

# Senior Seminar

*Urban Planning and Public Policy*  
Spring 2008

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Office CSQ 358. Hours Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30-11:30

*The Senior Seminar is the culminating experience in the urban planning and public policy program. It is a small seminar in which you'll work closely with one another to identify research topics, develop research designs, conduct and analyze research, and produce your thesis. The objectives of the semester are to further develop your ability to think critically, engage your intellectual curiosity, use the methods and literature you've learned in other classes, and polish your research, writing, and presentation skills. The thesis presents an opportunity to engage in debates that have piqued your interest in previous coursework and or to consider where you're heading next.*

*During the semester, you will conduct new research in an area that interests you, produce a 25 page paper, and present that paper publicly. The courses you've taken on methods, literature, research, and writing will form the basis for the tools you will use in this class. Expect to participate fully as a critical member of a collegial community in which you will work closely with other students as you develop ideas, produce research plans, rough drafts and presentations.*

## **Course Materials, Resources, and Information**

Andranovich, Gregory and Gerry Riposa. 1993. *Doing Urban Research*. Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

Becker, Howard. 1998. *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think about Your Research While You're Doing It*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Becker, Howard. *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article. 2nd Edition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Miller, Jane. 2004. *The Chicago Guide to Writing About Numbers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Yin, Robert. 1989. *Case Study Research*. Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

Citations: The Chicago Manual of Style Online <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html> (there's a free 30-day trial - use it wisely!)

#### *Course Website*

Sakai under the course number

### **Evaluation**

30% Interim work products

20% Feedback on other students' work, participation

40% Final paper

10% Presentation

#### Late Assignments

I recognize that unavoidable problems occur. If you have such a problem you may only turn in things late with a note from your dean. I will not accept any final papers after the end of the semester and I will not assign incomplete or temporary grades.

#### Writing Assistance

Rutgers has Learning Resources Centers on each campus <http://lrc.rutgers.edu/contact.shtml>.

A graduate student will be available 5 hours per week to work with students on writing. More information TBA...

## Schedule

### January 28. Introduction

Introductions, interests, and expectations

Becker, Howard. 1998. *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think about Your Research While You're Doing It*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-3.

#### Assignment Due in Class

- *Bring a one paragraph statement class about your research interests*

#### In Class Activity

- *Discussion of research interests*

### February 4. What Do I Write About?

How to turn your interests into a research paper

Becker, Howard. 1998. *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think about Your Research While You're Doing It*. Chapters 4-5.

Andronovich, Gregory and Gerry Riposa. 1993. *Doing Urban Research*. Newbury Park: Sage Publications. Chapter 3. Preparing for Applied Urban Research. 33-45.

#### Assignment Due on Sakai Feb 2

- *Identify your topic and write one page in which you explain what you're going to study, what questions interest you, and how you might answer those questions*
- *Visit a learning center, learn how it works, and set up a tutoring schedule <http://lrc.rutgers.edu/contact.shtml>*

#### In Class Activity

- *Team Review: research topics*

### **February 11. Methods and Research Design 101**

How to design research, what is data and where do you get it, and why we will not use any human subjects in our research

Andranovich, Gregory and Gerry Riposa. 1993. *Doing Urban Research*. Newbury Park: Sage Publications. Chapter 4. Research Design. 46-62.

#### **Assignment Due on Sakai Feb 9**

- *Bring a draft bibliography to class that identifies the main literature you will use in your paper. Follow Chicago Style format.*

#### **In Class Activity**

- *Produce a draft research design*
- *Team Review: In class research designs*

### **February 18. Literature Review 101**

What is the literature, where and how do you find it, and how do you review it?  
<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>

#### **Assignment Due on Sakai Feb 16**

- *Revise your in-class research design and produce a final draft for review*

#### **In Class Activity**

- *Team Review: research designs*
- *Discuss literature reviews*

### **February 25. The Art of Research**

*No meeting this week. Conduct research*

### **March 3. Research**

#### **Assignment Due on Sakai March 1**

- *Literature Review*

#### **In Class Activity**

- *Team Review: Literature Review*

## March 10. Research

### Assignment Due on Sakai March 8

- *Paper outline and 2-page summary of findings*

### In Class Activity

- *Team Review: Outlines and research findings*

## March 17. SPRING BREAK

What a great time to be writing!

## March 24. Project Work

### Assignment Due on Sakai March 22

- *Draft Paper*

### In Class Activity

- *Team Review: Draft Papers*

## March 31. Paper Revisions

### Assignment Due March 29

- *One page written review of your research partner's draft paper*

### In Class Activity

- *Team Review: Draft Comments*

### **April 7. That Extra 10%**

How to polish your paper

#### **Assignment Due on Sakai April 5**

- *Submit your second draft on Sakai*

#### **In Class Activity**

- *Team Review: review second drafts*

### **April 14. Presentation 101**

#### **Assignment Due on Sakai April 12**

- *One page written review of your research partner's draft*

#### **In Class Activity**

- *Team Review: final drafts*
- *Outline presentations*

### **April 21. Prepare Presentation**

Editing and polishing your paper and delivering the presentation

#### **Assignment Due on Sakai April 19**

- *Draft 10 minute presentation in PowerPoint or other presentation software with written text*

#### **In Class Activity**

- *Team Review: Presentations*

## **May 5. In Class Presentation Run Through**

Your presentation should be in its final form. From this point on, you'll polish your delivery and tweak slides.

### **Assignment Due in Class (no late papers or presentations)**

- *Final Paper*
- *Presentation*

### **In Class Activity**

- *Team Review: Presentation*

## **May 7. Final Presentations**

*Oral presentations (presentation times determined by lottery)*