

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DESIGN AND PLANNING
University of Washington

URBDP 512- Applied Research for Urban Design and Planning

Autumn 2014
Tu. & Th. 1:30 – 2:50

Donald Miller
Gould 435

Course Description:

This course focuses on undertaking applied research in an urban setting. It is designed to prepare you for professional planning and urban design practice, and to facilitate work on your thesis or professional project. We will meet twice weekly to explore together approaches and issues in applied research, primarily through discussion guided by assigned readings. Early questions include: What is research? Applied research? A variable? Levels of data? Levels of analysis? A research strategy? A research design? Alternative research designs? Many of the topics in the following course outline and reading list are posed as additional questions.

Purposes of this course include:

- * To develop an understanding and definitions of research, its purposes, and its forms, both applied and basic, as a foundation for differentiating among kinds of inquiry and the requirements of each.
- * To provide professional education concerning framing, planning, designing, managing, and presenting research of the kinds which urban designers and planners are regularly called on to undertake or to critically use as part of their practice.
- * To explore the ethical and political implications of research undertakings, as a basis for assessing what parties need to be involved and how to design and manage such projects.
- * To provide frameworks -- conceptual and strategic -- that will facilitate identifying and evaluating research methodologies learned in other courses in order to make informed choices of which of these methodologies and associated techniques to incorporate into designs for applied research projects.
- * To prepare you to plan, design, and manage your thesis or professional project, including the issues mentioned previously, your purposes and audience, and the constraints placed on such a project
- * To give you practice in employing activities involved in designing and managing research on urban issues, and sharing this with your colleagues, thus providing substantive examples, and illustrations of problems and possible solutions to these.
- * To get you started and well on your way in pursuing your thesis or professional project topic, and selecting and meeting with your faculty committee.

These purposes may be viewed as criteria, which I have used in designing this course, and to provide the basis for evaluating both the course and your success in it.

While the required readings will provide the initial basis for discussion in class sessions, the intention is that you will supplement these with selections of your own, usually identified through exploring your own topic of research interest. You are encouraged to relate the ideas found in these collateral readings to the ideas in the required readings, and to share your findings with the rest of us in the class. The primary text includes many citations and extensive bibliographies, making a separate listing of additional references in the course outline unnecessary.

We will use a series of “*case examples*” – not case studies -- that are articles from journals and other sources, selected to illustrate various research designs and ways of structuring and communicating how the research was undertaken and the results. You are asked to sign up, with some others in the class, to present and critically assess, in 10 minutes maximum, how the design and lessons learned from one of these can be useful to you or others in the class are doing and presenting their project. Everyone in the course is asked to scan these readings and come to class ready to raise questions and register your own critical assessment of them.

In addition to the readings and contributions to the in-class discussions, you are asked to do a series of course exercises. These will relate to the structure of the course, are intended to give you concrete experience in employing the content of this course, and will build on each other. You are encouraged, in developing these exercises, to be specific -- ie. deal with an applied research topic that is your MUP thesis or professional project -- in order to provide substance and interest to what you are doing, and to get you well underway on your research. Although the focus of this course is on a larger set of issues as identified in the outline than may be appropriate to your specific topic, these exercises are intended to result in your making considerable progress on your thesis or professional project. These exercises will address: critically reviewing a professional project or thesis, problem statement, research planning, research design, data collection and analysis, and communicating research results. You are also asked to write a complete research design that you can use with your faculty committee, summarizing, synthesizing, updating, and applying the work you did in earlier exercises. The six exercises will be the basis for 60% (ca. 10% each) of the grade for this course; your case example presentation for 10%, and the final paper for 30%.

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:30 – 2:30, Tuesday and Thursday 3 – 4, Gould 448J. I am also available at other times and places by appointment.

Expectations:

1. Come to class, having done the readings and prep work.
2. Present a “case example” in a group: 10 minutes max, not everyone has to talk, don’t need handouts or ppt .
3. Turn in assignments on due dates. There are six assignments and one final paper. Late assignments lose points. Exceptions are only made on written arrangement.
4. Laptop computers, tablets and other mobile devices are only to be used in class for note taking and accessing material under discussion. Students last year noted that use for other purposes was distracting and rude.

