

Urban Studies 600 - Capstone Seminar in Urban Studies
Spring 2021
T: 9:45-11:00am
Online

Instructor

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Office Hours: Tuesdays following class or by appointment

Course Overview

This course is designed for urban studies majors in their senior year. This course will help students develop a clear understanding of urban studies as an interdisciplinary field with its distinct foci and subject areas, theoretical frameworks, and methodologies for conducting research—in short, what it means to be an *urbanist*.

This course has several objectives. As a capstone course, the class will draw on students' past work in the major to hone their critical assessment of scholarship in the field. Students will also be exposed to different methodologies and methods, and develop the skills necessary to evaluate, plan, and conduct original research in the fairly broad subfields of housing and community development (e.g. gentrification, eviction, homelessness, public housing, fair housing, inclusive housing, urban redevelopment, neighborhood/community development, economic development, etc.) within the Milwaukee region. Because of the ongoing pandemic, there is some uncertainty of the exact format/venue, but students will use this exposure to urban scholarship and research methods to develop a research project which they will present either during class, at our Student Research Forum, or at the Research Symposium, or some combination (more information to come to soon). Near the end of the course, the focus of the class will shift to post-degree life. This course fulfills the L&S research requirement.

Format

This course is a *senior seminar*, which involves both a close reading of texts related to urban studies scholarship and the research process, and active student involvement in the way of class discussions and presentations. Because all teaching has moved online due to the pandemic, this course will continue a twice a week format, however, only Tuesday's class will meet at a set time and will be conducted as a virtual class session, with the second part of the week involving online activities that I refer to as "Thursday" in the schedule. There will be several small assignments to help students develop their research project. It is absolutely imperative that everyone come to class sessions prepared to discuss the readings and with their assignments completed on time.

Requirements and Grades

I. Research Project - 70% of course grade

Assignment objectives: A major part of the course will be developing a research project, writing up an article-length project paper, creating a project presentation that synthesizes your research, and presenting your project to an audience. Participation in the presentation is required and will apply to the presentation portion of your final project grade. Course readings and assignments are designed to help you develop your project in steps. The top two research papers will be considered for publication in the urban studies *e.polis* online journal and all students are eligible for the best undergraduate presentation award in Urban Studies.

Research project assignments: All assignments are required for a final project grade.

- a) Research Question and Topic assignment-5% - Due Sunday 2/7
- b) Context/setting assignment-5% - Due Sunday 2/21
- c) Draft Lit Review -10% - Due Monday 3/15
- d) Methods-5% - Due Sunday 4/4
- e) Presentation-15% - Due date TBD
- f) Final Paper-60% - Due Sunday 5/16

II. Reading Presentation - 10% of course grade

Students will select assigned readings out of a list I will provide the first day to present on and lead a discussion during class.

III. Reading Responses and Participation - 10% of course grade

During most class periods (Tues./Thurs.) students will need to upload to Canvas short responses and questions on each of the assigned readings.

IV. Discussion - 10% of course grade

Because this is a small capstone seminar class (which is a great thing to experience at a large public university), there is an expectation that students will play an important role in the class sessions by coming to class having completed assigned readings and ready to discuss the readings and engage with the course material and your peers in the virtual class sessions and in online discussion forums.

Distribution of Course Grades

- 70% Research Project (grade based on multiple assignments and research exercises)
- 10% Reading presentation
- 10% Reading responses
- 10% Discussion

Final Grading Scale:

- .931-1.00=A+;.90-.930=A-;
- .87-.899=B+;.831-.869=B;.80-.83=B-
- .77-.799=C+;.731-.769=C;.70-.73=C-
- .67-.699=D+;.631-.669=D;.60-.63=D-

Required Readings:

****Numerous assigned readings located on the course canvas site****

Course Policies

- ❖ **Special Accommodations:** Be sure to notify me right away if you have an ARC accommodation.
- ❖ **Changes to syllabus:** Students are responsible for any changes in this syllabus which are announced in class.
- ❖ **Academic Misconduct:** Any students found guilty of academic misconduct (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) will be given a grade of "0" on the relevant assignment and disciplined according to the UWM policies (see last page).

