SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT
URBP 280: PLANNING RESEARCH TOPICS
(QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)
FALL 2016

Instructors: Dr. Kevin Fang  
Dr. Shishir Mathur
Office location: Fang: WSQ 218  
Mathur: WSQ 216E
Telephone: Fang: TBA  
Mathur: 408-310-7856
Email: kevin.fang@sjsu.edu  
shishir.mathur@sjsu.edu
Office hours: Fang: Tuesday and Wednesday 3:30-4:15 pm  
Mathur: Tuesday 3:30-4:00 pm and by appointment
Class days/time: Tuesday 4:15-7:00 pm and 7:15-10:00 pm
Classroom: WSQ 208
Class website: https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1213067/
Prerequisites: None
Units: 3

Course Catalog Description
In-depth examination of selected planning research topics introduced in core seminars for the Master of Urban Planning degree, such as the social and environmental impacts of planning policies.

Course Description and Course Learning Objectives
The course begins with an overview of social research, and of several research methods frequently used in social science research. Next, it focuses on learning statistical tools needed to answer specific research questions. Thereafter, it provides an overview of survey research. It then reviews the elements of research design. In the end it requires the students to conduct statistical analysis of survey data, and to present the research findings to the class.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
• Identify the overall strengths and weaknesses of quantitative, qualitative, experimental, and survey research methods, and assess which research method/s, given the resource constraints, are most appropriate for answering the research question.

• Develop research question worthy of informing public policy, and identify the statistical tool appropriate for answering the research question. The tools learned in this class are: Tests between Means of Different Groups, Tests Between Means of Related Groups, ANOVA, Factorial ANOVA, Correlation, One- and Two- Factor Chi Square, Ordinary Least Squares Regression, and Logistic Regression.

• Develop survey research questions that conform to conventional best practices in survey design.

• Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various non-probability and probability-based sampling techniques.

• Present quantitative data and results in text and graphic formats.

• Identify the policy implications of statistical test results.

**Required Course Texts**
There are two required text books for this course. They are:


You may also use the 10th edition of the book.


You may also use the 2nd edition of the book. A used book would cost approximately $20.

You do not need to buy the book that comes with SPSS CD.

**Recommended Course Text to Purchase**
There is one recommend text book for this course. It is:


You may also use the 3rd edition of the book.
**Course Assignments and Grading Policy**

This class will be a combination of lectures, discussions, and lab work. MS Excel, LIMDEP, and SPSS will be the primary statistical software used.

Grades will be based on four take home exercises and a term project that is broken down into several deliverables (details to be provided later in the semester).

Through short answer questions, the four exercises will test your comprehension of course material covered in week 1 and weeks 11-14, respectively. In exercise 2 you will conduct statistical tests learned in weeks 2 to 5. Exercises 3 will require you to conduct Ordinary Least Squares regression tests. The details for the exercises and term project (including term project presentation guidelines) will be handed out later in the semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percent of Course Grade</th>
<th>Course Learning Objectives Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Exercise Set 1: Social research</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Exercise Set 2: Bivariate statistical tests</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Exercise Set 3: Ordinary Least Squares Regression</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Exercise Set 5: Survey research and research design</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Term project</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>2, 5 &amp; 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Windshield survey &amp; neighborhood profile memo “A”</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Reflective memo “B”</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8) Presentation of term project</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2, 5 &amp; 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: For URBP 280, there is no Exercise #4.*

**Calculation of Final Course Letter Grade**

The course grade consists of 8 assignments. Exercises 1 and 5 are worth 7.5 points each. Exercise 2 and 3 are worth 15 points each. The term project report is worth 30 points and term project presentation is worth 5 points. Memo “A” is worth 12.5 points and Memo “B” is worth 7.5 points.