Primary Text: Paul D. Leedy and Jeanne Ellis Ormrod, *Practical Research Planning and Design*, Eighth Edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill, 2005).***

Plus supplemental readings: Mostly on Canvas.uw.edu
(If not there, please check UW library and general internet search; then email me)

Topics and Readings:

1. Thursday, Sept. 30

The Nature of Research in Urban Design and Planning

****What are the roles of research in urban planning and design? Who are the clients?**

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Read:

- Introduction to *Practical Research*, and Chapter 6, Writing a Research Proposal
- Skim Ann Forsyth’s Planetizen blog articles on doing a thesis or professional project (and reflect on how this applies to you), <http://www.planetizen.com/taxonomy/term/974> Also look at <http://www.planetizen.com/node/29121> , and 29949, 29520, and 36633.
- Skim the departmental Thesis and Professional Project Guidelines, http://urbdp.be.washington.edu/resources/current_students/mup/downloads.html
- Skim the Graduate School Format Guidelines for Theses and Dissertations, <http://www.grad.washington.edu/students/thesis-dissertation>
- Select and begin to read a recent thesis or professional project done for the MUP program, about which you will report in Exercise #2 (See http://urbdp.be.washington.edu/student_gallery/theses_prof_projects/, also CBE library)

2. Thursday, Oct. 2

The Nature of Research in Urban Design and Planning (continued)

****What is characteristic about doing applied research on cities, as part of applied planning practice?**

Applied versus basic research. What is urban? Causality? A research planning model?

What levels of analysis apply to your project: spatial scope, time period?

Range of effects, nesting systems, implications for research

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Read:

- What is Research? Chapter 1 in *Practical Research*
- Richard E. Klosterman, Lessons Learned About Planning, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 79:2 (Spring 2013), pp. 161-169.
- Sharon Begley, Wanted: BS Doctors, *Newsweek* (November 8, 2010), p. 26.
- Eran Fietelson, The Spatial Effects of Land Use Regulations, *Journal of the American Planning Association* 59:4 (Autumn 1993), pp. 461-472. (Case example)

3. Thursday, Oct. 9

Research Planning-Developing a General Strategy

****How to think strategically and practically about doing applied urban research? How do you develop a plan for your work?**

Thinking backwards, ethical concerns, utilization of research findings

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Read:

- Planning Your Research Design, Chapter 5 in *Practical Research*, pp. 91-113
- Marina Alberti, A Geographically-based Multimedia System of Sustainable Seattle Indicators (Case Example)
- Richard D. Margerum, Collaborative Planning: Building Consensus and Building a Distinct Model for Practice, *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 21:3 (2002), pp. 237-253. [Case Example]

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References:

- Ann Markusen, Fuzzy Concepts, Scanty Evidence, Policy Distance, *Regional Studies*, 37:6 & 7 (August/October 2003), pp. 701-717.
- Martin Rein and Donald A. Schon, Problem Setting in Policy Research, in Carol Weiss (ed.), *Policy Research and Its Role in Policy Making* (Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1979), pp. 235-251.
- Dianna L. Newman and Robert D. Brown. *Applied Ethics For Program Evaluation* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1996).
- Franco Lo Piccolo and Hew Thomas (eds.), *Ethics and Planning Research* (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2009).

4. Tuesday, Oct. 14

Research Planning-Developing a General Strategy (continued)

****How to define the focus of the research?**

Scoping, identifying researchable questions, refining questions.

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Read:

- The Problem: The Heart of the Research Process, Chapter 3 in *Practical Research*.
- Emily Talen, Traditional Urbanism Meets Residential Affluence – An Analysis of the Variability of Suburban Preferences, *Journal of the American Planning Association* 67:2 (Spring 2001), pp. 199-216. [Case Example]
- Kyu-Nahm Jun, Escaping the Local Trap? The Role of Community-Representing Organizations in Urban Governance, *Journal of Urban Affairs* 35:3 (2013), pp. 343-363 [Case Example].
- Also skim one of the main sources used by the author of your professional project or thesis, come prepared to discuss in class.

5. Thursday, Oct. 16

Research Design – Developing a Detailed Procedure (continued)

****What kind of research?**

Exploratory, descriptive, explanatory? Experimental or quasi-experimental?

