

PADM 298, Research Project in Public Administration Section 01, Spring 2017

Contact Information

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Office Hours:	Tuesday, 3:00-5:30pm (BT 451, as a rule)
Class Days/Time:	6pm – 8:45pm
Classroom:	Clark 216
Prerequisites:	PADM 210, 212, 213, 214 and 218; instructor consent; chair consent.

Course Description

Advanced individual research and projects.

Prerequisites are PADM 210, PADM 212, PADM 213, PADM 214 and PADM 218; consent of instructor and consent of department chair.

If the final project is not completed in one semester, the students will register in PADM 290R for the second and following semesters. The project must be completed within seven years of starting the MPA courses. See the following URL for details.

http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current_students/completing_masters/#11

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1 Demonstrate the ability to conceptualize problems from complex, real world situations so the problems are meaningful to clients, and are research worthy

CLO 2 Demonstrate ability to collect, analyze, and synthesize information from multiple sources

CLO3 Demonstrates ability to communicate effectively in writing

Required Readings

Research books

Student and instructor will select appropriate supportive materials based on the topic selected and the research method employed.

Library Liaison

Crystal Goldman, crystal.goldman@sjsu.edu.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

This course has no regular class meetings. The student and adviser will develop a work plan designed to enable the student to successfully complete a graduate-level, thesis quality project that meets the goals of the Course Learning Objectives listed above. The student and adviser will meet on an agreed-upon schedule, as shown on the Yellow Card. Iterations of the final draft will be delivered at a time and place agreed on by the student and adviser. Course completion requires submission of the final draft in bound form to the MPA Program Director.

Final Project components

The final project will consist of the following segments:

Format:

The title page should contain the title and author on separate lines, centered, followed by the phrase, "A Thesis Quality Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Masters of Public Administration." The prospectus must be word processed, double spaced using Times New Roman 12 point type. Pages should be numbered beginning with the page after the title page. A sample page is available.

Segments of the Final Project:

1. Introduction/ Research Question/ Problem Statement. In the first paragraph you should state clearly the research question/problem statement that the project will address. In the next few paragraphs you need to give whatever general information is required for your reader to fully understand the context of your research question/problem statement. This may involve the basic facts of the situation, and the historical, cultural, social, and political context. This was part of your prospectus. However, in the final paper the information will be stated in the past tense, as the research will have been completed.

2. Literature Review: The PADM 298 project should contain a comprehensive review of the relevant literature and published reports on the subject of your research question/ problem statement. The purpose of the review is to sharpen your thinking on your topic, and may point you in directions you had not previously considered. The literature review will vary in length. If, for example, you are analyzing a particular public policy question, your entire paper may consist of a review and analysis of public documents. For those engaging in survey research or organizational analysis, the literature review may be as short as six to ten pages.

The literature review covered in the prospectus will be the core of your paper's literature research. You may discover additional sources and so it should probably expand, but the bulk of your sources should already be in the prospectus.

The format of the literature review is an essay describing the available literature related to your topic. You should present the literature in logical order and grouped by relevance to topics in your outline. In the essay you will cite the author's last name and date of the article in APA in-text citation style. See Dr. Sylvia's article available on the MPA Student Association's ning site, and distributed at the Prospectus Workshop or in PADM 297.

3. Methodology. This will have been created for your prospectus. It should not change without permission of your adviser. Describe the specific methods that you have used to obtain the data for your project. You may use data analysis, survey research, or any other professional or academic method. The Sylvia and Sylvia or the Haas and Springer books used in PADM 213 provide a number of examples of evaluation methodologies. Bardach and other public policy textbooks are also good guides. The methodology must be appropriate to the subject and your purpose in researching it, and complete, as it guides your research work. Note that while this was part of your prospectus, in the final project it will be in past tense because the research will have been completed,

Additional Segments of the Completed Paper

The finished paper will include the introduction, literature review and methodology that were part of the prospectus, and 2 additional sections.

4. Findings: This section constitutes the main body of your paper. You report on what you found. Interviews, data tables or analyses of public policy questions may be appropriate. This section could vary between ten and fifty pages, depending on the topic and methodology.

5. Analysis and Conclusion: In this section you interpret your findings and make recommendations (when appropriate) and /or draw conclusions that are grounded in the Findings section. This section may range from 5 to 20 pages.