If a student named “Joe” earns 7.5 points for Exercise 1, 13 points for Exercise 2, 12 points for Exercise 3, 7.5 points for exercise 5, 25 points for the term project report, 5 points for the term project presentation, 12 points for Memo “A” and 7 points for Memo “B”, his final grade can be calculated using the following tests:

a) Add the score for each assignment to arrive at the final score for the course.

\[ \text{Final score} = 7.5 + 13 + 12 + 7.5 + 25 + 5 + 12 + 7 = 89 \]
b) The following grading scheme converts the final score into a letter grade.

A+ (96 and above); A (93 to 95); A- (90 to 92); B+ (87 to 89); B (84 to 86); B- (81 to 83); C+ (78 to 80); C (75 to 77); C- (72 to 74); D+ (69 to 71); D (66 to 68); D- (63 to 65); F (below 63)

c) Using the grading scheme provided in step “b” to arrive at the letter grade, the score of 89 for “Joe” equals a letter grade of “B+.”

Other Grading and Assignment Issues
Late work will not be accepted, except with the instructor’s prior permission.

Course Workload
Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Academic Integrity Statement, Plagiarism, and Citing Sources Properly

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense both in the university and in your professional work. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else's ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties and a record filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. In severe cases, students may also fail the course or even be expelled from the university.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to make sure you clarify the issues before you hand in draft or final work.

Learning when to cite a source and when not to is an art, not a science. However, here are some common examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- Using a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote without identifying the language as a quote by putting the text in quote marks and referencing the source.
• Paraphrasing somebody else's theory or idea without referencing the source.
• Using a picture or table from a webpage or book without reference the source.
• Using data some other person or organization has collected without referencing the source.

The University of Indiana has developed a very helpful website with concrete examples about proper paraphrasing and quotation. See in particular the following pages:

• Overview of plagiarism at www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html
• Examples of plagiarism at www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html
• Plagiarism quiz at www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html

If you still have questions, feel free to talk to me personally. There is nothing wrong with asking for help, whereas even unintentional plagiarism is a serious offense.

**Citation style**

It is important to properly cite any references you use in your assignments. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning uses Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition (University of Chicago Press, 2013, ISBN 780226816388). Copies are available in the SJSU King Library. Additionally, the book is relatively inexpensive, and you may wish to purchase a copy. Please note that Turabian’s book describes two systems for referencing materials: (1) “notes” (footnotes or endnotes), plus a corresponding bibliography, and (2) in-text parenthetical references, plus a corresponding reference list. The instructor prefers the latter.

**Accommodation for Disabilities**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/aec](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) to establish a record of their disability.

You can find information about the services SJSU offers to accommodate students with disabilities at the Accessible Education Center website at [http://www.sjsu.edu/aec](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec).

**Accommodation to Students’ Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

**Library Liaison**
The SJSU Library Liaison for the Urban and Regional Planning Department is Ms. Toby Matoush. If you have questions, you can contact her at toby.matoush@sjsu.edu or 408-808-2096.

**SJSU Writing Center**
The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

**SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services**
The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling and Psychological Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

**Dropping and Adding**
Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

**Classroom Protocol**
Do not type, text, tweet, email, or surf internet unless it is for this class’s purposes. Phones must be off or silent.
URBP 280: PLANNING RESEARCH TOPICS  
(QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)  
COURSE SCHEDULE

(subject to change with fair notice)

Please note: In the Course Schedule below, the chapter numbers for the Earl Babbie book are as per the 13\textsuperscript{th} Edition. The Chapters numbers for the 13\textsuperscript{th} and the 10\textsuperscript{th} editions are provided at the end of the syllabus. If you buy the earlier edition, look for the corresponding chapter titles.

Chapter numbers for the Salkind book are as per the 4\textsuperscript{th} Edition. The Chapters numbers for the 4\textsuperscript{th} and the 2\textsuperscript{nd} editions are provided at the end of the syllabus. If you buy the earlier edition, look for the corresponding chapter titles.