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Read:

- Experimental and Ex Post Facto Designs, Chapter 10 in *Practical Research*
 - Shadish, Cook & Campbell. Chapter 1, Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference
 - The Economist, Free Exchange – Random Harvest, *The Economist*, (December 14, 2013), p. 83.
 - Leah Brooks and Justin Phillips, Municipally Imposed Tax and Expenditure Limits, *Land Lines* (April 2009), pp. 8 – 13. [Case Example]
 - Vinit Mukhija, N of One plus Some: An Alternative Strategy for Conducting Single Case Research, *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 24:4 (2010), pp. 416-426. [Case Example]
 - Reid Ewing, Experiments and Quasi-Experiments: Two Great New Studies, *Planning* (February 2012), p. 44.
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References:

- Maureen A. Pirog, Anne L. Buffardi, Colleen K. Chrisinger, Pradeep Singh, and John Briney, Are the alternatives to randomized assignment nearly as good? Statistical corrections to non-randomized evaluations, (A response to the Nathan-Hollister debate.) *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. 28:1 (2008), pp. 169-172.

6. Tuesday, Oct. 21

Research Design(continued)

****Qualitative Research Designs**

What are alternative approaches? What is the role of qualitative research -- strengths and weaknesses? When is this strategy most appropriate?

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Read:

- Qualitative Research, Chapter 7; and Historical Research, Chapter 8 in *Practical Research*.
 - Denzin and Lincoln: Entering the Field of Qualitative Research
 - Graeme Wood, Anthropology Inc., *The Atlantic* (March 2013), pp. 48-56.
 - Robert F. Young, The Greening of Chicago: Environmental Leaders and Organisational Learning in the Transition Toward a Sustainable Metropolitan Region, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 53:8 (December 2010), pp. 1051-1068. [Case Example].
 - Lynn Mandarano and Kurt Paulsen, Governance Capacity in Collaborative Watershed Partnerships: Evidence from the Philadelphia Region, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 54:10 (December 2011), pp. 1293-1313. [Case Example].
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References:

- Michael Kwartler and Gianni Longo, *Visioning and Visualization: People, Pixels, and Plans* (Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute, 2008).
- John Gaber and Sharon Gaber, *Qualitative Analysis for Planning and Policy* (Chicago: APA Planners Press, 2007).
- Brent Toderian, Public Input by Blog, *Planetizen Interchange* (May 15, 2008). Retrieved from <http://www.planetizen.com/node/31240>
- John W. Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1997).
- David Silverman, *Qualitative Research* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1997).
- C. Marshall and G. B. Rossman, *Designing Qualitative Research*, Third Edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1999).

7. Thursday, Oct. 23

Research Design – Developing a Detailed Procedure (continued)

****Choosing a research design.**

Forms of validity, comparison of design options, issues in random assignment, multiple observations, and interrupted time series.

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Read:

- Tools of Research, Chapter 2, and review pp. 97 - 100, in *Practical Research*..
- Donald Miller, An Introduction to Multicriteria Methods of Evaluation, Working Paper, University of Washington, 2004.

- Reid Ewing, Mixing Methods for Clear Results, *Planning* 79:2 (February 2013), p. 46.
- Reid Ewing, Translational Research: The Next New Thing, *Planning* (October 2010), p. 40.
- For information on Human Subjects Review, when it is necessary, and how to go about it, refer to the UW training page:
http://www.washington.edu/research/hsd/courses/?page=hsd_courses

8. Thursday, Oct. 30

In-Class Discussion of Individual Topics, Approaches, and Designs

Each of you is asked to report briefly (3 minutes) on your selected topic and preliminary research design. Time permitting, suggestions will be welcome.

9. Tuesday, Nov. 4

Data Collection and Analysis

****Data sources and resources.**

Starting with research-based literature. What are data? Secondary source data and their sources, strengths and weaknesses.