Course Schedule – Spring 2021

WK	Date	Topic	Readings and Activities
1	Tuesday, 1/26	Introduction to class	
	Thursday, 1/28	Framing the “urban”	Watch Harvard’s GSD Neil Brenner lecture
2	Tuesday, 2/2	Urban Inquiry and the Field of Urban Studies	1. W. Bowen, R. Dunn, & D. Kasdan. (2010). What is “urban studies”? Context, internal structure, and content. <i>Journal of Urban Affairs</i> , 32(2),199-227. 2. Harris, R., & Smith, M. (2011). The history in urban studies: A Comment (and Response). <i>Journal of Urban Affairs</i> , 33(1), 99-109.
	Thursday, 2/4	Doing Urban Research	1. Andranovich, G & Riposa, G. (1993). The Nature of applied urban research (chap. 1); and, 2. The urban setting: Levels of analysis (chap 2). (Both) In <i>Doing urban research</i> , pp. 1-32.
3	Tuesday, 2/9	Ethics and Research I	1. Allen, C. (1997). Spies like us: When sociologists deceive their subjects. <i>Lingua Franca</i> . 2. Bledsoe, K. & Hopson, R. (2009). Conducting ethical research and evaluation in underserved communities. In <i>The handbook of social research ethics</i> .
	Thursday, 2/11	Ethics and Research II	1. Multiple authors. (1975). In postscript of <i>Tearoom trade: Impersonal sex in public places</i> , L. Humphreys, pp.167-232. 2. DSR: Chapter 9 (Ethics...)
4	Tuesday, 2/16	Theory in research (USP faculty examples)	1. Rast, Joel. (2006). Governing the regimeless city: The Frank Zeidler Administration in Milwaukee, 1948-1960. <i>Urban Affairs Review</i> 42(1), 81-112.
	Thursday, 2/18	Theory in research (USP faculty examples)	1. Britton, M. (2008). ‘My regular spot’: Race and territory in urban public space. <i>Journal of Contemporary Ethnography</i> , 37(4), 442-468. 2. Kenny, J. (1995). Making Milwaukee famous: Cultural capital, urban image, and the politics of place. <i>Urban Geography</i> ,16(5), 440-458.
5	Tuesday, 2/23	Epistemology and Critiques of Social Science Research Developing a Research Methodology & Research Designs	1. DSR: Chapter 7 & 8 (Time and control and Causality) 2. Pascale, C. (2011). Epistemology and the politics of knowledge. <i>The Sociological Review</i> 58(S2),154-165. 3. Optional: Forster, M. (1998). Guide to Thomas Kuhn’s <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> , pp.1-15.
	Thursday, 2/25	Ethnography & Fieldwork	1. Shaffir, W. & Stebbins, R. (1991). Introduction. In <i>Experiencing fieldwork: An inside view of qualitative research</i> . pp.1-24; 2. Desmond, M. (2016) <i>Evicted</i> , pp. prologue – 52. Optional: DSR: Chapter 5 (Ethnography as research approach...)
6	Tuesday, 3/2	Qualitative Analysis	1 Feagin, J. et al. (1991). The nature of the case study. In <i>The case for the case study</i> , pp.1-23. 2. Stodolska, M. et al. 2011. Perceptions of urban parks as havens and contested terrains by Mexican-Americans in Chicago Neighborhoods. <i>Leisure Sciences</i> , 33: 103–126. 3. DSR: Chapter 6 (Qualitative data...)
	Thursday, 3/4	Work on Fieldwork Observation	
7	Tuesday, 3/9	Historical Approaches to the City	1. Seligman, A. (2011). “But burn-No” – The rest of the crowd in three civil disorders in 1960s Chicago. <i>Journal of Urban History</i> , 37(2), 230-255.
	Thursday, 3/11	Archival Research and Constructing History	1. Buck, J. (2008). Using frameworks in historical research. In <i>Capturing nursing history</i> , p.45-62. 2. Mages, K. & Fairan, J. (2008). Working with primary sources: an overview. In <i>Capturing nursing history</i> , pp.129-248.
8	Tuesday, 3/9		1. Levine and others (“Joblessness” Debates, posted on D2L)

