College for Design and Social Inquiry

School of Urban and Regional Planning

term

**URP 4978 Honors Planning Project**

Credits: 3

Meeting time & place: To be decided

Instructor: SURP full-time faculty

Telephone: (561) 297-4279

E-mail: To be decided

Office hours: To be decided

Suite 284, Social Sciences Building, Boca Raton

Or by appointment

**Course Description**

URP 4978 Honors Planning Project is a required course in the undergraduate Honors-in-the-Major Program in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design designed to fulfill the requirements for supervised honors thesis research. Students admitted to the Honors-in-the-Major Program will complete an individual project involving student research/ analysis of a problem or issue in planning and/or urban design. The Honors Planning Project course involves refinement of writing, graphic and oral presentation skills, and systematic work with regular deadline and ongoing feedback from the instructor.

**Course Objectives**

The course is conducted as a seminar/discussion/workshop. The instructor will discuss the requirements for completing each of the project components including introduction, literature review, planning context, problem statement, research methodology, analysis and findings, and the proposed plan. Students should always be prepared to discuss their project in front of their peers and assist peers with comments and suggestions.

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

* Frame a research statement and design a research proposal
* Prepare a literature review to support their research statement
* Discuss and apply a proposed research methodology
* Apply the planning tools learned throughout their undergraduate studies to provide appropriate solutions to the planning and/or design problem
* Communicate effectively and coherently their deliverables

**Course Textbook and Readings:**

There is one required textbook for the course:

*Leedy P. D. and Ormrod J. E., Practical Research: Planning and Design, 9th Edition. 2009.*

In addition to the textbook, students are expected to visit the library and research planning books and materials relevant to their projects.

**ASSESSMENT**

Assessment of student learning outcomes in URP 4978 Honors Planning Project will cover three key areas with formal feedback from the instructor:

* Critical and analytical thinking skills
* Written communication
* Graphics skills and oral communication and presentation

All written assignments must be submitted as a hard copy at the beginning of the class in which they are due. The following grading system will be used to determine the final grade:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item | Percentage |
| Draft research proposal | 10 |
| Six draft chapters of the research project (5 pts each) | 30 |
| Final Research Project | 30 |
| Final Poster | 10 |
| Planning Portfolio | 10 |
| Final Presentation/ Defense | 10 |
| **Total** | **100** |

A grading rubric will be provided to the students for each assessment item. If you are pursuing Honors-in-the Major in Urban & Regional Planning or Urban Design, you need to obtain a minimum grade of B to pass this course. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | 94 and higher |
| A- | 90 - 93 |
| B+ | 87 - 89 |
| B | 84 - 86 |
| B- | 80 - 83 |
| C+ | 77 - 79 |
| C | 74 - 76 |
| C- | 70 - 73 |
| D+ | 67 - 69 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D | 64 - 66 |
| D- | 60 - 63 |
| F | Less than 60 |

Grades that fall in between letter grade assignments will be rounded according to the following criteria: Grades that end with 0.5 or above will be rounded up and grades that end with any value below 0.5 will be rounded down. For example 93.50 will be rounded to 94, which is A. 93.47 will be rounded to 93, which is A-.

**Course Webpage and Communication**

A course website is available at FAU Blackboard (<http://blackboard.fau.edu/>) Course syllabus and necessary materials will be posted there. All course updates will be added on blackboard as an announcement. The instructor will use your FAU address to communicate with you. Check your FAU email regularly.

**Code of Academic Integrity policy statement**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations at [http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\_Code\_of\_Academic\_Integrity.pdf](https://exchange.fau.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=86ea683053fe4e5ca4f1441cf8cadec8&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.fau.edu%2fregulations%2fchapter4%2f4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

*Incompletes***.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above.

**CLASSROOM RULES AND POLICIES**

The syllabus contains a set of deadlines intended to help timely completion of the planning project. The semester is short and some of the deadlines are close. Meeting the deadlines is essential for the successful completion of a research project. Make sure to run spelling and grammar check before you hand in your drafts, number the pages, and have a header or footer that shows at least the date and the title of your project. It is important to properly format and edit your papers before each scheduled submission.