The program does not have a fixed standard for length. Generally, successfully completed projects are between 40 and 60 pages in length. If you expect to write a longer paper, the acceptable length should be discussed with and approved by the adviser.

Once the final draft is approved by the faculty adviser, students must submit a spiral bound copy for the program's permanent file.

Grading Policy

This course is a Credit/ No Credit course. A student must get a grading outcome of 38 or better, with no score below 3, on the final review of the final project, to receive Credit.

The adviser will accept no more than three drafts of the final project. A fourth draft may be read by an alternate MPA faculty member, and, if necessary, referred to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School for final disposition.

First draft criteria:

1. More than ten English mechanics mistakes in the first five pages or twenty in the entire document= returned for correction with no additional evaluation
2. A score of less than 3 on any of the Outcome 1 criteria= returned for correction with no additional evaluation
3. A score of less than 3 on any Outcome 2 or 3 criteria = returned for correction with evaluation of deficiencies.

Second draft criteria:

1. Any English mechanics mistakes = returned for correction with no additional evaluation
2. A score of less than 3 on any Outcome 1,2,or 3 criteria = returned for correction with evaluation of the deficiencies
3. An overall score of less than 38 or any Outcome criteria less than 3= returned for correction with evaluation of the deficiencies.

Third draft criteria:

1. Any English mechanics mistakes = returned for correction with no additional evaluation
2. A score of less than 38 or any Outcome criteria below 3 = returned for correction with evaluation of deficiencies; last reading by the adviser.
3. Submitted with all corrections for fourth reading by a different fulltime MPA faculty member.

Fourth draft criteria:

1. A score of less than 38 or any Outcome criteria below 3 by the second MPA faculty member= submitted to the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for review
2. If the dean's review is less than 38 or less than 3 on any Outcome criteria, the student fails the 298 and is out of the program. The degree will not be conferred.

DRAFT	DUE DATE
First draft	March 21, 2017
Second draft	April 11, 2017
Third draft	May 2, 2017
Fourth (final) draft	May 9, 2017

The grading rubric follows.

CRITERIA	Excellent	Good	Marginal	Unacceptable	Rating	Weight	Score
Outcome 1. Demonstrates ability to conceptualize problems from complex, real world situations so the problems are meaningful to clients, and are research worthy (maximum score: 12)							
1. Are the research questions and/or goals well defined and clearly stated?	4	3	2	1		1	0
2. Does the author demonstrate in-depth familiarity with relevant literature on the subject?	4	3	2	1		1	0
3. Is the methodology appropriate to answer the research question(s)?	4	3	2	1		1	0
TOTAL SCORE FOR OUTCOME 1							
Outcome 2. Demonstrates ability to collect, analyze, and synthesize information from multiple sources (maximum score: 16)							
4. Is the data collected sufficient in quality and depth to answer the research question?	4	3	2	1		1.5	0
5. Is the analysis direct, competent, and appropriate?	4	3	2	1		1.5	0
6. Are the conclusions sophisticated and based on the results of the analysis, as a logical extension of the findings?	4	3	2	1		0.5	0
7. Does the author show how his/her analysis and findings fit into the larger context of the literature and current professional practice?	4	3	2	1		0.5	0
TOTAL SCORE FOR OUTCOME 2							
Outcome 3. Demonstrates ability to communicate effectively in writing (maximum score: 16)							
8. Is the material logically organized , so that a reader can easily follow the writer's train of thought?	4	3	2	1		1	0
9. Is the writing grammatically correct and free of typos?	4	3	2	1		2	0
10. Do tables and figures add useful/important information for the reader?	4	3	2	1		0.5	0
11. Are citations included where appropriate, and are footnotes and bibliography properly formatted in APA style?	4	3	2	1		0.5	0
TOTAL SCORE FOR OUTCOME 3							

TOTAL SCORE FOR PROJECT										
Overall Assessment:										
Excellent	Good	Marginal	Unacceptable							
Excellent: As a supervisor, you would consider this work ready for public distribution without any substantial modification.										
Good: As a supervisor, you would consider this work essentially sound, but in need of some refinement before public distribution.										
Marginal: As a supervisor, you would conclude that the work contained some worthwhile elements, but required major revisions before public distribution.										
Unacceptable: The work needs to be entirely redone.										

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>