

Department of Urban and Regional Planning
School of Architecture and Planning
PD 512

University at Buffalo
Fall 2010

Research Methods for Planning

Days & Times: Tuesday 6:00pm – 7:20pm, Thursday 1:00pm – 2:20pm
Location: Tuesday Hayes 230, Thursday Hayes 201A
Instructor: Robert Silverman
Office: Hayes 201K
Hours: Tuesday 3:30pm-4:30pm & Thursday 12:00pm - 1:00pm (and by appointment)
Phone: (716) 829-5882
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The Course:

This course is designed to expose graduate students to research methods and quantitative analysis in planning. During the semester you will develop the skills needed to plan and organize sound research projects. You will be responsible for a number of assignments. Each is designed to build planning research skills. The semester goes by very quickly. Be diligent in your work and budget your time wisely. The required readings apply directly to the assignments. Be prepared to discuss and apply them in class. Late assignments will not be accepted.

The semester is divided into three parts. Each is intended to introduce you to issues central to research methods and quantitative analysis. The first part of the semester covers various types of research designs and ethics in research. The second part of the semester covers survey research and secondary data analysis. The last part of the semester covers quantitative techniques and inferential statistics.

The activities and requirements for the course are outlined in this syllabus. During each lecture we will discuss the relevant readings and assignments. During each lab we will apply our new skills to exercises and assignments.

If you have any questions during the semester, please bring them to your professor's attention or the TA's attention. Your professor will be available during his office hours and by appointment. Also, you may contact him by phone or e-mail.

Required Text, Required Reserve Readings, and Optional Text:

The books are available at the UB Medical Bookstore and the College Store

Pearson, Robert W. 2010. *Statistical Persuasion: How to Collect, Analyze, and Present Data... Accurately, Honestly, and Persuasively*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. **REQUIRED**

Saldkind, Neil J. 2010. *Excel Statistics: A Quick Guide*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

OPTIONAL

Wagner, William E. 2009. *Using SPSS for Social Statistics and Research Methods*, Second Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. **REQUIRED**

Required Reserve Readings are available on UBLearns and the S: Drive.

Course Requirements:

HRPP Training: Complete UB's online Human Research Protection Program (HRPP). This activity affects 4% of the final grade. This training module is located at the following websites: <http://www.research.buffalo.edu/rsp/education.cfm> at the link to <https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp>. After completing the HRPP training program print out the screen that verifies you have completed this activity and turn it in at the beginning of class on September 14, 2010.

Descriptive Analysis Exercise: This assignment focuses on descriptive analysis using secondary datasets. The assignment affects 24% of the final grade. This assignment will be discussed in class on September 30, 2010. The assignment is due on October 12, 2010. Late assignments will not be accepted.

T-Test Exercise: This assignment focuses on t-test analysis using secondary datasets. The assignment affects 24% of the final grade. This assignment will be discussed in class on October 28, 2010. The assignment is due on November 9, 2010. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Contingency Table Exercise: This assignment focuses on significance tests using secondary datasets. The assignment affects 24% of the final grade. This assignment will be discussed in class on November 11, 2010. The assignment is due on November 23, 2010. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Regression Exercise: This assignment focuses on regression analysis using secondary datasets. The assignment affects 24% of the final grade. This assignment will be discussed in class on November 23, 2010. The assignment is due on December 7, 2010. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Grading Policy:

Your grade will be based on the following (100 points possible for the semester):

HRPP Training	4 points
Descriptive Analysis Exercise	24 points
T-Test Exercise	24 points
Contingency Table Exercise	24 points
Regression Exercise	24 points

Grading Scale:

GRADE	TOTAL POINTS
A	96-100
A-	90-95.99
B+	87-89.99
B	84-86.99
B-	80-83.99
C+	77-79.99
C	70-76.99
D	60-69.99
F	0-59.99

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to approach the course with seriousness and integrity. It is important to complete assignments on time, attend class regularly, and foster a collegial learning environment. Plagiarism and other instances of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on a respective assignment, exam, or paper. Students should refer to the *University at Buffalo Graduate Catalog* for clarification on the University's policies and procedures.

Accommodations for Disabilities:

If you have a disability (physical, learning, or psychological) that impacts your course work please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 25 Capen Hall, (716) 645-2608. ODS will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodation (such as recruiting note-takers, readers, or extended time on assignments). You must bring requests for accommodations for a disability to the professor's attention within the first two weeks of class.

Writing Centers:

The University at Buffalo has a number of writing center where students can get assistance with essays, term papers, and thesis projects. Students should contact one of the following if they would like to access these campus resources:

- Graduate students can contact the Graduate Student Association (GSA) about their Editorial Assistance Program. For information about this program go to the GSA office in 310 Student Union, (716) 645-8604; gsa-editorial@buffalo.edu; <http://wings.buffalo.edu/gsa/services.html> ,
- International students can contact the English Language Institute. The English Language Institute is located at 320 Baldy Hall; (716) 645-2077; elibuffalo@buffalo.edu; <http://wings.buffalo.edu/gse/eli> .

SYLLABUS

DATE	Tuesday - LECTURES	THURSDAY - LABS
August 31 & September 2	Introduction to the Course	Ethics & SPSS Overview Pearson: Ch 14 Wagner: Ch 1 <i>Assignment:</i> HRPP Training Assigned
September 7 & September 9	The Research Process Pearson: Ch 1, 2	NO CLASS – ROSH HASHANAH
September 14 & September 16	Measurement and Sampling Pearson: Ch 3 (pp. 73-77), 8 HRPP Training Due	Data Transformations Wagner: Ch 2, 11
September 21 & September 23	Secondary Data Sources Pearson: Appendix A	Secondary Data Sets & Sampling Wagner: Ch 3
September 28 & September 30	Descriptive Analysis Pearson: Ch 5	Frequency Distributions & Measures of Central Tendency Wagner: Ch 4 <i>Assignment:</i> Descriptive Analysis Exercise Assigned
October 5 & October 7	Open Lab Scheduled in Hayes 201A	Excel Lab
October 12 & October 14	Surveys and Questionnaires Pearson: Ch 3 (pp. 45-73) Descriptive Analysis Exercise Due	Charts and Graphs Wagner: Ch 5, 10
October 19 & October 21	Index Construction & T-Tests Pearson: Ch 4, 9 (pp. 207-215)	T-Tests Wagner: Ch 8
October 26 & October 28	ANOVA Pearson: Ch 4, 9 (pp. 215-228) Wagner Ch 9	ANOVA Wagner: Ch 9 <i>Assignment:</i> T-Test Exercise Assigned
November 2 & November 4	Open Lab Scheduled in Hayes 201A	Excel Lab
November 9 &	Contingency Tables and Chi-Square Pearson: Ch 7	Cross-Tabs Wagner: Ch 6

DATE	Tuesday - LECTURES	THURSDAY - LABS
November 11	T-Test Exercise Due	<i>Assignment:</i> Contingency Tables Exercise Assigned
November 16 & November 19	Nominal & Ordinal Measures of Association Pearson: Ch 7 Wagner: Ch 6	Measures of Association
November 23 & November 25	Regression Pearson: Ch 11 & 12 <i>Assignment:</i> Regression Exercise Assigned Contingency Table Exercise Due	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING
November 30 & December 2	Regression, cont. Pearson: Ch 12 Meet in Hayes 201A	Regression Wagner: Ch 7
December 7	Regression Exercise Due	WINTER BREAK BEGINS