Coming to class sessions, keeping up with the readings, turning in assignments that are complete and on time, and abiding by the policies of academic integrity will help you do well in the course. Attendance is mandatory, and will be reflected in your class participation grade. **Time to work in groups in the classroom is not a dismissal time.** All work must be submitted by the due date. Work not submitted on time (written) work will automatically be downgraded one full letter. Anything handed in more than a week late will result in an F for that part of the course. If you have any special circumstances or problems, please contact me as soon as possible. Due to the participatory nature of this course, please communicate any expected or unexpected absences with the instructor as early as possible. Every effort will be made to work with students with unusual or unexpected obligations outside the course. Late works will be accepted as normal only if you are experiencing a major emergency (medical, death in the immediate family, etc.). In this case, you have to notify the instructor before the assignment due date. For medical emergencies, you need to provide a document from the doctor.

In this course, you will consult outside sources while doing your assignments. Be very careful how you cite the sources. *Do not copy from any source or give direct quote without giving credit*. *Submitted papers will be included as source documents in the SafeAssign.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.*

**Course Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date**(subject to change | **Required readings** | **Homework due** |
| **1** | 6-Jan | Introduction and Course OverviewDiscussion of Course Assignments and Evaluation Criteria |  |
| **2** | 13-Jan | Leedy and Ormrod, 2012Chapter 1: What is Research? |  |
| **3** | 20-Jan | Leedy and Ormrod, 2012Chapter 6: Writing the Research Proposal  | One-page summary of the research topic. |
| **4** | 27-Jan | Leedy and Ormrod, 2012Chapter 4 Review of the Related Literature | Draft Research Proposal Due  |
| **5** | 3-Feb | Leedy and Ormrod, 2012Chapter 2: Tools of Research  | Visualization toolsClass workshop |
| **6** | 10-Feb | Leedy and Ormrod, 2012. Chapter 3: The Problem: the Heart of the Research Process Planning context, ethics and values | DUE: Literature reviewA minimum of 10-page paper describing and explaining the essence of existing studies, reports, legislation, articles, papers, books etc.  |
| **7** | 17-Feb | Leedy and Ormrod, 2012. Chapter 5: Planning Your Research ProjectPlanning Approaches | DUE: Planning Context A minimum of 10-page paper reviewing the planning context of the place assigned to plan for (status of plans, special studies, identification of needs, etc.), complete with figures, charts, tables and maps) |
| **8** | 24-Feb | Leedy and Ormrod, 2012. Chapter 12. Technical Details: Style, Format, and Organization of the Research Report  | DUE: Problem Statement and Research Methodology3-10 pages. Methodology and detailed work program. |
| **9** | 3-Mar | Spring Break |  |
| **10** | 10-Mar | Discussion and feedback from the instructor  | DUE: Analysis and FindingsA minimum of 5 pages describing the results of the analysis |
| **11** | 17-Mar | Discussion and feedback from the instructor | DUE: Chapter 6. The PlanA minimum 10-page paper that contains your proposed plan/design.  |
| **12** | 24-Mar | Discussion and feedback from the instructor | DUE: IntroductionA minimum 10-page paper reviewing the subject of your planning project (what is the rationale, why are you researching this topic, what is your argument)  |
| **13** | 31-Mar | Discussion and feedback from the instructor |  |
| **14** | 7-Apr | Discussion and feedback from the instructor | The final draft of the document, revised chapters, acknowledgements, appendices, list of figures and tables etc. |
| **15** | 14-Apr | Discussion and final feedback from the instructor  | Final commentsback from Instructor |
| **16** | 21-Apr |  | **Final Project Due**  |
| **17** | 28-Apr | Final Presentation/ Defense | **Final Poster Due****Planning Portfolio Due** |

**USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROM**

In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular phones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and follow all OSD procedures. OSD has offices across three FAU’s campuses—Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter—however disability services are available for students on all campuses

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

This course has been arranged so that there will be no classes on religious holidays, such as Christmas or Yom Kippur. Please advise the instructor if you need accommodations for other religious holidays.

**SAFEWALK – Night Owls**

Boca Raton 561-297-6695 Davie 954-236-1902 Ft. Lauderdale 954-762-561 Jupiter 561-799-8700. Campus security will escort individuals, day or night. Call ahead or go to their offices at Room 155 in the LA Building, Davie to make appropriate arrangements.