

Evaluation Colloquium 2021

Professor Scharbatke-Church

Update: January 2021

As the final stage of Fletcher's Program Design, Monitoring, & Evaluation (DME) series, the Evaluation Colloquium offers students the opportunity to undertake a careful examination of a topic of their choice within ADMEL.

To participate:

- students must submit a statement of interest by **Friday, Feb 12**.
- receive sign-off on their final topic by **Friday, March 5**

What is a colloquium?

This colloquium is a faculty supported, but student-led process to deepen knowledge on a specific ADMEL topic. Offered in the latter half of the January 2021 semester, the evaluation colloquium is a mechanism for students to engage in a deep dive on a topic of their choice through a peer-led, collaborative process with support and guidance from Professor Scharbatke-Church. The colloquium will be tailored to individual student interests while at the same time offering collaborative opportunities for learning.

What is the structure?

Students will select a topic for study, to be approved by the Professor. They will work independently (or in pairs of their choosing) on an agreed set of deliverables worthy of 1.5 Credits. Alignment to capstone work is encouraged, but optional.

The group will meet for 60-90 minutes 4-7 times in the semester (specifics depend on numbers). The meetings follow a set structure developed by Prof Scharbatke-Church, which sees students presenting "progress reports" and getting peer feedback. Instead of a syllabus, the colloquium uses a Meeting Plan that outlines the purpose, process and preparatory work for each meeting. The 2020 meeting plan is available for review upon request.

What are the pre-requisites?

Students who have completed the Advanced module are eligible to participate.

How will this work?

Each individual (or team) will develop a mastery of a select DME topic, agreed upon in advance with the Professor. Mastery is both theoretical fluency and practical depth relevant to application of the concept.

Format: The colloquium will meet 4-7 times plus presentations. The times and locations of those meetings will be decided amongst those involved in the colloquium. Students are welcome to use office hours in between classes to discuss their topics, as well. Each student or team will develop a work plan for their independent study process, including when their presentation will take place.

Deliverables: The typical final deliverable is a 30-minute presentation with supporting documents and an annotated bibliography. This is negotiable, however and could also be a classic academic paper, a set of short briefing papers with a particular audience in mind, a series of blog posts, a formal briefing, demonstration of a tool, podcast etc.. Of note – if blog posts are selected there will need to be a process of ensuring content accuracy prior to drafting posts.

Grades: These will be finalized depending on the deliverables selected. Typically, grading breaks out as follows:

- 25% meeting participation – this includes both the quality of your progress report presentations, but also the contribution made to help other students advance in their thinking.
- 75% presentation and written products

Selecting Topics

Topics eligible for the Evaluation Colloquium span the full ADMEL spectrum. The list below offers a brainstorm of possible themes, some including specific topics (phrased as questions). Students are welcome to work from this list or propose their own topics for consideration. Note: a theme is an overarching idea/category while a topic is a specific research question that will be answered. Students need a topic or a specific research question to proceed.

1. Developmental evaluation: how is it different than good monitoring?
2. Evaluation approaches for Social Justice
3. Value for money; what is the value of the current model?
4. Contribution tracing – when, why and how one would use it.
5. Evaluating conflict-sensitivity,
6. Cultural competence: how does this align or contradict the current decolonizing of international aid discussion?
7. Change models: What is unique/different about catalyzing change in government bureaucracies?
8. Evaluating social norms
9. Decolonization and DME
10. Participant Mapping: how can social network analysis be used to identify social norms reference groups?

11. How have anti-corruption program design taken conflict contexts into account? And by extension how has the originating analysis engaged with conflict issues?
12. Participatory evaluation & data collection: factors to consider when using it on sensitive topics i.e. illicit behavior

How to register:

The Colloquium will be structured as an individual independent study, therefore, formal registration will be through the usual independent study paperwork. In order for PSC to sign off on the independent study paperwork, I will need to have already agreed on your statement of interest.

Statement of Interest (no more than 300 words) by Friday Feb 12:

- An initial topic (not theme) and rationale behind picking it.
- An initial draft of your personal learning objectives (written with COT in mind)
- An initial proposal around deliverables
- Where appropriate, why you have elected to work in a team

As it is still early in Advanced Evaluation, it is understood that the Statement of Interest contains initial ideas and students will have space to change. Students will have until Friday, March 5 to change and or refine their topic of choice, through a resubmission of the Statement of Interest.

Dates & Deadlines:

- Statement of interest by: Friday Feb 12
- Participation approval by Professor Scharbatke-Church: week of Feb 15
- Independent Study form to Registrar's office: week of Feb 15
- Final Topic Agreement: Friday, March 5
 - This means that the updated statement of interest is received by Monday March 2, and we have had a discussion about it in office hours before March 5.
- First session: week of March 8
- Final work plan submission: Monday March 16
- Draft product due: TBD with students
- Final product due: TBD with students
- Presentations: end of semester

Where do I get further information?

For further information or to discuss participation please sign up for Professor Scharbatke-Church's office hours.