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Read:

- The Review of the Related Literature, Chapter 4 in *Practical Research*.
- Arun Abraham Elias, A System Dynamics Model for Stakeholder Analysis in Environmental Conflicts, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 55:3 (April 2012), pp. 387 – 406. [Case Example]
- Justin B. Hollander, et al., The New American Ghost Towns, *Land Lines* (April 2011), pp. 2 – 7. [Case Example]
- Bruce Stiffler and Rebecca Mogg, “A Planner’s Guide to the Digital Bibliographic Revolution,” *Journal of the American Planning Association* 73:1 (Winter 2007), pp. 68-85.
- Skim Mendeley at <http://www.mendeley.com/>. (Note that other possible software tools for organizing references include Reference Manager, EndNotes and BookEnd, among many others. I highly recommend that you use some tool).
- Skim Harvard Writing Program, <http://isides.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page34054>, especially the discussion of citation and quotation rules. The University of Wisconsin Writing Program offers similar advice at <http://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/QuotingSources.html>.

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References:

- Harvey Goldstein and Gunther Maier, The Use and Valuation of Journals in Planning Scholarship: Peer Assessment Versus Impact Factors, *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 30:1 (2011), pp. 66-75.
- Google, Google’s Search Engine Optimization Starter Guide. (November 13, 2008). Retrieved from

<http://www.google.com/webmasters/docs/search-engine-optimization-starter-guide.pdf>

- Robert Goodspeed, How Can Planners Use The Web? (April 7, 2008). Retrieved from <http://www.planetizen.com/node/41324>
- M. Ling Pan, *Preparing Literature Reviews* (Glendale, CA: Pyrczak Publishing, 2008).
- Jose L. Galvan, *Writing Literature Reviews* (Glendale, CA: Pyrczak Publishing, 2009).
- Hemalata C. Dandekar, ed., *Planner's Use of Information*, 2nd ed. (Chicago: APA Planners Press, 2003).
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Writing Center, "How to Write a Literature Review," [4 February 2002]. Available from http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts_pdf/Literature%20Review.pdf.
- Olin and Uris Libraries, Cornell University, "Distinguishing Scholarly Journals from Other Periodicals," [8 October 2004] . Available from <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill20.html>.
- Paul N. Edwards, "How to Read a Book," [January 2000]. Available from <http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/BDF/howtoread.pdf>.
- University of California at Berkeley Library, "Critical Evaluation of Resources," [7 January 2005]. Available from <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Evaluation.html>.

10. Thursday, Nov. 6

Data Collection and Analysis(continued)

****Descriptive research, survey research, observation, interviews, and focus groups.**

Read:

- Descriptive Research, Chapter 9, in *Practical Research*.
- Devashree Saha and Robert Paterson, Local Governmental Efforts to Promote the 'Three Es' of Sustainable Development, *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 28:1 (Fall 2008), pp. 21-37. [Case Example]
- Marijean Suelzle and Frank L. Pasquale, How to Record Observations: Writing Field Notes, in Lenore Borzak (ed.), *Field Study* (London: Sage, 1981), pp. 151-159.
- Hermanowicz, J. The Great Interview: 25 Strategies for Studying People in Bed
- Daniel B. Klein, I Was Wrong, and So Are You, *The Atlantic* (December 2011), pp. 66-68.

References:

- Louis M. Rea and Richard A. Parker, *Designing and Constructing Survey Research – A Comprehensive Guide*, 3ed ed. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2005).

- Michael Goodchild, Citizens as Voluntary Sensors: Spatial Data Infrastructure in the World of Web 2.0, *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research 2* (2007), pp. 24-32.
- Robert Goodspeed, Open Data: Coming to a City Near You? *Planetizen Interchange* (October 19, 2009). Retrieved from <http://www.planetizen.com/node/41324>
- Jakob Nielsen, Keep Online Surveys Short, *Alertbox* (February 2, 2004). Retrieved from <http://www.usit.com/alertbox/20040202.html>
- Peter Orszag, Open Government Directive. Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (December 8, 2009). Retrieved from http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-06.pdf

11. Thursday, Nov. 20

Data Collection and Analysis(continued)

****Operationalizing Variables**

Specifying what is to be measured, how to measure it, selecting indicators, subjective versus objective data, qualitative versus quantitative data and their analysis.

