Public Administration 497  
Investigation and Report:  Urban and International Policy  
Tuesdays, 12:30-1:45pm  
PSFA 113

Professor Larry Herzog

Course Objective:
To provide public administration majors with an opportunity to gain extensive research and writing experience under the guidance of a full-time public administration faculty member. Each student develops an in-depth understanding of a specialized topic in public administration or urban studies by investigating urban/public policy topics in the San Diego/California border region or by carrying out library research on issues of national or theoretical significance.

Course Requirements:
Students are required to complete a PROPOSAL (synopsis outline of their proposed investigation). It will include the following:

1. a. A concise statement of the problem or issue to be investigated (The purpose of the study is to investigate).  
b. Methodology or research design to be used (survey, direct observation, library research, etc.).  
c. Agreed upon phases of project completion.

2. This PA 497 PROPOSAL (synopsis/outline statement) must be approved by your PA 497 advisor and turned in no later than Week 4.

3. Students must write a short 2 page PROGRESS REPORT—due by week 7. Please hand in a hard copy or email a copy to laherzog@mail.sdsu.edu. The progress report should have the following: a) a summary of work completed to date, b) a bibliography of books, articles and research materials.

3. The final written project report is due the Wednesday of week 14. Absolutely no late papers will be accepted after this date. THE FINAL PAPER SHOULD BE TURNED IN AS HARD COPY ONLY, DO NOT EMAIL.

4. The final paper should be 15-25 pages or more in length (double spaced). It should include the following: a) introduction/rationale for study; b) a literature review, summary of the major thinking on the topic, based on library research; c) any field research or original archival research done on the topic; d) maps, illustrations, photographs, tables (you must use citations on any secondary
materials); e) a complete bibliography using any of the library approved citation styles (Chicago Manual, etc.).

Note: All papers must reflect students having read a MINIMUM of 3 books on the subject, and five or more professional journal articles. These must appear in the bibliography and should be marked with an * to show they were key bibliographic sources. List all other sources consulted as well.

Suggested Topics for Project
Some suggested topics within my area of expertise are listed below:

a. coastal pollution in southern California/northern Baja California  
b. redevelopment of Chula Vista's downtown core  
c. wildfire ecology policy for San Diego  
d. affordable housing policy: how to make it happen  
e. toward sustainable energy for housing  
f. how to undo southern California's suburban sprawl?  
g. immigration reform policy for California  
h. urban transportation policy: Portland vs. San Diego  
i. the future of mass transit as urban policy  
j. security policy along the U.S.-Mexico border  
k. the role of women in urban planning/design  
l. sewage pollution, Mexico and San Diego  
m. Solar energy and the role of green infrastructure  
n. the environmental impacts of military installations in San Diego and other cities (for example, safety issues with military airplanes, etc.)  
o. planning for twin cities: Tijuana and San Diego  
p. tourism development in San Diego-- what can city planners do?  
q. the impact of ballparks and sports facilities on cities

-- Be sure to read the syllabus so you know what is expected of you. As the syllabus notes, you are expected to carry out ORIGINAL RESEARCH, and report it back in the form of a formal research paper. The syllabus describes some general elements that must be included in the paper. Be sure your proposal describes what you plan to research and HOW. You should go to the library and speak with a reference librarian about your topic.

-- Finally, I must remind you that, unlike traditional lecture-style classes, PA 497 emphasizes STUDENTS taking responsibility for designing and carrying out a research paper, and writing up the results in a formal report. The course emphasizes student initiative.

The Role of the Advisor
The “Advisor” is your assigned professor—Dr. Herzog. The advisor plays three parts: a resource person, whom the student uses to get information from, an advisor, who
provides the student with helpful comments and advice on his/her approach to a topic, and an evaluator, who grades the student’s paper.

Students are encouraged to stop by the advisor’s office during the semester.

It is the advisor who must ultimately be satisfied by the student’s work. Final responsibility for a student’s performance in the course rests with the advisor. If you do not complete and hand in your PA 497 written report by the due date, you must contact your advisor and receive his/her permission to be given an incomplete (I) for your grade. If you do not receive such permission, your advisor will automatically be required to give you a (U) for unauthorized withdrawal.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1  Jan. 24  Introduction/orientation—research methods
Week 2.  J. 31  Research methods (cont’d).
Wk. 3   Feb. 7  Topic selection meetings
Wk. 4  Feb. 14  “
Wk. 5  Feb. 21  “
Wk. 6  Feb. 28  “
Wk. 7  March 6  Progress reports due/feedback
Wk. 8  M. 13  “
Wk. 9  M. 20  “
             March 27  NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
Wk. 10  Apr. 3  Research feedback
Wk. 11  Apr. 10  “
Wk. 12  Apr. 17  “
Wk. 13  Apr. 24  “
Wk. 14  May 1  FINAL PAPERS DUE
Wk. 15  May 8  follow up

Notes about course outline:

1. During weeks 1 and 2, the instructor will review the requirements for the class, and focus on research methods.
2. During weeks 3-6, class time will be devoted to one-on-one meetings with instructor to set up research projects.
3. During weeks 7-9, students must turn in a progress report, and meet with instructor to go over the report.
4. During weeks 10-13, students can set up meetings to explore their research projects.
5. FINAL PROJECTS due on May 1. If students want to follow-up, classroom time on May 8 can be used for this purpose.