

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
LEVIN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES

FALL SEMESTER 2004

REVISED 8/19/04

Course Syllabus

UST 806 Research Methods in Urban Studies

Meeting Time: Monday night, 6:00-9:50 p.m.
Place : Room 326, Urban Building, CSU
Instructor : **Robert A. Simons**
Phone : 687-5258 office
Email : roby@urban.csuohio.edu
Office Hours: Room #223 Monday 4:50-5:50 p.m., and by appointment

Required readings for UST 806 research methods in urban studies

(C&C) Cook and Campbell Quasi-Experimentation. 2nd edition. (Wilmington MA: Houghton Mifflin 2002) ISBN 0-39-561556-9

(K) Klee, Robert Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (NY and Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press 1997) ISBN 0-19-510611-3

(MM) Maier, Mark H. The Data Game: Controversies in Social Science Statistics. 3rd edition (Armonk NY and London UK: M.E. Sharp Inc., 1999) ISBN 0-7656-0376-4

(MA) Majchrzak, Ann. Methods for Policy Research. Applied Social Science Research Methods Series Vol. 3. (Newbury Park CA: Sage Publications, 1984). ISBN 0-8039-2060-1.

(R&P) Rea, Louis and Richard Parker. Designing and Conducting Survey Research: A Comprehensive Guide. 2nd Edition. (San Francisco: Jossey Bass 1997) ISBN 0-7879-0810-X

(Y) Yin, Robert. Case Study Research: Design and Methods 2nd Edition (Newbury Park London New Dehli: Sage 1994) ISBN 0-8039-5663-0

(RP) Reading Packet Available from College of Urban Affairs, www site: <http://urban.csuohio.edu>
Then go to "Our Faculty"
Go to "Robert Simons"
Page down to "Readings for UST 806"

Instructors Course Overhead Notes Available from College of Urban Affairs N drive at N:/simons/UST806/L#*.ppt

Course Description

This course is intended for first-year Ph.D. students as one of the initial courses in their research methods sequence. It is intended to introduce students to a wide variety of empirical social science methodologies, and their respective strengths and weaknesses. The main thrust of this course is designing defensible research methodologies, in order to be able to validate claims. The course begins by putting positivist research in the context of other research approaches (K). Next, we will cover the fundamentals of a sound research design, including quasi-experimental design, causality, internal and external validity, and related issues (C&C). After this, we will address survey research and case study research in some detail ((R&P, Y). This is followed by coverage of common issues facing the urban social scientist (M). We then move toward review of existing literature. The instructor will provide early drafts of journal articles for the students to critique¹.

The format of this class is seminar-style. The instructor's lectures will consume a maximum of 1½ hours of each class session, with the balance reserved for discussion and student presentations. Students will also take turns leading discussions on various topics. Students are expected to have read all the material and be fully prepared for class each week, and prepared to engage in thoughtful and comprehensive discussion, argumentation within scholarly paradigms, dialog and debate.

Grading procedures

Grading for the course will be as follows:

Seminar participation	25 %
Methodology critiques	15%
Course exam	30 %
Research design Proposal	30 %

TOTAL	100 %

The numerical values for the letter grades are:

A=93-100, A-=90-92, B+=88-89, B=81-87, B-=79-80, C=70-78, F=69 or less.

Students should refer to the CSU Graduate Bulletin for administrative procedures related to drop-add, withdrawal, and incompletes.

Session Number

Date

Topic

Assignment

1	8/30	Introduction to research design and course overview	skim all books
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**students should submit 2-3 questions to Dr. Bowen about the Klee
book by September 10, 2004 at bowen@urban.csuohio.edu**

¹ Although this course does not teach students how to conduct multivariate statistical research, it will provide students with the opportunity to consume the literature using these techniques.

<u>Session Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
2	9/13	Positivism and other Reality configurations Guest instructor: Dr. William Bowen	Klee (all)
3	9/20	Causality and Validity Quasi-Experimental and control group research design	(C&C) 1-4
4	9/27	OLS and other research designs	(C&C) 5-8
5	10/4	Survey research methods	(R&P) 1-6
6	10/18	Survey research methods	(R&P) 7-12
7	10/25	Data and methods in social science research	(MM) 1-7
8	11/1	Data and methods in social science research Policy research the research template	(MM) 8-end (MA) all
9	11/8	Case study methods data sets- collection and cleaning	(Y) all
10	11/15	Course exam	article to be provided
11	11/22	Student presentations and discussion **article critique #1 due**	article to be provided
12	11/29	Student presentations and discussion **article critique #2 due**	article to be provided
13	12/6	Student presentations and discussion **article critique #3 due**	
	12/7	**final proposal due**	
14	12/13	course wrap up and last few presentations, if needed	