

**School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP)
University of British Columbia
DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE**

Course Number	PLAN 559
Course Credit(s)	3.0
Course Title	Design of Planning and Policy-Oriented Research
Term	2018-2019 Winter Term 2
Day/Time	Monday

Instructor	Mark Stevens
Office	Room 223, West Mall Annex
Telephone	604-822-0657
Email	mark.stevens@ubc.ca
Office Hours	By appointment

Short Course Description

The purposes of this course are to develop understanding and skill in the design of empirical research used in the analysis of policy and planning problems, as well as to develop the ability to critically evaluate policy-related research products. This is a required course for MAP/MSCP and PhD students that serves as a foundational introduction to research design, and can be an entry to more specialized courses in quantitative and qualitative methods for social science research.

Course Format

The class meets once a week for 3 hours. The format of the course is based on the principles of Team-Based Learning (TBL), which shifts the focus of classroom time from the instructor conveying course concepts to the application of course concepts by student learning teams.

Course Overview, Content and Objectives

- Attend 12 three-hour class sessions
- Ensure readiness for in-class application exercises by reading assigned materials and writing 3 short exams that address core concepts from the readings
- Participate in team-based application exercises aimed at applying course concepts and appreciating their value for designing and conducting social science research
- Contribute to in-class discussion of readings, exams, and in-class application exercises
- Complete peer evaluation assessment to evaluate the contribution of team members to team performance on in-class application exercises

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Be fluent with the terminology and concepts of research design and data collection/analysis
- Evaluate and critique different types of research design
- Select an appropriate research design for addressing various types of research questions

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. A portion of the final course grade will depend upon attendance.

Evaluation Criteria and Grading

To be determined on the first day of class, subject to the following constraints:

	Minimum Percentage	Maximum Percentage
1) Individual Performance	20%	60%
a) Class attendance and attentiveness	5%	50%
b) Readiness assurance tests	10%	50%
2) Team Performance	30%	80%
a) Readiness assurance tests	10%	50%
b) In-class application exercises	20%	50%
3) Peer Evaluation	10%	20%

Required Readings and Videos

There are no required textbooks for this course. Required readings will be drawn from books, and professional reports, and journal articles.

Course Schedule

- (Week 1) Introduction
- (Week 2) Research design and causality
- (Week 3) Team application exercise
- (Week 4) Team application exercise
- (Week 5) Team application exercise
- (Week 6) *(UBC holiday)*
- (Week 7) *(Reading week)*
- (Week 8) Quantitative data analysis for establishing causality
- (Week 9) Team application exercise
- (Week 10) Team application exercise
- (Week 11) Qualitative data analysis for establishing causality
- (Week 12) Team application exercise
- (Week 13) *(UBC holiday)*

Special Needs

Academic Integrity

1 Assistance with the creation of a course syllabus is available through the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology, www.ctlt.ubc.ca Resources related to the development of assessable learning outcomes can be accessed through <http://ctlt.ubc.ca/resources/webliography/course-designdevelopment/> The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or

cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at

<http://calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>.