**UST 405 Methods of Research & Evaluation**

Day & Time: Wednesdays, 6-9:50 p.m.
Location: UR 243 (lecture/discussion), UR 40 (lab), and Lakeland via IVDL
Instructor: Dr. Sung-Gheel (Gil) Jang
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Phone: (216) 687-5597
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4 to 5 p.m., or by appointment

Course website: CSU Blackboard ([https://elearning.csuohio.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct](https://elearning.csuohio.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct))

**Course Description**

This course provides an overview of crucial methods of research and evaluation in public policy, urban planning, and urban studies at large. This course is a college requirement with UST 404 Urban Data Analysis. The emphasis is on *working knowledge* and *skills* students can use in other coursework and in their careers, particularly in analyzing various phenomena in urban settings and building a conceptual framework for looking into such phenomena.

This course consists of two parts: lecture/discussion sessions (UR 243, Distance Learning) and laboratory sessions (UR 40). During the lecture/discussion sessions, students must come to class after reading materials assigned prior to each class and participate in class activities. During the lab sessions, students will gain a working knowledge on the use of information technologies for urban research. Spreadsheet software (MS Excel) is utilized to manipulate numerical data and conduct data analyses with census data, and other research data like datasets from Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). A web-based data analysis tool (Survey Documentation Analysis) from ICPSR is used to explore the ICPSR datasets. In addition, GIS software (ESRI ArcGIS) is introduced to create thematic maps from spatially explicit data.

**Course Objectives**

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to meet the following objectives:

- Create a formal statement and proposal of research to address research question(s);
- Gain a practical, working knowledge of a variety of research methods and analytical techniques;
- Identify approaches and techniques for data collection and analysis relevant to urban research;
- Determine what information is relevant to your inquiry and where that data may be found;
- Apply statistical methods and interpret findings;
- Comprehend and critically evaluate the use of quantitative data in reports and media; and
- Effectively communicate findings visually, orally, and in writing
Required textbooks


Recommended web source


Grading

The course grade will be determined as follows:

10%  Class participation (attendance; in-class group and/or individual participation)
10%  Class exercises
20%  Lab exercises
20%  Midterm exam (take-home)
10%  Assignment #1 (research proposal)
10%  Assignment #2
15%  Assignment #3 (final paper)
  5%  Final presentation

100%  total

*Grading scale:*

A = 94% or above,  A- = 90%-93.9%,  B+ = 87%-89.9%,  B = 83%-86.9%,
B- = 80%-82.9%,  C+ = 77%-79.9%,  C = 70%-76.9%,  D = 60%-69.9%,
F = 59.9% and below
Course Schedule

Subject to Change with Notice

Week 1 (9/1) – Introduction to the course
- Description of course; logistics
- Blackboard; Wimba Classroom

Week 2 (9/8) – Research concepts & foundation
- scientific inquiry; scientific methods
- language of research

Reading:

Lab: Spreadsheet basics (I)

Week 3 (9/15) – Research concepts & foundation (Continued)

Lab: Spreadsheet basics (II)

Week 4 (9/22) – Research process
- research topics and research questions
- hypotheses

Reading:
- BCW Ch 3 & Ch 4 (pp. 35-67)
- ROBSON (pp. 47-54)

Lab: Turning data into information using a spreadsheet (I)

Week 5 (9/29) – Engaging sources
- from problems to sources
- literature search
Reading:
• BCW Ch 5 & Ch 6 (pp. 68-99)
• ROBSON (pp. 54-64)

Lab: Library research by Diane Kolosionek (Education/Urban Affairs Librarian, Michael Schwartz Library) – Class meets in UR 40 at 6 p.m.

**Week 6 (10/6) – Ethics in research**

• Ethical issues in research
• IRB

Reading:

Lab: Turning data into information using a spreadsheet (II)

**Week 7 (10/13) – Approaches to research**

• Action research; case studies; evaluation research; surveys; ethnographic research; etc.

Reading:
• ROBSON Ch 2 (pp. 18-46)

Lab: Turning data into information using a spreadsheet (III)

**Assignment #1 Due**

**Midterm Exam** (Take-home) distributed – Due: October 18th (Mon), 6 p.m.

**Week 8 (10/20) – Measurement and scales**

• measurements
• methods of collecting data

Reading:
• ROBSON Ch 4 (pp. 70-94)

Lab: Data driven learning using the ICPSR on-line tool (I)
### Week 9 (10/27) – Sampling & Survey research

- Populations, samples, and sampling frames
- Sampling designs; sample size
- Constructing surveys
- Survey methods

**Reading:**

Lab: Data driven learning using the ICPSR on-line tool (II)

### Week 10 (11/3) – Program evaluation

- Program evaluation
- Key evaluation questions and types of evaluation

**Reading:**

Lab: Data driven learning using the ICPSR on-line tool (III)

### Week 11 (11/10) – Interpreting findings

- Data analysis and interpretation

**Reading:**
- **ROBSON** Ch 6 (pp. 115-138)

Lab: Data driven learning using the ICPSR on-line tool (IV)

### Week 12 (11/17) – Presenting findings (I)

- Mapping quantitative data using GIS

Lab: Mapping using GIS (I)

**Assignment #2 Due**
Week 13 (11/24) – Presenting findings (II)

- Effective tables and charts

Reading:
- BCW Ch 15 (pp.213-231)

Lab: Mapping using GIS (II)

Week 14 (12/1) – Scientific writing and presentation

- Scientific communication
- Effective presentations

Reading:
- ROBSON Ch 7 (pp. 139-152)
- BCW Ch 12 - Ch 14 (pp. 175-212)

Week 15 (12/8) – Project week

- Student project week

Week 16 (12/15) – Final presentation

- Final presentation; informal course evaluation; wrap-up the course

**Final paper (Assignment #3) due: December 15th 6 p.m.**
Class Policies

- You are responsible for changes to this syllabus and the course schedule as announced in class.

- All submissions (except for take-home exam and three assignments) must be turned in no later than one week from when started. After one week, 10% penalty per day will be applied to your grades for the submission. After two weeks late, you will not get any grades for the submission.

- Technical excuses for late submissions will not be accepted. This means that work has to be done several days before a deadline and that proper precautions should be taken to make backups.

- There is no make-up exam except for emergent and medical circumstances with official documents. Except in the rare circumstances, students will earn score of zero on missed exams, regardless of circumstance.

- Student Support: Students can get help from Tutoring & Academic Success Center (TASC) freely by appointments. See http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/advising/tutoring for more information.

- Students should refer to the information from the Office of University Registrar (http://www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/registrar) regarding administrative procedures related to drop, add, withdrawal, and incompletes.

- Any form of academic misconduct will earn an immediate grade of F for the course. In addition, your name will be forwarded to the Academic Misconduct Review Committee, for a hearing concerning your suspension from the University. You should familiarize yourself with the University Policies such as Student Conduct Code and Academic Regulations and Procedures, which can be found at http://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife.

- Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216) 687-2015. The Office is located in MC 147. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.