

Lecture: Tuesdays 1:30 - 4:10pm, Hayes 07 Annex B
Lab & Fieldwork: Thursdays 1:30 - 4:10pm, Hayes 07 Annex B and/or a LAB location TBA
Instructor: Rob Silverman
Office: 07A Hayes Annex C
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30pm – 12:30pm & Friday 10:30pm - 11:30pm (and by appointment)
Phone: (716) 829-5882
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Teaching Assistants: Samuel Rose
Matthew Wattles

The Course:

This course is designed to introduce you to research methods used by planners. During the semester you will be engaged in identifying research materials and data resources, gathering qualitative and quantitative data, and conducting basic analysis. The course will balance lecture, computer lab exercises, and applied fieldwork. We will use the Buffalo-Niagara metropolitan area as a living laboratory.

If you have any questions during the semester, please bring them to my or one of the teaching assistants' attention. I will be available during office hours and by appointment. Also, you may contact me using e-mail. The TAs will also be available during weekly lab hours and by appointment.

Required Text and Required Reserve Readings:

The required text is available at the University Medical Bookstore and The College Store

- 1) Hand, D.J. (2008). *Statistics: A very short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2) Saldana, J. (2011). *Fundamentals of qualitative research*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 3) Required Reserve Readings are available on UBLearn.

Course Requirements:

Bibliography Assignment: Students will assemble a bibliography of scholarly books and articles. The assignment will be discussed on September 4, 2012 and is due at the beginning of class on ***September 11, 2012***.

Defining Scholarship Assignment: Students will complete a defining scholarship assignment where they differentiate between scholarship and propaganda on the internet. The assignment will be discussed on September 11, 2012 and is due at the beginning of class on ***September 20, 2012***.

Online Research Ethics Training: Students will complete UB's online Human Research Protection Program (HRPP). 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 27, 2012***.

Virtual Ethnography Assignment: Students will complete a virtual ethnography assignment. The assignment will be discussed on October 9, 2012 and it is due on ***October 16, 2012***.

Walk-Score and Windshield Survey Assignment: Students will complete a walk-score and windshield survey assignment. The assignment will be discussed on October 16, 2012 and it is due on **October 30, 2012**.

Census Profile Assignment: Students will a census profile assignment. The assignment will be discussed in class on November 13, 2012 and it is due on **December 4, 2012**.

Urban Research Design Assignments 1-3: Students will be divided into groups and assigned three urban research design assignments during the semester. Urban research design assignment 1 will be discussed in class on September 27, 2012 and it is due on **October 4, 2012**. Urban research design assignment 2 will be discussed in class on October 23, 2012 and it is due on **November 6, 2012**. Urban research design assignment 3 will be discussed in class on November 27, 2012 and it is due on **December 6, 2012**.

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

Bibliography Assignment	10%
Defining Scholarship Assignment	10%
Online Research Ethics Training	10%
Virtual Ethnography Assignment	10%
Walk-Score and Windshield Survey Assignment	15%
Census Profile Assignment	15%
Urban Research Design Assignment 1	10%
Urban Research Design Assignment 2	10%
Urban Research Design Assignment 3	10 %

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	74-76.99
C-	70-73.99
D+	67-69.99
D	60-66.99
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 Undergraduate 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:

- Undergraduate students can go to the Writing Place for assistance. The Writing Place is located at 209 Baldy Hall, (716) 645-2394; <http://tlc.buffalo.edu/lewrite.htm> ,
- 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

August 28: Introduction to the Course**August 30: Citation Styles Lab*****Assigned Readings:***

APA Citation Style (**Reserve**)

September 4: Using the Library***Other Activities:***

Guest speaker, Rose Occult, Planning Librarian

Discuss Bibliography Assignment

September 6: Bibliography Assignment Lab**September 11: What is Research?*****Assigned Readings:***

Andranovich, G.D. and Riposa, G. (1993). *Doing urban research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. (**Reserve**): Read Chapter 2

Bodi, S. (1995). Scholarship or propaganda: How can librarians help undergraduates tell the difference? *The Journal of Academic Leadership*, January: 21-25. (**Reserve**)

Other Activities:

Discuss the Defining Scholarship Assignment

Bibliography Assignment Due

September 13: Defining Scholarship Assignment Lab***Assigned Readings:***

Saldana, Chapter 5

Guide to Writing a Basic Essay (**Reserve**)

September 18: Ethics in Research**September 20: Online Ethics Training Lab*****Other Activities:***

Defining Scholarship Assignment Due

September 25: Yom Kippur (No Class)**September 27: Studying Urban Transportation (Taken for a Ride)*****Assigned Readings:***

Schmidt, Laura (n.d.). *Using Archives: A Guide to Effective Research*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists. **(Reserve)**

