SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT
URBP 298A: SPECIAL STUDY – PLANNING REPORT DEVELOPMENT
FALL 2016

Instructors: Asha Weinstein Agrawal, Serena Alexander, and Richard Kos

Office location, office hours & contact info: See www.sjsu.edu/urbanplanning/courses/URBP298/index.html

Class days/time: Four Tuesdays, 4:30 – 7:00 pm (August 30, September 13, September 20, October 11)

Classroom: August 30 and October 11: MLK 225
September 13 and September 20: CH 412

Class website: www.sjsu.edu/urbanplanning/courses/URBP298/298a.html

Prerequisites: Passage of the Writing Skills Test, Graduate Adviser approval, and passage of URBP 297P

Units: 3

Course Catalog Description
Advanced research and report writing. Students develop a plan and complete the initial research to write a planning report that demonstrates their capacity to do independent research, analysis, and writing about a complex planning problem. Prerequisites: Passage of the Writing Skills Test and Graduate Adviser approval. Passage of URBP 297P.

Course Description and Course Learning Objectives
The two-course sequence of URBP 298A and URBP 298B gives planning students an opportunity to prepare a Planning Report based upon independent research, analysis, and possibly design work about a complex urban or regional problem. Preparing this Planning Report is the capstone experience for students in the MUP program. Students draw upon the material they have learned from coursework, internships, and professional experience to demonstrate their ability to:

1. Conceptualize problems from complex, real world situations so the problems are meaningful to clients and research-worthy. In particular, students will be able to:
   a. Define and clearly state a research question and/or goals
   b. Demonstrate in-depth familiarity with relevant literature on the research subject
   c. Design an ethical methodology appropriate to answer a research question
2. Collect, analyze and synthesize information from multiple sources. In particular, students will be able to:
   a. Collect data of sufficient quality and depth to answer a research question
b. Perform direct, competent, and appropriate analysis to answer a research question
c. Draw sophisticated conclusions based on the results of the analysis, that are a logical extension of the findings
d. Show how the analysis and findings fit into the larger context of the literature and current professional practice

3. **Communicate effectively in writing and in visual terms.** In particular, students will be able to:
   a. Organize material logically, so that a reader can easily follow the writer’s train of thought
   b. Write text that is grammatically correct and free of typos
   c. Create and integrate into the report tables and figures that add useful/important information for readers
   d. Design reports that are attractive and professional in appearance
   e. Include citations where appropriate, and format footnotes and bibliographies properly

In addition to these three requirements for the Planning Report, students are encouraged to demonstrate originality and creativity in the choice of research question, methodology, and analysis techniques.

**Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) Knowledge Components**

This course partially covers PAB KSV 2a: “Research: tools for assembling and analyzing ideas and information from prior practice and scholarship, and from primary and secondary sources.”

A complete list of the PAB Knowledge Components can be found at http://www.sjsu.edu/urbanplanning/courses/pabknowledge.html.

**Required Course Texts to Purchase**

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed.

Other readings will be emailed out to students and/or determined in consultation with the student’s adviser.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

In URBP 298A, students begin the report writing process by finalizing a research proposal; reviewing relevant literature on their Planning Report topic; completing an Institutional Review Board (IRB) Exclusion Worksheet and (if applicable) an IRB proposal requesting permission to work with human subjects; and drafting parts of the final Planning Report. By completing these steps, students position themselves to successfully complete the Planning Report in URBP 298B.

To complete URBP 298A and receive credit for the course, students must attend all scheduled class meetings, complete the assignments listed in the table below, and read all assigned materials.
**Class meetings:** Students are required to attend all four class sessions. Please note that students who miss a class session are at significant risk of failing an assignment, since the class sessions are specifically designed to help students succeed with the assignments. Should you need to miss a class because of illness or family emergency, make sure to contact a classmate to get notes on the material missed. Faculty advisers will not be able to provide this assistance.

**Overview of assignments:** Course assignments and due dates are listed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Draft Research Proposal</td>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>1, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Final Research Proposal</td>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>1, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a. IRB Exclusion Worksheet (required)</td>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b. IRB Protocol Materials (if applicable)</td>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>1, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Draft Literature Review</td>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Final Literature Review</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Draft report sections (4,000 words, or as decided between the advisee and adviser)</td>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directions for all assignments are posted on the URBP 298A course website.

