

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

Course Number	PLAN 603
Course Credit(s)	3.0
Course Title	Ph.D. Colloquium
Term	2018-2019 Winter Term 1 and Term 2
Day/Time	Wednesday

Instructor	Maged Senbel
Office	
Telephone	
Email	
Office Hours	

Short Course Description

The PhD Colloquium is intended to provide a collegial setting in which students can discuss their research ideas and related issues with their peers. This course is required of all first and second year SCARP doctoral students and must be repeated once for credit.

Course Format

The course is structured as a seminar, focused on the research interests of the students. The course meets once every two weeks over the course of two terms, beginning on the second Monday in September.

Course Overview, Content and Objectives

This course is intended to provide a collegial setting that will help students to sharpen their research focus and prepare a preliminary draft of their dissertation proposal. In the case of 2nd year students, the research paper for the Colloquium should be regarded as a first draft of their research prospectus. For 1st year students, this will be a first stab at a research topic and should be of sufficient length to get their main ideas on paper.

According to the SCARP Handbook: The dissertation research prospectus is typically a document of between 10,000-15,000 words that addresses the theoretical framework, key research questions, and methodologies, as well as a brief literature review that positions the candidate in her/his chosen field. The document should also explain what contribution to knowledge is expected to come from this study; and have a time-line for completion of the proposed research and writing.

Participants in the Colloquium will have an opportunity to make two presentations of their ideas for research. The Colloquium is not a substitute for the student's responsibility to work closely with her/his dissertation committee in the preparation of both the Comprehensive Exam (which is a broad literature review) and the dissertation prospectus. Students may wish to invite their research supervisor to attend the seminar session when they will make their **second** presentation.

In addition, participants may want to schedule additional meetings to discuss relevant issues, such as:

- ethical issues in field research

- the differences between research in planning and other disciplines
- generalizations from case study research
- problems arising in comparative research
- writing for publication
- the use of stories in communicating research findings
- the relation of theory to empirical research
- any other topic that may be of general interest

Learning Outcomes

By completing this course, students will:

- Have a more developed understanding of their own dissertation research.
- Understand how their proposed research project is situated relative to those of their peers.
- Have a more thorough understanding of the nature of academic research and how this relates to the ongoing development of theory.

Attendance

Registered students are expected to attend all meetings of the Colloquium, and to inform the instructor if they have a legitimate reason for not attending.

Evaluation Criteria and Grading

Assessment will be based on oral presentations, active participation in seminar discussions, and completion of a draft research prospectus of no more than 15 pages in length (space-and-a-half, 12 point font).

Required Readings and Videos

Required readings and/or other reference materials to be determined by the participants on an ongoing basis, based on selected topics for discussion.

Course Schedule

The first two meetings of the Colloquium will be reserved for initial student presentations of their research ideas, and the final two meetings will be reserved for their revised presentations. The course meetings in between will address one or more of the list of topics given above, or of other topics related to the field.

Special Needs

Please inform the course instructor as soon as possible if you have special needs and require accommodation of any kind. Please visit <http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/> for more information on campus resources.

Academic Integrity

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>.