

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

FALL SEMESTER 2008

REVISED 8/27/08

Course Syllabus:
UST 806 Research Methods in Urban Studies

Meeting Time: Thursday night, 6:00-9:50 p.m.
Place : UR 326, Urban Building, CSU
Instructor : **Robert A. Simons**
Phone : 687-5258 office
Email : r.simons@csuohio.edu
Office Hours: Room UR223 Thursday 4:50-5:50 p.m., and by appointment

Required readings for UST 806 research methods in urban studies

(SC&C) Shadish, Cook and Campbell. Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs. 2002. (Wilmington MA: Houghton Mifflin 2002) ISBN 0-395-61556-9

(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

(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

Instructors Course Overhead Notes Available from College of Urban Affairs N drive at N:/simons/806 PhD research methods fall 2008/L#*.ppt
<ftp://URBAN.CSUOHIO.EDU>, then to </UTILITY/simons/> then to 806 PhD research methods fall 2008

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 covering the fundamentals of a sound research design, including quasi-experimental design, causality, internal and external validity, and related issues (SC&C). After this, we will address survey research in detail (R&P) and qualitative and case study research (Y). This is followed by coverage of common issues facing the urban social scientist (MM). We then move toward review of existing literature. The instructor will provide early drafts of journal articles for the students to critique¹.

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.

Development of a non-conventional research project may be substituted for the second critique assignment, with advance permission of the instructor.

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:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Class participation and leading seminar | 10 % |
| Policy mock RFP | 15 % |
| Article/methodology critiques (2+1) | 15 % |
| Course exam | 30 % |
| Research design Proposal | 20 % |
| Research Design Presentation | 10 % |
| | ----- |
| 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, disabilities, withdrawal, and incompletes.

| <u>Session Number</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Assignment</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | 8/28 | Introduction to research design and course overview | skim all books |
| 2 | 9/4 | Causality and Validity Quasi-Experimental and control group research design | (SC&C) 1-5 |
| 3 | 9/11 | OLS and other research designs with regression discontinuity, data manipulation; discuss student research interests | (SC&C) 6-11 |
| 4 | 9/18 | Conceptual frameworks, meta analysis. | (SC&C) 12-end |

Guest Lecturer: Youngme Seo Conceptual Framework, confirmed

| <u>Session Number</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Assignment</u> |
|---|-------------|---|---|
| 5 | 9/25 | Case study methods data sets- collection and cleaning | (Y) all |
| GUEST instructor: Jessica Sowa, confirmed | | | |
| 6 | 10/2 | Survey research methods Discuss peer review and article critique approach | (R&P) 1-8 |
| **Policy Mock RFP homework due at beginning of class** | | | |
| 7 | 10/9 | philosophical approach to scientific knowledge; how we obtain it; what we can and cannot know scientifically and why; where assumptions and theories and methods and hypotheses and applications fit into the picture | |
| GUEST instructor: William Bowen, confirmed | | | |
| 8 | 10/16 | More survey research Qualitative research | (R&P 9-12) articles provided |
| 9 | 10/23 | Course exam | see hard copy and article in resource files |
| 10 | 10/30 | reviewing peer reviewed literature across disciplines, LCUA Faculty & student research interests review course exam Peer review process | |
| 11 | 11/6 | Data and methods in social science research students lead presentations 1,2,3, x | (MM) 1-7 |
| ** 2 article critique due** | | | |
| 12 | 11/13 | Data and methods in social science research students lead presentations, 4,5,6,7 | (MM) 8-end |
| 13 | 11/20 | Student final presentations and discussion ** 1 article critique due** **Larry Ledebur EDQ editor** 9pm | |
| 14 | 12/4 | Student final presentations and discussion **final research proposal due** | |

15

12/11 (final exam slot) course wrap up, any final presentations