Chapter numbers for the Agresti and Finlay book are as per the 4\textsuperscript{th} Edition. The Chapters numbers for the 4\textsuperscript{th} and the 3\textsuperscript{rd} editions are provided at the end of the syllabus. If you buy the earlier edition, look for the corresponding chapter titles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 Aug 30 | Course Overview  
Social Research | Babbie: Chapters 2, 3, 5 |
| 2 Sept 6 | Social Research  
Census Data  
Descriptive statistics | Salkind: Chapters 2, 3, 4 |
| 3 Sept 13 | Statistical Analysis I  
Hypothesis testing | Salkind: Chapters 7, 8, 9 |
| 4 Sept 20 | Statistical Analysis II  
Hypothesis testing/Inferential statistics | Salkind: Chapters 11, 12, 13  
**Exercise 1 due** |
| 5 Sept 27 | Statistical Analysis III  
Inferential statistics | Salkind: Chapters 14, 15, 17 |
| 6 Oct 4 | Statistical Analysis IV  
Inferential statistics | *Revised Exercise 1 due*  
*Neighborhood Profile Memo “A” due* |
| 7 Oct 11 | Regression I  
Ordinary Least Squares Regression (OLS) | Agresti and Finlay: Chapters 9, 10, 11, 14 (recommended) |
| 8 Oct 18 | Regression I (continued)  
Ordinary Least Squares Regression (OLS) | Agresti and Finlay: Chapters 15 (recommended)  
**Exercise 2 due** |
| 9 Oct 25 | Regression II  
Logistic Regression  
Lab Time for Exercise 3 | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Nov 1</td>
<td>Regression II (continued)</td>
<td>Babbie: Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Logistic Regression</td>
<td>Term project: Research questions due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Survey Research</td>
<td>Neighborhood Profile Memo “B” Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Nov 8</td>
<td>Survey Research (continued)</td>
<td>Exercise 3 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lab Time for Exercise 4</td>
<td>Revised Exercise 2 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Nov 15</td>
<td>Survey Research (continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lab Time for Term Project</td>
<td>Revised research questions due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Nov 22</td>
<td>Experiments and Qualitative Field Research</td>
<td>Revised Exercise 3 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lab Time for Term Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Nov 29</td>
<td>Research Design</td>
<td>Babbie: Chapters 4, 6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lab Time for Presentation</td>
<td>Term project: report due</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Dec 6</td>
<td>Lab Time for Presentation/Revised Term Project</td>
<td>Exercise 5 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Dec 13</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pre-finals study/conference day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Dec 20</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK</td>
<td>Revised Exercise 5 due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>Term project: revised report due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet times...</td>
<td>Term project: In-class presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early section: 5:15-7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late section: 7:45-10pm</td>
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</table>
APPENDIX

Chapter Titles: Babbie 13th edition
Ch. 1: Human Inquiry and Science
Ch 2: Paradigms, Theory and Social Research
Ch 3: The Ethics and Politics of Social Research
Ch 4: Research Design
Ch 5: Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement
Ch 6: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies
Ch 7: The Logic of Sampling
Ch 8: Experiments
Ch 9: Survey Research
Ch 10: Qualitative Field Research
Ch 11: Unobtrusive Research
Ch 12: Evaluation Research
Ch 13: Qualitative Data Analysis
Ch 14: Quantitative Data Analysis
Ch 15: The Logic of Multivariate Analysis
Ch 16: Statistical Analyses
Ch 17: Reading and Writing Social Research

Chapter Titles: Babbie 10th edition
Ch.1: Human Inquiry and Science
Ch 2: Paradigms, Theory and Social Research
Ch 3: The Ethics and Politics of Social Research
Ch 4: Research Design
Ch 5: Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement
Ch 6: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies
Ch 7: The Logic of Sampling
Ch 8: Experiments
Ch 9: Survey Research
Ch 10: Qualitative Field Research
Ch 11: Unobtrusive Research
Ch 12: Evaluation Research