Ulrich, W. (2002). Public Policy Analysis. In Daellenbach, H.G. and Flood, R.L. *The Informed Student Guide to Management Sciences* (pp. 213-215). London: Thomson Learning. **(Reserve)**

Other Activities:

Discuss Urban Research Design Assignment 1

HRPP Completion Report Due

October 2: Finding Data

Hand, Chapters 1 & 3

Andranovich, G.D. and Riposa, G. (1993). *Doing urban research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. **(Reserve)**: Read Chapter 5

October 4: Finding Data Lab***Other Activities:***

Urban Research Design Assignment 1 Due

October 9: Qualitative Research and Planning Practice***Assigned Readings:***

Saldana, Chapters 1-4

Content Analysis **(Reserve)**

Other Activities:

Discuss the Virtual Ethnography Assignment

October 11: Virtual Ethnography Lab**October 16: Qualitative Research and Planning Practice*****Assigned Readings:***

Ewing, R. (2007). When qualitative research trumps quantitative – cultural economy and smart growth. *Planning*, October: 52. **(Reserve)**

Gaber, J. and Gaber S. (2007). *Qualitative analysis for planning & policy: Beyond the numbers*. Chicago: American Planning Association. **(Reserve)**: Read Chapter 3.

Other Activities:

Discuss the Walk Score & Windshield Survey Assignment

Virtual Ethnography Assignment Due

October 18: Walk Scores and Windshield Survey Assignment Lab

October 23: Studying Urban Farming (The Garden)

Assigned Readings:

Incite. (n.d.) Participatory Action Research

Community Action Organization of Erie County, Buffalo, NY. (n.d.). Eliminating food deserts and sustaining program funds.

Metcalf, S.S. and Widener, M.J. (2011). Growing Buffalo's capacity for local food: A systematic framework for sustainable agriculture. *Applied Geography*, 31: 1242-1251.

Other Activities:

Discuss Urban Research Design Assignment 2

October 25: Walk Scores and Windshield Survey Assignment Lab

October 30: The Census and American Community Survey

Assigned Readings:

US Census Bureau. (2008). *A Compass for understanding and using American community survey data: What general data users need to know*. Washington, D.C.: US Census Bureau.

US Census Bureau. (2012). *2010 census summary file 1*. Washington, D.C.: US Census Bureau.

(Reserve)

Other Activities:

Walk Score & Windshield Survey Assignment Due

November 1: Exploring the Census FactFinder and the Social Explorer Lab

Assigned Readings:

US Census Bureau. (2011). *Using American FactFinder 2*. Washington, D.C.: US Census Bureau.

(Reserve)

US Census Bureau. (2012). *Using the new American FactFinder*. Washington, D.C.: US Census Bureau.

(Reserve)

November 6: Summary Statistics

Assigned Readings:

Hand, Chapter 2

Lehman, S.G. and Peters-Davis, N.D. (2002). *Research methods in cyberspace*. Washington, D.C.: American Sociological Association. **(Reserve):** Read Chapter 3

Wagner, W.E. (2011). *Using IBM SPSS statistics for social statistics and research methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. **(Reserve):** Read Chapter 1

Other Activities:

Urban Research Design Assignment 2 Due

November 8: Summary Statistics in SPSS and Excel Lab

Assigned Readings:

Saldkind, N.J. (2011). *Excel statistics: A quick guide*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. **(Reserve):** Read Quick Guide 1, 2, 3, 9, 31 & 32

Wagner, W.E. (2011). *Using IBM SPSS statistics for social statistics and research methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. **(Reserve):** Read Chapters 2 & 4

November 13: Creating Tables and Graphs***Assigned Readings:***

No Author. (n.d.) Descriptive statistics I: Tabular and Graphical Summary. **(Reserve)**

Glewwe, P. and Levin M. (n.d.). Chapter XVI: Presenting simple descriptive statistics from household survey data. **(Reserve)**

Wagner, W.E. (2011). *Using IBM SPSS statistics for social statistics and research methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. **(Reserve)**: Read Chapter 5

Other Activities:

Discuss Census Profile Assignment

November 15: Tables and Graphics Lab***Assigned Readings:***

Saldkind, N.J. (2011). *Excel statistics: A quick guide*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. **(Reserve)**:
Read Quick Guide 45

Wagner, W.E. (2011). *Using IBM SPSS statistics for social statistics and research methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. **(Reserve)**: Read Chapter 5

November 20 and 22: Thanksgiving (No Class)**November 27: Studying Urban Schools (Waiting for Superman)*****Assigned Readings:***

Silverman, R.M. (2012). Making waves or treading water?: An analysis of charter schools in New York State. *Urban Education*, Online First.

Other Activities:

Discuss Urban Research Design Assignment 3

November 29: Education Data Lab**December 4: Census Profile Assignment Due****December 6: Urban Research Design Assignment 3 Due**