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PLAN 5330: TECHNIQUES OF PLANNING ANALYSIS II

Instructor: Dr. Jianling Li
Wednesday, 7:00 – 9:50 pm
Room: ARCH401

CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Contemporary planning focuses on sustaining places through comprehensive planning, which includes applying sustainable principles and standards in the planning process to achieve desired goals and objectives. In order to effectively carry out planning tasks, planners must have research competency and analytical skills. This course introduces students to various methods for conducting research in the field of urban and regional planning. Special attention will be given to small group data collection techniques and basic statistical analysis. The strengths and weaknesses of the methods will be discussed. Ethics in social research will be considered. The class will cover several broad topics in the research process:

- research problem identification
- conceptualization and operationalization
- data gathering methods and selection
- data analysis techniques
- interpretation of research results, and
- presentation

The major objectives of this course are to help students:

- learn the process of conducting research
- recognize the various research methods that are available for planning purposes;
- understand the utility and limitations of the methods;
- become familiar with some common data collection and analysis techniques for planning, and
- be able to apply some relevant techniques to specific problems.

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MEASURABLE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

It is expected that after the class, students will be able to:

- describe various data collection and analysis techniques commonly used for conducting research in the field of urban planning;
- explain the terminologies of the specific techniques covered in the class;
- discuss the applicability of the techniques;
- critique the use of techniques in research and planning activities;
- use proper techniques to conduct data collection, analysis, and presentation; and
- work effectively under both individual and group settings.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Research Design in Urban Planning: A Student's Guide, by Stuart Farthing, SAGE Publications Ltd, 2016.

Statistics for people who (think they) hate statistics, Sixth Edition, by Salkind, Neil J, SAGE Publications Ltd, 2017.

Optional:

The Planner's Use of Information, edited by Hemalata C. Dandekar, 2nd ed, APA Planners Press, 2003.

Handouts

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are six requirements for this class: (1) reading assignments, (2) exercises, (3) assignments, (4) final exam, (5) presentation, and (6) class attendance and participation.

Readings: Readings are essential for learning. Reading assignments from the required and optional textbooks are specified in the course schedule section. Students are expected to complete the reading assignments prior to each class session. Students are encouraged to read additional readings in other journal articles or/and textbooks related to planning research techniques and applications. Each student is responsible for leading one class discussion session on the topic of choice decided in the early weeks of the semester.

Exercises: Besides lectures, there will be exercises throughout the semester. The exercises cover the essential elements of the research techniques and provide opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience with the elements. Students are expected to submit the exercises on time.

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Assignments: In addition to exercises, there will be four individual assignments and one group project that are based on the topics learned through lectures and exercises in class. The assignments will allow students to experience the major milestones in the research process. It is essential that individual assignments must be submitted by the deadlines (see due dates of the specific assignments on page 6). Assignments turned in past the due dates will be penalized 10% for each week late. No assignment will be accepted after May 9, 2018. Towards the end of the semester, students will work as a team to complete a group project.

Presentation: Students are expected to prepare a presentation about their research findings to the class at the end of the semester.

Final Exam: There will be a final exam. The exam will include questions drawn from topics covered in readings, lectures, in-class exercises, and class assignments. The purpose of the exam is to help students get familiar with the essential concepts covered in the class.

Class Attendance and Participation: Regular class attendance is required. Unless there is a legitimate reason, no excused absence will be granted. A written note from an authority (e.g. doctor, employer, *etc.*) will be required for any legitimate absence. Each unauthorized absence will result in a 3% deduction from your total weighted score. Please refer to university drop policy if students wish to drop this class. Besides leading a discussion session, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and other activities, which include but not limit to asking questions, sharing research experience and observations throughout the semester.

GRADING

Course grading will be based on the following components:

1. Reading notes	10%
2. Lead Discussion	10%
3. Exercises	25%
4. Individual assignments	20%
5. Group project	10%
6. Presentation	5%
7. Final exam	20%

Total: 100%

LIBRARIAN TO CONTACT

Mitch Stepanovich in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library: STEPANOVICH@uta.edu.

ADDENDUM TO COURSE SYLLABUS

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ao/fao/>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based

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learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

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CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Required Readings	Exercises & Assignment Due Dates
1/17	Course overview		
Planning Research Process & Methods			
1/24	Introduction	Farthing: Chapters 1 & 2	Weekly Reading Notes
1/31	Research problem identification	Farthing: Chapter 3 & handout	Weekly Reading Notes Exercise #1 due
2/7	Research objectives & justifications	Farthing: Chapter 4	Weekly Reading Notes Exercise #2 due
2/14	Research questions	Farthing: Chapters 5 & 6	Weekly Reading Notes Exercise #3 due
2/21	Data collection methods	Farthing: Ch. 7; Dandekar: Ch1 & Ch2	Weekly Reading Notes Exercise #4 due
2/28	Research ethics	Farthing: Ch. 9	Weekly Reading Notes Assignment #1 Due
3/7	Data collection methods (conti.)	Farthing: Ch. 7; Dandekar: Ch1 & Ch2	Weekly Reading Notes Exercise #5 due
3/14	Spring Vacation		
3/21	Data analysis	Farthing: Chapter 8	Weekly Reading Notes Exercise #6 due
3/28	Basic statistics	Salkind: Ch2 ~ Ch4, Ch8, Ch10	Weekly Reading Notes Assignment #2 Due
4/4	Basic statistics (conti.)	Salkind: Ch5, Ch11, Ch13, Ch15	Weekly Reading Notes Exercise #7 due
Putting All Together			
4/11	Group project preparation		Assignment #3 Due
4/18	Group project preparation		Group project
4/25	Group project presentation		Group Project Due
5/2	Review & reflection		Assignment #4 Due
5/9	Final exam		

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.