Introduction

This course satisfies a requirement of MURP students who intend to write a master’s thesis and doctoral students who need to prepare a dissertation research proposal in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. The course may also be useful for MURP students who are preparing an Area of Concentration (AOC) paper.

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 600: Planning Theory and PLAN 601: Planning Methods or its equivalent, and can interpret descriptive and inferential statistics. If you are not familiar with these topics, please inform 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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>350</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>330</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>310</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>290</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>280</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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, answer questions, and comment on the work of other students. Students who participate regularly in class discussions are more likely to receive a better grade for the course. Please check your mailbox at DURP for handouts distributed in classes that you could not attend.

The written assignments and term project will be graded primarily on the extent to which they satisfy requirements as specified 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 and 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 trait of academic life.

**Written Assignments**

The purpose of the three written assignments is to develop your research skills and to broaden your knowledge of research designs used in urban and regional planning. They are intended to help you produce a research proposal for your master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation topic. The instructor will distribute each assignment at least two weeks prior to its due date as indicated in the Class Schedule.

**Office Hours**

My regular office hours are 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and from 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 (808-956-8684), facsimile (808-956-6870), or e-mail (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 from Amazon.com:


**Course Reader**

The “Course Reader” (CR) provides examples of urban and regional planning research not found in the textbook. The symbol (CR) appears
after the author and page numbers of the reading in the Class Schedule. These authors of these readings are listed below in alphabetical order. The instructor will post a pdf of the Course Reader at the UH Filedrop Service during the second week of the semester and will notify students of the website address.


Reserved Readings

Listed below are two readings on the reserve shelf of Sinclair Library (SL).


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.
Recommended Readings

Listed below are several recommended readings on research design.


