PLANA 4208: Planning Methods

Fall 2018 Syllabus

Course: Planning Methods Call # 88146 (3 points)
Time: Wednesdays 11 am – 1 pm
Room: 200 South Fayerweather
Office: 305 Buell Hall

Professor Hutson’s Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m.
Online office hours sign-up link:
https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/ihcyj

Phone: 212-854-6280
E-mail: mah2328@columbia.edu

Teaching Assistants (TAs):
Younghyun Kim (yk2767@columbia.edu)
Minh Nguyen (mqn2103@columbia.edu)
Michael Snidal (mjs2267@columbia.edu)

Course Description:
This is an introductory course designed to help prepare students for common analysis methods used in planning practice. Common methods of analysis are covered using publicly available data sets and data collected through assignments. Through weekly readings, lectures and lab sessions students will gain a basic understanding of the tools and skills required in planning practice. In addition to the lecture, students must register for one of the three weekly lab sections below taught by TAs.

Lab Section 001 Call # 91346
Mondays 2-4pm, UP Computer Lab

Lab Section 002 Call # 92346
Mondays 4-6pm, UP Computer Lab
Course Objectives:

- Identify planning problems and questions
- Design and implement a research project in response to a planning problem or question
- Understand how to use secondary data to address planning problems and questions, and become familiar with the primary data sources and metrics used in planning practice
- Become a critical consumer of statistics, methods, and evidence/arguments in the press and in policy, planning and advocacy publications
- Think critically about research problems and research design, learn what kinds of problems planners address in day-to-day life, and recognize the role of theory in shaping both questions and research design
- Prepare clear, accurate and compelling text, graphics and maps for use in documents
- Learn how to write for different audiences, and effectively include data/evidence in writing

Course Requirements:

Students are required to attend all lectures and lab sections for the entire semester. In addition, students will complete weekly computer lab assignments and take a midterm that is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Finally, students will be assigned a group and will complete an analysis of a New York City community district/neighborhood. The final analysis will be in report format and presented in class on the last day of instruction Wednesday, December 5, 2018 and the final report will be due Friday, December 14, 2018. Information regarding the class project will be handed out in class once the semester begins.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following:

- Attendance and In-Class Exercises 15%
- Computer Labs 25%
- Midterm 25%
- Final Project 35%

Class Attendance:
Students are expected to make every effort to attend lectures and discussion sections. Please be on time to class and computer labs. Attendance in lecture and computer labs will be taken.

Policy on Religious Holidays:

If you will be observing any religious holidays this semester that will prevent you from attending a regularly scheduled class or interfere with fulfilling any course requirement, notify Professor Hutson or TAs within the first two weeks of the semester. Otherwise, any absence due to a religious holiday will be treated as a missed class.

Important Dates

Midterm Exam: Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Final Presentation: December 5, 2018

Final Project Report Due: Friday, December 14, 2018

Statement of Academic Integrity:

Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from Professor Hutson.

In all of your assignments, including your homework or drafts of papers, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. "Proper attribution" means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis.

As a general rule, if you are citing from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if you employ a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. In both cases, be sure to cite the original source in a footnote or in parentheses.

If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking an examination, be sure to seek clarification from Professor Hutson or your assigned TAs beforehand.

Finally, you should keep in mind that as a member of the campus community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors and will be
evaluated on your own merits. So be proud of your academic accomplishments and help to protect and promote academic integrity at Columbia University. The consequences of cheating and academic dishonesty - including a formal discipline file, possible loss of future internship, scholarship, or employment opportunities, and denial of admission to another graduate program - are simply not worth it.

Students with Disabilities:

If you need accommodations for any physical, psychological, or learning disability or if you want me to have emergency medical information, please speak to me after class or during office hours.

Required Reading for Course:

There will be a course reader and where possible electronic resources will be available via the online course website. Once reader is complete, Professor Hutson will send out a class email with details about how to access it.

Course Content and Reading Schedule

I). Defining Planning, Identifying Problems and Conducting Field Research

Week #1: September 5: Introduction to the Course and What is Planning?

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


**R Statistical Software Resources:**

- **R Code School**
  [http://tryr.codeschool.com/levels/1/challenges/1](http://tryr.codeschool.com/levels/1/challenges/1)

- **R Studio**

- **UCLA Institute for Digital Research and Education**
  [https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/r/](https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/r/)

- **R-Bloggers**

**IMPORTANT** Begin Familiarizing Yourself with R Statistical Software

**Week #2: September 12: Research Design and Identifying Methods**

**Required Readings:**

Recommended Readings:


Week #3: September 19: Accessing Data and Understanding Planning Agencies

**Required readings:**


Recommended Resource:

(Explore) Columbia University Digital Social Science Center [http://library.columbia.edu/locations/dssc/data.html](http://library.columbia.edu/locations/dssc/data.html)

(Explore) NYU Furman Center CoreData.nyc [http://coredata.nyc](http://coredata.nyc) (Links to an external site.)

Week #4: September 26: Defining Planning Problems

**Required readings:**


1. **II) Qualitative Methods**

**Week #5: October 3: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods**

*Required readings:*


**Week #6: October 10: Qualitative Research Methods (Continued)**

*Required readings:*


*Recommended Readings:*

**Week #7: October 17: Midterm**

III) Quantitative Methods

**Week #8: October 24: Introduction to R Statistical Software**

*Required Readings:*

• Klass, Gary M. “Chapter 3: Statistical Fallacies, Paradoxes, and Threats to Validity, Chapter 5: Tabulating the Data and Writing about the Numbers, and Chapter 6: The Graphical Display of Data,” in Just Plain Data Analysis (Plymouth: Rowman and Littlefield).

*Recommended Readings:*


**Week #9: October 31: Descriptive Statistics and Data Visualization**

*Required readings:*


**Week #10: November 7: Working with Data in R**

*Required readings:*

Week #11: November 14: Quantitative Methods and Inferential Statistics

Required readings:


Week #12: November 21: Academic Holiday—NO CLASS

Week #13: November 28: Inferential Statistics (Continued)

Required readings:

To Be Determined

Week #14: December 5: In-Class Final Presentations

Week #15: Friday, December 15: Final Report Due by 11:59 pm!!!