UST 405 METHODS OF RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Day & Time: Thursdays, 6-9:50 p.m.
Location: UR 106 (lecture/discussion) and BU 16 (lab)
Instructor: Dr. Sung-Gheel (Gil) Jang
Office: UR 349
E-mail: s.jang75@csuohio.edu
Phone: (216) 687-5597
Office Hours: Thursdays, 4 to 5 p.m., or by appointment

TA: Ryan Noles (e-mail: noles.ryan@gmail.com)
TA Office Hours: UR 40, Wednesdays, 4 to 5 p.m., or by appointment
Course website: CSU Blackboard (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 106) and laboratory sessions (BU 16). 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 computer software for urban research. Spreadsheet software (MS Excel) will be utilized to manipulate numerical data and conduct statistical 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) will be introduced for mapping 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Class participation (attendance; in-class group and/or individual participation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>In-class exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Lab exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Midterm exam (take-home)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Assignment #1 (research proposal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Assignment #3 (final paper)</td>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>Final presentation</td>
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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 (1/21) – Introduction to the course**
- Description of course; logistics
- Blackboard

**Week 2 (1/28) – Research concepts & foundation**
- scientific inquiry; scientific methods
- language of research

Reading:

Lab: Data analysis using spreadsheets (I)

**Week 3 (2/4) – Research process**
- research topics and research questions
- hypotheses

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

Lab: Library research by Diane Kolosionek (Education/Urban Affairs Librarian, Michael Schwartz Library) – **Class meets in BU 16 (lab) at 6 p.m.**

**Week 4 (2/11) – Engaging sources**
- from problems to sources
- literature search

Reading:
- **BCW** Ch 5 & Ch 6 (pp. 68-99)
- **ROBSON** (pp. 54-64)

Lab: Data analysis using spreadsheets (II)
Week 5 (2/18) – Ethics in research

- Ethical issues in research
- IRB

Reading:

Lab: from data into information (I)

Assignment #1 (Writing a research proposal) assigned

Week 6 (2/25) – Approaches to research

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

Reading:
- ROBSON Ch 2 (pp. 18-46)

Lab: from data into information (II)

Week 7 (3/4) – Program evaluation

- Program evaluation
- Key evaluation questions and types of evaluation

Reading:

Lab: from data into information (III)

Assignment #1 Due

Midterm Exam (Take-home) distributed – Due: March 8th (Mon), 6 p.m.
### Week 8 (3/11) – Measurement and scales
- measurements
- methods of collecting data

**Reading:**
- **ROBSON** Ch 4 (pp. 70-94)

Lab: Data driven learning (I)

**Final project (Assignment #2 and #3) assigned**

*Spring break!*

### Week 9 (3/25) – Sampling
- Populations, samples, and sampling frames
- Sampling designs; sample size

**Reading:**

Lab: Data driven learning (II)

### Week 10 (4/1) – Survey research
- Constructing surveys
- Survey methods

**Reading:**

Lab: Data driven learning (III)

### Week 11 (4/8) – Interpreting findings

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

Lab: Data driven learning (IV)

**Assignment #2 Due**
Week 12 (4/15) – Presenting findings (I)
- Mapping quantitative data using GIS
- Effective presentations

Lab: Mapping using GIS (I)

Week 13 (4/22) – Presenting findings (II)
- Effective tables and charts

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

Lab: Mapping using GIS (II)

Week 14 (4/29) – Scientific writing

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

Week 15 (5/6) – Project week
- Student project week

Week 16 (5/13) – Final presentation
- Final presentation; informal course evaluation; wrap-up the course

Final paper (Assignment #3) due: May 13th 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](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](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](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.