Read:

- Donald Miller, Developing and Employing Sustainability Indicators as a Principal Strategy in Planning: Experiences in the Puget Sound Region of Washington State. In Andre Sorensen, Peter Marcotullio and Jill Grant (eds.), *Towards Sustainable Cities* (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2004).
- Barry J. Pearce, The Use and Abuse of Indicators for Evaluating Land Use and Environmental Planning: Experience from the UK. In Donald Miller and Domenico Patassini (eds.), *Beyond Benefit Cost Analysis* (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2005), pp. 127-150.
- Reid Ewing, Accessibility vs. Mobility: The Right Methodology, *Planning* 78:6 (July 2012), p. 38.
- Review(briefly skim) some local examples of indicators: Washington State Office of Farmland Preservation Indicators ofp.scc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/2009-Indicators-Report.pdf, King County Aims High <http://your.kingcounty.gov/aimshigh/index.asp>, Communities Count www.communitiescount.org, Sustainable Seattle's B-Sustainable <http://www.b-sustainable.org/>

References:

- Zhenghong Tang, et al., Moving From Agenda To Action: Evaluating Local Climate Change Action Plans, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 53:1 (January 2010), pp. 41-62.
- James H. Andrews, Going by the Numbers, *Planning* 62:9 (September 1996), pp. 14-18.
- Rhonda Phillips, *Community Indicators*, Planning Advisory Service Report 517 (Chicago: APA, 2004).

- Peter Manzo, Maps for Driving Change, *Stanford Social Innovation Review* (June 12, 2008). Retrieved from http://www.ssireview.org/opinion/entry/maps_for_driving_change/
- Statistical Techniques for Analyzing Quantitative Data, Chapter 11 in *Practical Research*.
- David S. Sawicki and Patraice Flynn, Neighborhood Indicators - A Review of the Literature and an Assessment of Conceptual and Methodological Issues, *Journal of the American Planning Association* 62:2 (Spring 1996), pp. 165-180.
- David N. Ammons, *Municipal Benchmarks - Assessing Local Performance and Establishing Community Standards* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1996).
- D.H. Miller, Design and Use of Urban Sustainability Indicators in Physical Planning – A View From Cascadia. In Donald Miller and Gert de Roo (eds.), *Integrating City Planning and Environmental Improvement* (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2004), pp. 245-265.
- Tomorrow's New Jersey, Monitoring and Evaluation Program for the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan, <http://www.state.nj.us/osp/sdrpmone,ntm#2>

12. Thursday, Nov. 20

Operational Planning For Research: Avoiding Common Sources of Failure

****Determining Tradeoffs of Design Decisions, and Communicating Results.**

Strengths and limitations of designs, testing for feasibility, gaining access to data sources, assessing the time and skills required. Forums and forms of presentation. Assessing how findings are to be used.

Read:

- Reread, Writing the Research Proposal, Chapter 6, and Technical Details, Chapter 12, in *Practical Research*, and review Judging the Feasibility of a Research Project, pp. 107-113.
- Ann Markusen, Fuzzy Concepts, Scanty Evidence, Policy Distance: The Case for Rigour and Policy Relevance in Critical Regional Studies, *Regional Studies* 37:6&7 (August/October 2003), pp. 701-717.
- Roy D. Adler, Counting on the Middle Class, *Miller-McCune* (November-December, 2008), pp. 20-23. Retrieved at <http://www.miller-mccune.com/business-economics/counting-on-the-middle-class-4138/> [Case Example].
- Watch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo> for an entertaining video on data visualization: 200 countries, 200 years, in 4 minutes.

References:

- Fred Pycszak and Randall Bruce, *Writing Empirical Research Reports* (Glendale, CA: Pycszak Publishing, 2007).
- William Fulton, Bill Fulton, Ventura City Council Blog (2010). Retrieved from <http://Fulton4ventura.blogspot.com>

- Hebert H. Thompson, How I Stole Someone's Identity, *Scientific American* (August 18, 2008). Retrieved from <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=anatomy-of-a-social-hack>
- Natalie Macris, *Planning in Plain English* (Chicago: APA Planners Press, 2000).
- Cheryl Carter New and James Aaron Quick, *How to Write a Grant Proposal* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2003).
- David A. Davis and Theodore D. Walker, *Plan Graphics*, 5th ed. (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000).
- Rosalie Torres, et al., *Evaluation Strategies For Communicating and Reporting* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1996).
- Anders Wallgren, et al., *Graphing Statistics and Data* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1996).
- Strunk & White, *Elements of Style* (1995).
- Flesch, *The Art of Readable Writing* (1974)

Tuesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 4
Student Presentations Based on Final Papers