University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Department of Urban & Regional Planning

PLAN 655: Advanced Planning Methods and Models  
Course Syllabus  
Fall 2007

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Mondays, 1:30 – 4:15 p.m.  
Saunders 116

Introduction

This course satisfies a core requirement of doctoral students in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. It is also recommended as a second methods course for MURP students who are preparing a thesis. The course reviews the logic and tools of social inquiry as applied to research questions in urban and regional planning. It reviews quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods of research design. It covers how to design research instruments, sampling plans, and data collection strategies to address questions in current planning research. Examples of past and present planning research are used to illustrate these topics.

Prerequisites

The instructor assumes that students have taken PLAN 601: Planning Methods or its equivalent, and can interpret descriptive and inferential statistics. If you are not familiar with these statistics, please talk to the instructor.

Requirements and Grading Policy

The course has a lecture and discussion format. Lectures are based on the assigned readings as listed in the attached class schedule. The course requirements are as follows:
The following table shows the minimum points needed to earn certain grades:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>488</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>463</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>438</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>413</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>388</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>363</td>
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<td>300</td>
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Because the class size is small, students are expected to participate fully in class discussions and to stay current in the readings. Besides attending class and listening to the discussion, students will be expected to voice opinions and answer questions. Students who participate regularly in class discussions are more likely to receive a better grade for the course. If you need to miss a class, be sure to check your mailbox at DURP for handouts that you missed.

The written assignments and term project will be graded primarily on the extent to which they satisfy specified requirements as indicated in the syllabus and class handouts. Assignments will also be graded on the basis of logic, persuasiveness, creativity, accuracy, documentation, grammar, and spelling. Late assignments will be penalized 20% of the maximum grade for each day that the assignment is late.

All papers should be typewritten, double spaced on 8.5 x 11 inch plain bond paper with a 12-point font and one-inch margins. Footnotes
and references should be completely documented and should follow a consistent, conventional format.

Incomplete grades will be given only to students who have compelling reasons, such as extended sickness or extended overseas travel. Insufficient time to complete work is not an adequate reason because it is a common problem of academic life.

**Homework Assignments**

The purpose of the three homework assignments is to develop skills in critiquing research methods used in urban and regional planning. The attached class schedule shows the expected deadlines for submitting these assignments. Note that the third assignment has three options (A, B, and C), each with a different deadline. Please inform the instructor of your preferred option by September 17th. Be prepared to present and discuss your completed third assignment in class on the due date.

**Term Project**

The purpose of the term project is to broaden your knowledge of research methods in urban and regional planning. It will also enable you to synthesize different topics of this course and to focus that knowledge on a particular topic. There are two options for completing the term project: (1) an analytical study using primary or secondary data; or (2) a review of research designs and methods related to your master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation topic. Please see the instructor for assistance in getting started with the term project. Each option carries certain written and oral requirements as indicated below and in the attached class schedule. Because each option requires a literature review, read Chapter 4 of the textbook by Neuman (2007) for advice on that subject. The recommended length for this assignment is 20 double-space pages.

**Option #1: Analytical Study**

This option is designed to sharpen your analytical skills in the use of data collected from primary and/or secondary sources (e.g., the U.S. census or other public records). Complete the following three tasks by the due dates indicated below.
#1-A Make an appointment with the instructor prior to the due date below to discuss possible topics for analytical research. Then submit a three-page proposal that describes the nature, purpose and scope of your analytical study and how it relates to urban and regional planning. Due date: September 17th.

#1-B Review the literature and summarize existing theory on the subject. Discuss your research design, list of variables, and sources of data in a written progress report. Also, state what questions you intend to answer and what statistical tests you think are appropriate to answer these questions. Due date: October 29th.

#1-C Using appropriate statistical software, describe and analyze your data. Test hypotheses implicit in your research design. Report your findings to the class and submit a written final report to the instructor. Due date: December 3rd.

Here are six examples of analytical studies:


**Option #2: Review of Research Designs and Methods**

If you expect to collect primary data for your master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation, this option is designed to develop your skills in reviewing research designs and methods pertinent to your topic. The third homework assignment is similar to this option. Complete the following two tasks by the due dates indicated below.

**#2-A**
Make an appointment with the instructor prior to the due date indicated below to discuss possible topics for research. Then submit a three-page proposal that describes the nature, purpose and scope of your research topic and how it relates to urban and regional planning. Include a preliminary list of references. Due date: September 17th.

**#2-B**
Review literature on research methods applicable to this topic. Summarize and critique these studies, and identify gaps in the literature. Also discuss possible avenues for future research. In an oral presentation to the class, summarize the results of your review of research designs and methods. Propose a design for research to address gaps in the literature. Report your findings to the class and submit a written final report to the instructor. Due date: December 3rd.

**Final Examination**

The final examination will be held on Monday, December 10th from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. It will include a series of multiple-choice and short
essay questions covering all course material. The instructor will review pertinent topics for the examination during the last class period of the course. During the examination, you may not use lecture notes, textbooks, the course reader, or a laptop computer to help you answer questions.

Office Hours

My regular office hours are 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Mondays and 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in Saunders 107A. If these hours are inconvenient, please make an appointment. You can reach me by telephone (956-8684), facsimile (956-6870), or e-mail at this address: flachsba@hawaii.edu. Please do not submit written assignments as attachments to an e-mail message.

Readings

The readings for this course can be found in the textbook, a course reader, and in various reference books listed below.

Textbook

The following textbook is available for sale at the University Bookstore in the Student Campus Center:


Course Reader

The purpose of the “course reader” (CR) is to provide you with examples of urban and regional planning research not found in the textbook. The symbol (CR) appears after the reading in the class schedule. These readings are listed below in alphabetical order. They may be purchased as a course reader from Professional Image at 2633 South King Street near University Avenue during the second week of classes. Please phone them at 973-6599 to order a copy.


Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, California.


Reserved Readings

Listed below are readings on the “reserve shelf” (RS) of the department library (Saunders 119). Please do not remove these readings from the library. The symbol (RS) appears after the reading in the class schedule.


Flachsbart, Peter G. 1977. Impacts of the OPEC Oil Embargo on Urban Travel Behavior, Gasoline Consumption, and Attitudes Toward Access to Urban Opportunities: A Case-Control Study. IPM Report No. 3. Department of Civil Engineering, Stanford University, Stanford, California.


Related Readings

Listed below are several titles on the planning profession and various aspects of scientific research and research methods.


