

PLA 1102 - PLANNING DECISION METHODS

Fall 2016

Monday 1:00 to 4:00 pm, room SSH 2125

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Office hrs: Wednesday, 11pm – 1pm

Overview

This course exposes students to a number of analytical techniques, decision-making methods and ethical practices that are at the core of planning scholarship and professional practice, as well as applicable to the broader fields of policy analysis and social research. The course covers a number of data collection techniques and analysis methods that can be used to address contemporary problems in planning, including research design, survey methods, statistical techniques, evaluation and participation methods useful for the purposes of analysis and planning. The central goal of the course is to give students experience in structuring approaches to solving problems that they are likely to face in both the public and private sectors. A number of planning case studies from Toronto and elsewhere will be used to introduce and illustrate course materials and key concepts.

Evaluation and Key Dates

30% Assignment 1: Survey design and ethics – October 17

45% Assignment 2: Major Group Project – December 5

15% Assignment 3: Class presentation on readings

10% Class participation: contribution to discussions; any assigned reading responses

Detailed descriptions of each assignment will be distributed to students in class during the term. All assignments are due at the beginning of class, and will not be accepted by email. There will be a 5% penalty per day for late assignments, which counts on weekends as well. Assignments will only be accepted for one week after the deadline.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1 - COURSE INTRODUCTION, *September 16, 2-5PM, RM 5017*

Goal:

To learn about the essential course components and how they are linked.

WEEK 2 – ROLE OF THE PLANNING SCHOLAR, September 19

Key Concepts:

Purpose of academic research; defining the relationships between scholars and research subjects; community based research; managing conflict; ethics in research. This class will also provide an overview of effective research designs and sampling methods.

Goals:

To learn about the various roles that planning scholars take on when carrying out their research; understanding the nature of the relationships between subjects and scholars, to carry out ethical research.

Readings:

1) Week 2: Material for Class Discussion

Siemiatycki, M. (2012). The Role of the Planning Scholar: Research, Conflict and Social Change. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 32:2, 147-159

Week 3 – DESIGNING AND SAMPLING FOR EFFECTIVE RESEARCH, September 26

Key Concepts: Research design and population sampling methods

To learn about appropriateness of different research designs, methods; sampling techniques

Week 3 Readings

Flyvbjerg, B. 2006. Five Misunderstandings About Case-Study Research. *Qualitative Inquiry*. 12(2), 219-245

Week 3: References for Information in Lecture

Bryman, A. 2012. *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

When an ethics review is required:

<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/faculty-and-staff/research-ethics-and-protections/>

Ethics review application form:

<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/faculty-and-staff/research-ethics-and-protections/humans-in-research/#submission>

Guidelines on interviewing public personalities:

http://www.research.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/guidelines_on_interviews.pdf

Guidelines for creating informed consent documents:

<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/GUIDE-FOR-INFORMED-CONSENT-HIV-REB.pdf>

Week 4 - DATA COLLECTION: CARRYING OUT SURVEY RESEARCH, October 3

Key Concepts: Survey Instruments

Goals: To learn about best practices in designing survey instruments and questionnaires

1) Week 4: Readings

Bernstein, S. Ferver, R. and Bernstein, A.I. (1973). The Problems and Pitfalls of Quantitative Methods in Urban Analysis. *Policy Sciences*. 4(1), 29-39.

Week 4: Reference Reading

Bryman, A. 2012. *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 5 - DATA COLLECTION II: CARRYING OUT QUALITATIVE RESEARCH, October 17

Key Concepts:

Case studies, interviews, focus groups; digital ethnography.

Goal:

To gain exposure to the development of interview guides and focus groups, and how to use them to gather qualitative data.

1) Week 5: Readings

Reardon, K, Welsh, J. Kreiswirth, B., and Forester, J. 1993. Participatory Action Research from the Inside: Community Development Practice in East St. Louis. *The American Sociologist* Spring; 69-91.

Sandercock, L. and Attili, G. (2010). Digital Ethnography as Planning Praxis: An Experiment with Film as Social Research, Community Engagement and Policy Dialogue. *Planning Theory and Practice*. 11 (1), 23-45.