San José State University
Chapter Titles: Salkind 4th edition

1. Statistics or Sadistics? It's Up to You

Part II

2. Means to an End: Computing and Understanding Averages

3. Vive la Diff,rence: Understanding Variability

4. A Picture Really Is Worth a Thousand Words

5. Ice Cream and Crime: Computing Correlation Coefficients

6. Just the Truth: An Introduction Understanding Reliability and Validity

Part III

7. Hypotheticals and You: Testing Your Questions


Part IV


10. Only the Lonely: The One-Sample Z Test

11. t(ea) for Two: Tests Between the Means of Different Groups

12. t(ea) for Two (Again): Tests Between the Means of Related Groups

13. Two Groups Too Many? Try Analysis of Variance

14. Two Too Many Factors: Factorial Analysis of Variance

15. Cousins or Just Good Friends? Testing Relationships Using the Correlation Coefficient

16. Predicting Who'll Win the Super Bowl: Using Linear Regression

17. What to Do When You're Not Normal: Chi-Square and Some Other Nonparametric Tests

18. Some Other (Important) Statistical Procedures You Should Know About

19. A Statistical Software Sampler

Part V

20. The Ten (or More) Best Internet Sites for Statistics Stuff

21. The Ten Commandments of Data Collection

San José State University
Urban and Regional Planning Department
Chapter Titles: Salkind 2nd edition

1. Statistics or Sadistics? It's Up to You

Part II

2. Means to an End: Computing and Understanding Averages
3. Vive la Diff,rence: Understanding Variability
4. A Picture Really Is Worth a Thousand Words
5. Ice Cream and Crime: Computing Correlation Coefficients

Part III

6. Hypotheticals and You: Testing Your Questions
7. Are Your Curves Normal? Probability and Why It Counts

Part IV

9. t(ea) for Two: Tests Between the Means of Different Groups
10. t(ea) for Two (Again); Tests Between the Means of Related Groups
11. Two Groups Too Many? Try Analysis of Variance
12. Two Too Many Factors: Factorial Analysis of Variance
13. Cousins or Just Good Friends? Testing Relationships Using the Correlation Coefficient
14. Predicting Who'll Win the Super Bowl: Using Linear Regression
15. What to Do When You're Not Normal: Chi-Square and Some Other Nonparametric Tests
16. Just the Truth: An Introduction Understanding Reliability and Validity
17. Some Other (Important) Statistical Procedures You Should Know About
18. A Statistical Software Sampler

Part V

19. The Ten Best Internet Sites for Statistics Stuff
20. The Ten Commandments of Data Collection

Chapter Titles: Agresti and Finlay 4th edition

1. Introduction
2. Sampling and Measurement
3. Descriptive statistics
4. Probability Distributions
5. Statistical inference: estimation
6. Statistical Inference: Significance Tests
7. Comparison of Two Groups
8. Analyzing Association between Categorical Variables
9. Linear Regression and Correlation
10. Introduction to multivariate Relationships
11. Multiple Regression and Correlation
12. Comparing groups: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) methods
13. Combining regression and ANOVA: Quantitative and Categorical Predictors
14. Model Building with Multiple Regression
15. Logistic Regression: Modeling Categorical Responses
16. Introduction to Advanced Topics

Chapter Titles: Agresti and Finlay 3rd edition
1. Introduction
2. Sampling and Measurement
3. Descriptive statistics
4. Probability Distributions
5. Statistical inference: estimation
6. Statistical Inference: Significance Tests
7. Comparison of Two Groups
8. Analyzing Association between Categorical Variables
9. Linear Regression and Correlation
10. Introduction to multivariate Relationships
11. Multiple Regression and Correlation
12. Comparing groups: Analysis of Variance methods
13. Combining regression and ANOVA: Analysis of Covariance
14. Model Building with Multiple Regression
15. Logistic Regression: Modeling Categorical Responses
16. Introduction to Advanced Topics