**Grading Information**

URBP 298A is graded on a Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) basis. Students will receive a grade of CR for URBP 298A if they:

- Score a grade of B or better on the final research proposal (Assignment #2) and final literature review (Assignment #5).
- Submit an acceptable IRB Exclusion Worksheet (Assignment #3a). The assignment will be graded Pass/Fail.
- If applicable, prepare and submit an acceptable IRB Protocol Narrative and associated materials to the SJSU IRB Coordinator, requesting permission to work with human subjects (Assignment #3b). The student’s adviser must approve the application before it is submitted.
- Submit an acceptable draft report section (Assignment #6) that totals at least 4,000 words (or as decided between the advisee and adviser).

Students who receive an NC for URBP 298A must re-enroll in URBP 298A and:

- Re-do all assignments (draft and final versions) for which they did not receive a passing grade (B or higher) during the first semester.
- Attend any class sessions they missed, plus any additional sessions that the adviser feels
the student would benefit from repeating.

- Enroll in URBP 298A and URBP 298B over two additional semesters.

In addition, receiving an NC in URBP 298A has the following implications:

- An NC is the equivalent of failing the class. The NC will remain permanently on the student's record, though the SJSU Office of Graduate Records does not include the NC when calculating the student's GPA.
- Students who receive an NC in URBP 298A can only enroll again in URBP 298A if there is space available, with the department giving enrollment priority to students who meet the prerequisites for URBP 298A and have not yet enrolled in a semester of URBP 298A.
- Students who receive an NC in URBP 298A will be placed on Administrative-Academic Probation. To be removed from administrative-academic probation, a student must re-enroll in URBP 298A and receive a grade of CR.
- Students who receive a second NC in URBP 298A will be disqualified from the MUP program.

Other Grading and Assignment Issues
Students are expected to hand in all draft and final assignments by the assigned due dates. Students who turn assignments in on time (including drafts) will normally receive comments from their adviser within five business days. For late papers, the turnaround time may well take ten or more business days, which could significantly impede a student's ability to pass the course.

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.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

Plagiarism and Citing Sources Properly
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 your instructor 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-13: 978-0-81638-8). 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.

Students should consult with their adviser regarding which system to use.

**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.
URBP 298A – FALL 2016
COURSE SCHEDULE

Notes:
Schedule subject to change with notice in class or by email
See electronic version of the syllabus to access links below

August 30 – Class 1 (Instructors: Rick Kos & Serena Alexander)
Lecture: Introductions; overview of the 298A and 298B process; review of the 298A syllabus; explanation of the research proposal assignment; guidelines for writing the “research methods” portion of the research proposal.

September 13 – Class 2 (Instructor: Serena Alexander)
Lecture: Conducting interviews; analyzing qualitative data (e.g., interview notes or primary documents).
Readings: The first item is an introduction to qualitative interview design. The other two help you develop your interview skills. Although both of the last two articles come from a website designed for people working in the “user experience” (UX) field, much of the advice about conducting interviews applies well to any type of interview.


   Be sure to watch at least 3 minutes of the embedded video, too.


Assignment #1: Draft research proposal due

September 20 – Class 3 (Instructors: Asha W. Agrawal & Rick Kos)
Lecture: The IRB process; review of the “candidacy form”; tips for professional writing
Readings:

1. Sample IRB protocol, prepared by Rick Kos (read this to get a sense of what documentation a researcher prepares, if the project needs IRB approval). The protocol can be found on the 298A course website.

2. TBD.
Homework:

(3) Complete your “Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy” form
(http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/forms/Petition%20to%20Graduate%20Candidacy%20Form%2010.7.15.pdf) and bring a printed copy to class.

Failure to do this will result in your form not getting submitted on time to GAPE and a one-semester delay in graduation.

Instructions for completing the form is available on the 298A course website under the heading “Completing the Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy Form.”

October 4: Final research proposal due (Assignment #2)

October 11 – Class 4 (Instructor: Asha W. Agrawal)
Lecture: How to write a literature review assignment; preview of what to expect in URBP 298B

Assignment #3a: IRB Exclusion Worksheet due (Assignment #3a)

October 18: IRB Protocol Materials due, if applicable (Assignment #3b)

October 25: Draft literature review due (Assignment #4)

November 15: Final literature review due (Assignment #5)

December 12: Draft report sections (4,000 words of new material) due (Assignment #6)
(Last day of classes for the semester)