*** Assignment 1 Deadline ***

**Week 6 - PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING,
October 24**

Key Concepts:

Methods of public and community-based participation, advocacy planning, stakeholders, diversity and representation, “public interest.”

Goal:

To explore the connections among process, context and outcomes in planning, and different tools and models used by planners in public and community-driven participation processes.

Readings:

Arnstein, S. R. 1969. A Ladder of Citizen Participation. *Journal of the American Institute of Planning*, 35 (4). 216-224.

Quick, K.S. and Feldman, M.S. (2011). Distinguishing Participation and Inclusion. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. 31(3), 272-290.

Innes, Judith E., and David E. Booher. 2004. Reframing Public Participation: Strategies for the 21st Century. *Planning Theory & Practice* 5(4), 419-436.

Week 7 - POLICY ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION, October 31

Key concepts

Policy analysis process; cost benefit analysis; SWOT Analysis; Optimism Bias.

Goal:

To explore the various approaches used to analyze public policy options, the actors and institutions involved in decision making, explore factors contributing to successful and unsuccessful policy analysis.

Friedmann, J. 1987. *Planning in the Public Domain*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 4.

Lovallo, D. and Kahneman, D. 2003. Delusions of Success: How Optimism Undermines Executives' Decisions, *Harvard Business Review*, July, pp. 56-63.

**Week 8 – BENCHMARKING IN THE URBAN PLANNING PROCESS –
November 7**

Key Concepts:

Community and sustainability indicators, monitoring and evaluation.

Goal:

To review basic methods of policy monitoring and evaluation, focusing on the development and application of indicators in planning.

Readings:

Holden, Meg. 2001. Uses and abuses of urban sustainability indicator studies. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*. 10 (2): 217-237.

Maclaren, Virginia. 2001. Blighted or booming? An evaluation of community indicators and their creation. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 10 (2): 275-292.

Week 9 –MONITORING AND EVALUATING POLICIES AND PLANS – November 14

Key Concepts:

Experimental design, validity, control group, monitoring and evaluation, adaptive management; post occupancy evaluation.

Goal:

To explore a range of methods used to monitor and evaluate policies and/or urban plans and their outcomes.

Readings:

Baer, W.C. 1997. General plan evaluation criteria: An approach to making better plans *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 63(3), 329-344.

Seasons, Mark. 2003. Monitoring and evaluation in municipal planning: Considering the realities. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 69 (4): 430-440.

Week 10 – WHO DOES WHAT IN PLANNING PRACTICE: THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, **November 25, 2-5PM, SSH2015**

Key Concepts:

An identification of the tasks that the public and private sectors conduct in planning practice

Beveridge, R. (2012). Consultants, depoliticization and arena-shifting in the policy process: privatizing water in Berlin. *Policy Sciences*. 45, 47-68.

Momani, B. and Khirfan, L. (2013). Explaining the use of planning consultants in Ontario cities. *Canadian Public Administration*. 56(3), 391-413.

Week 11 – PLANNING ETHICS, November 28

Key Concepts:

Ethics in planning, codes of practice, participatory processes.

Goal:

To examine planning ethics from both a practical and theoretical viewpoint, with a focus on participatory processes. To develop an understanding of professional planning codes of ethics.

Readings:

CIP Statement of Values and OPPI Code of Practice.

<https://www.cip-icu.ca/Becoming-a-Planner/Codes-of-Professional-Conduct/CIP-Code-of-Professional-Conduct>

Haggerty, K. D. (2004). Ethics Creep: Governing Social Science Research in the Name of Ethics. *Qualitative Sociology* 27(4): 391-414.

Flyvbjerg, B. 2013. How planners deal with uncomfortable knowledge: The dubious ethics of the American Planning Association. *Cities*. 32, 157-163.

Thacher, D. 2013. The Role of Professional Associations. *Cities*. 32, 169-170.

Watson, V. 2013. The Ethics of Planners and their Professional Bodies. *Cities*. 32, 167-168.

Week 12 – GROUP PRESENTATIONS – December 5

This will be a three-hour class and may extend longer, depending on number of groups. Presentation of group projects using PowerPoint. Each group will be allotted 15 to 20 minutes for their presentation.

Major Class assignment hand in