# Presentation Title: Reveal JS presentation

Slide 1:  
Evaluation and Introduction to Science  
Introduction to Public Policy  
POSC 315 :: Week 12-2

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Slide 2:  
Policy Evaluation  
Evaluation  
is research conducted to investigate a social program — a public policy.  
Big Question:  
Was there a  
significant  
and  
positive  
impact to the target group(s) that would have not occurred without the program?  
Who Cares?  
Stakeholders:  
Taxpayers, Program Beneficiaries, Program Administrators, Elected Officials, etc.

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Slide 3:  
Evaluation and Systems Thinking  
Inputs:  
Resources used to implement the program  
Activities:  
What the program does  
Outputs:  
The direct products of the program  
Outcomes:  
The results of the program  
Impacts:  
The long-term effects of the program  
Feedback:  
Information about the program that is used to improve it

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Slide 4:  
Evaluation Designs  
Before-and-After Design  
The policy evaluated for the changes it has produced since its implementation, controlling for other possible influences on the outcome  
After-Only Design  
The policy evaluated for the changes it has produced since its implementation,  
without  
controlling for other possible influences on the outcome  
With-and-Without Design  
The policy is evaluated for producing changes in a target population, compared to another population that did not receive the policy, i.e., treatment and control groups.  
Time-Series Design  
The policy is evaluated the changes produced by the policy over a lengthy period; gives us the best information with which to evaluate a policy

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After-Only Design  
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Slide 7:  
With-and-Without Design  
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Time-Series Design  
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Slide 9:  
Evaluation Questions  
Is the program needed?  
Can the program be evaluated?  
How does the program operate?  
What is the program’s impact?  
How efficient, equitable, and effective is the program?  
“Deeper” Evaluation Questions  
What is the program’s impact on the target population?  
Was the correct problem identified? Was the program designed to address the problem?  
Was the program implemented as designed?  
What data were used to evaluate the program? What was left out?  
Is there need for a new program? Is there a better way to address the problem?  
What should be done next to improve the program?

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Slide 12:  
Public Policy and Science  
How do we know what we know?  
Science  
Science  
is a method of inquiry that seeks to describe and explain the natural and social worlds, and to predict events in the natural and social worlds.  
Scientific Method  
is a process of inquiry that uses a set of procedures to systematically test a hypothesis.

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Slide 15:  
Philosophy of Science  
The analysis and evaluation of the basic concepts and practices within and about science.  
It deals with the assumptions that undergird the scientific method.  
It is concerned with the nature of scientific knowledge and the justification for scientific claims.

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Slide 16:  
Three Major Fields Inform Inquiry  
Metaphysics  
is the study of the nature of reality.  
Epistemology  
is the study of knowledge and justified belief.  
Axiology  
is the study of the nature of values.  
Metaphysics  
The Study of Reality  
Deals with questions like “What is real?” and “What is the nature of reality?”  
Ontology  
is the study of the nature of being.  
Cosmology  
is the study of the nature of the universe.  
Theology  
is the study of the nature of God.  
Epistemology  
The Study of Knowledge  
Deals with questions like “What is knowledge?” and “How do we know what we know?”  
Rationalism  
is the view that knowledge is acquired through reason.  
Empiricism  
is the view that knowledge is acquired through experience.  
Skepticism  
is the view that we cannot know anything for certain.  
Axiology  
The Study of Values  
Deals with questions like “What is good?” and “What is right?”  
Ethics  
is the study of right and wrong.  
Aesthetics  
is the study of beauty.  
Political Philosophy  
is the study of the nature of the state and the justification for political authority.  
Social Philosophy  
is the study of the nature of society and the justification for social authority.

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Epistemology  
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Slide 21:  
Methodological Approaches  
How should we go about knowing what we know?  
Positivism  
Positivism  
is the view that the scientific method is the best way to acquire knowledge.  
Reality exists independently of our minds and is driven by laws of cause and effect which we can know.  
Inquiry can be free of bias and values.  
Hypotheses can be tested and verified.  
Post-Positivism  
Post-Positivism  
is the view that the scientific method is the best way to acquire knowledge, but that it is not free of bias and values.  
Reality exists independently of our minds and is driven by laws of cause and effect, but it cannot be fully understood.  
There is a multiplicity of perspectives and interpretations about cause and effect.  
Hypotheses can be tested and falsified.  
Paradigm Shifts  
occur when a new theory replaces an old theory.  
Constructivism  
Constructivism  
is the view that the scientific method is not the best way to acquire knowledge.  
Reality exists as a mental construct and is relative to the individual.  
Knowledge and the knower are part of the same subjectivity entity.  
Identifies, compares, and describes the various constructions that exist, both hermeneutically (through interpretation of texts) and dialectically (through the interaction of ideas)  
Critical Theory  
Critical Theory  
is the view that the scientific method is not the best way to acquire knowledge.  
Reality exists but cannot be fully understood or explained.  
Social problems stem more from social structures and cultural assumptions than from individuals.  
Knowledge is a social construct that is relative to the individual and the social context.  
Knowledge is used to justify power and privilege, to oppress and exploit, and to liberate and empower.  
Symbolic Interactionism  
Symbolic Interactionism  
is the view that the scientific method is not the best way to acquire knowledge.  
Humans act based on the meanings that things have for them.  
Meanings are modified and handled through interpretative processes used by individuals dealing with the signs and symbols they encounter.  
The meanings of things are derived from, and arise out of, social interaction.

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Slide 28:  
Why does this all matter?  
How does this relate to public policy?  
Public Policy: Definitions  
Heclo  
(1975, 305): Policymaking can be viewed as “collective puzzlement on society’s behalf; it entails both deciding and knowing.”  
Public Policy: Definitions  
“A definition of the problem is part of the problem: Politics arises because we do not share perceptions of what the problems are, or if we do, what follows from the definition in terms of what can be or should be done… Ill-structured as they are, public issues are not demarcated: we do not know where one problem begins, and another ends”  
(Parsons 1995, 88-9).  
Public Policy in a Democracy  
James A. Jones  
(1974, 561): “Whosoever initially identifies a social problem shapes the initial terms in which it will be debated and the initial range of alternatives that will be considered. The initial identification of a social problem is thus a crucial act of social policy.”  
Public Policy in a Democracy  
Social construction of problems is not a problem; it’s democracy! Conflict is only a perception. The problem arises when the conflict is not allowed to become something else.

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Slide 34:  
The End  
Have a great break!

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Slide 35:  
References  
Parsons, Wayne. 1995. Public Policy: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.  
Jones, James A. 1974. “What’s in a Name? Some Reflections on the Sociology of Diagnosis.” In The Relevance of Sociology, edited by James A. Davis, 560–78. New York: Wiley.  
Heclo, Hugh. 1975. “Review Article: The Problem of Policy Problems.” Journal of Public Policy 5 (3): 305–18.

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