

To: MPA 513 Class
Re:
Date: September 3, 2009

Welcome to Program Planning and Evaluation for the 2009 Fall Semester!

As Yogi Bera aptly said, "You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there." And so it is with evaluation – we need to know where we are going and then make sure we get there.

The main text for the course is Rossi, Lipsey, and Freeman (2004), ***Evaluation: A Systematic Approach***, a time-honored classic in its 7th edition. Rossi, a pillar of the evaluation community recently passed away, but his lessons will live on. I also suggest you look at Wholey, Hatry, and Newcomer (2004), ***Handbook of Practical Evaluation***, which we will be using for some sections of the class. Both Rossi and Wholey are excellent comprehensive resources available at the Marist Bookstore, so you may select either one.

Case studies and examples from evaluation research findings will supplement textbook readings. Students will be expected to assess evaluation studies from such policy areas as education, public health, criminal justice, and social policy both as part of a case analysis assignment and as discussion points in online forums. I will make copies available to students when possible.

Access to the course through iLearn (<http://iLearn.marist.edu>) begins Friday, October 23rd, the week before classes officially begin on October 26th. We officially end on December 18th, 2009.

In iLearn, you will find in the right column the class materials at your disposal – the syllabus, lessons, resources, and assignments. Lessons and discussion forum topics will be posted on Thursdays. Begin the first week by introducing yourself to the class in "Getting Acquainted." Readings for the first week will also be available in the resource section.

If you are not familiar with iLearn, please complete the online tutorial. If you have any problems accessing your iLearn page, contact the Helpdesk first, and they will direct you to the appropriate resource.

Questions can be posted on the course website, or you can also reach me via email at jay.bainbridge@marist.edu, or by phone at 845-575-3000 ext 2941.

See you online,

Jay Bainbridge, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Administration
Marist College