance of using evidence in driving decision making at all policy levels, from school districts to the U.S. Department of Education. It will also examine the role of family in children's educational experiences.

SOPE 510 - RESEARCH-PRACTICE PARTNERSHIPS
Short Title: RESEARCH-PRACTICE PARTNERSHIPS
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course provides a foundational understanding of research-practice partnerships (RPPs) in education, an emerging way for education researchers and practitioners to work together on pressing problems of practice. Topics include launching an RPP, theories of action, supporting research use, communications, sustainability, and measuring RPP effectiveness. Cross-list: SOCI 521.

SOPE 512 - POLICY EVALUATION CODING AND SOFTWARE LAB
Short Title: CODING AND SOFTWARE LAB
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Laboratory
Credit Hour: 1
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This lab course introduces students to relevant programming languages and enhances their knowledge of statistical software packages.

SOPE 513 - SOCIAL POLICY EVALUATION PRACTICUM I
Short Title: MSPE EVALUATION PRACTICUM I
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: The practicum project asks students to integrate and synthesize many components of the curriculum by undertaking a major policy evaluation project of value to an external client from the Texas Policy Lab, HERC or other university research center. During the project, students engage in the entire process of solving a real-world evaluation project. Students will produce IRB documents, write a literature review, clean data and propose an analysis.

SOPE 514 - SOCIAL POLICY EVALUATION PRACTICUM II
Short Title: MSPE PRACTICUM II
Department: Social Policy Evaluation
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Policy Eval degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: A continuation of SOPE 513, the student will perform their proposed analysis and write a final report. The report must address both the strengths and weaknesses of the analysis and clearly state the conclusions that can be drawn.