8	Thursday, 3/11	Measurement and Sampling	1. Reese, L., Faist, J., & Sands, G. (2010). Measuring the Creative Class: Do We Know it When We See it? <i>Journal of Urban Affairs</i> , 32(1), 345-366. 2. DSR: Chapter 4 (Quantitative design...)
9	Tuesday, 3/16	Content Analysis	1. Brown-Sapracinon, J. & Rumpf, C. (2011). Diverse imageries of gentrification. <i>Journal of Urban Affairs</i> 33(5), 289-315. 2. Whiteleggs, D. (2000). Going for gold: Atlanta's bid for fame. <i>International journal of urban and regional research</i> , 24(4), 801-818.
	Thursday, 3/18	Quantitative Research	1. Kleit, R. (2001). Neighborhood Relations in Suburban Scattered-Site and Clustered Public Housing. <i>Journal of Urban Affairs</i> , 21, 325-340; 2. Davis, S. (2014) <i>Poverty in our community: A door-to-door survey</i> , pp.1-17 (skim). 3. DSR: Chapter 3 (Surveys and questionnaires...)
10	3/23&3/25	Spring Break	
11	Tuesday, 3/30	Spatial Framework, Ecological & Census Data	1. Harris J. and Zipp, J. (1999). Black candidates, roll-off, and the black vote. <i>Urban Affairs Review</i> , 34 (3), 489-498. 2. Harris, J. (2017). Placemaking and embodied space: Identity and resistance in a low-income housing development. Paper presented at Urban Affairs Association conference, April 21, 2017, pp. 1-40.
	Thursday, 4/1	GIS Mapping	1. Hillier, A. (2010). An Invitation to GIS: How Mapping Can Facilitate New Discoveries in Urban and Planning History. <i>Journal of Planning History</i> , 9 (2), 122-134. 2. Ghosh, R. (2003). Community participation, spatial knowledge production, and GIS use in inner-city revitalization. <i>Journal of Urban Technology</i> 10(1), 39-60.
12	Tuesday, 4/6	Community and Participatory Research	1. Park, P. (1993). What is participatory research? A theoretical and methodological perspective. In <i>Voices of change</i> , pp.1-19.
	Thursday, 4/8	Evaluation and Policy Research	1. Clarke, A. (1999). Understanding Evaluation. In <i>Evaluation research: An introduction to principles, methods, and practice</i> , (chap. 1) pp.1-34. 2. Public Policy Forum. (2013). <i>Getting to work</i> , pp. 1-47 (skim)
13	Tuesday, 4/13	Conferences	Conference with me this week & work on your research project
	Thursday, 4/15	Conferences	Conference with me this week & work on your research project
14	Tuesday, 4/20	Conferences	Conference with me this week & work on your research project
	Thursday, 4/22	Conferences	Conference with me this week & work on your research project
15	Tuesday, 4/27	Going to Graduate School Class	Seligman, A. (2012). <i>Is graduate school really for you? The whos, whats, hows, and whys of pursuing a Master's or Phd</i> , (Chapters 1-4), p.1-62.
	Thursday, 4/29	Finding a career(s) and Networking Recap	Readings TBD
16	Tuesday, 5/4	Presentations	
	Thursday, 5/6	Evals/Exit Interview	Complete evaluations
17	Tuesday, 5/11	Presentations	
	Thursday, 5/13		Finish your capstone project paper

UNIVERSITY AND URBAN STUDIES PROGRAMS POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf>

Students with Disabilities. Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf>

Religious Observances. Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

Students called to active Military Duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

Incompletes. You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

Discriminatory Conduct (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

Academic Misconduct. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: <http://www4.uwm.edu/osl/dean/conduct/cfm>

Complaint Procedures. Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S49.7.htm

Grade Appeal Procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at http://www4.uwm.edu/letsu/upload/grievance_procedure.pdf
Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at <http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/>

Final Examination Policy. Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S22.htm

Update 07/2011