Instructor: Mark Hamin PhD, mhamin@larp.umass.edu 232 DB, 545-6608 (o)
Class meetings: T/Th 10:00am - 11:15am, Holdsworth 305 (+ Design Building 370 and 360)
Office hours: T/Th 11:30-12:30 or by appt.

Course Description
The purpose of this class is to familiarize students with techniques and strategies for undertaking and producing effective, integrative and collaborative research project proposals and reports, as well as to help students clarify what they may aspire to do professionally in the future and how to achieve their longer-term career goals. The course will expose students to a wide range of project methods and approaches in sustainable community design and planning. This research and data analysis/assessment, to be conducted by teams of students, will help to increase understanding of major topic areas and issues that engage our community sustainability professions. It should also serve as a process for better comprehending project collaboration and integration ‘best practices’. Over the course of the semester, students will draft an approved project proposal, gather relevant data, and craft an effective communication of their topic using a variety of selected media.

Project management is an important life and career skill, a capability that you need in order to be a critical thinker and change agent in any professional situation. For this class, you will select a topic, review the relevant literature, articulate project goals, collect information from a range of sources, and communicate research findings verbally, visually, and in writing, both individually and as part of a team. This is an opportunity for you to weave together the many strands of your education at UMass and in the SUSTCOMM major and to answer the question: what am I going to do in my career as an advocate for sustainable community development? This course satisfies the Integrative Experience requirement for BSSCD (formally BSED) majors.

Learning Objectives
1. To develop the necessary skills to create effective proposals and reports for an integrative, collaborative project, including how to identify project deliverables and prepare a report based on diverse information sources.
2. To gain an understanding of different project techniques and strategies used by designers and planners and a capacity to critically apply and evaluate them in the context of a practical project, according to a professional ethos.
3. To reflect on team-based learning experiences within the General Education IE course and to integrate such reflection with knowledge, skills, and values learned as Sustainable Community Development majors.
4. To apply such knowledge, skills, and values toward new situations and real-world problems and to effectively communicate project outcomes to a wider public audience.

The detailed course syllabus, class announcements, and other resources will be shared in class and via a class email list; please communicate with me by email, phone, or office visit if you have any questions.
Class Format
Class meetings will consist of discussions related to reading documents, personal research/data collection, team-based activities, presentations, and peer reviews. Active involvement in class discussions and projects is essential. All members of the class will be able to review your team draft reports and to provide feedback on your work throughout the course.

Readings (Optional; ordered for previous course, useful for those with future research plans)
https://fcaw.library.umass.edu/F/?func=direct&doc_number=013817558&doc_library=FCL01
(We will also rely on the core texts from SUSTCOMM 574: City Planning and SUSTCOMM 591B: Sustainable Cities -- Cullingworth and Caves; E Hamin et al, eds.; Wheeler and Beatley, eds.; Roseland, which you may already have, or can borrow from instructor or share with peers)

Notes:
1. It is expected that students will complete the readings and assignments prior to coming to the class for which they are assigned.
2. Students must bring their documents, notes, and other materials to class and be prepared to discuss readings and assignments.

Grading

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<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation: attendance, participation, collaborative activities</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Public Forum organization, communication, facilitation and documentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Prospectus and Proposal; team-based process documentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrative Project Reports (including drafts, final paper and presentation media)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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Given the importance of these criteria for evaluating students’ work, anyone who needs to miss a class meeting, turn in an assignment late, or request other arrangements must address such matters with the instructor as far in advance as possible. Please note university policies on conduct: http://www.umass.edu/dean_student/codeofconduct. Ignorance is not an excuse.

[Please note: we may make periodic adjustments to the schedule presented below related to the mid-semester and final LARP studio presentations, conferences, etc., but there will be no new meetings or assignments added]
The University of Massachusetts is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have documented physical, psychological, learning, or other disability filed with Disability Services [http://www.umass.edu/disability/students], you may be eligible for relevant accommodations to help you better succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify us at the start of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements.

It is expected that all students will abide by the Student Honor Code and the Academic Honesty Policy (Academic Honesty [Dean’s] Office or online [http://www.umass.edu/honesty/]). Potential sanctions for academic dishonesty range from receiving a grade of F, probation or suspension for a period of time, or dismissal. Students have a right of appeal through the academic honesty board. *Ignorance is not an excuse.*

Your Library Liaison for research databases and other resources is Madeleine Charney: [http://guides.library.umass.edu/profile.php?uid=5550](http://guides.library.umass.edu/profile.php?uid=5550)

Design Building Drop-in Hours Th 12-2 (beginning 9/28): mcharney@library.umass.edu

Library LARP guide: [http://guides.library.umass.edu/landscape](http://guides.library.umass.edu/landscape)

We are all responsible for maintaining a class environment that is conducive to learning and discussion. In order to assure that we all have the opportunity to gain from our time in class, please review and respect these standards for fostering a more reciprocally responsible learning environment in class and in wider contexts:

- The instructor, guest speakers, and students will recognize and respect each other.
- Respect may include appropriate humor, enjoyment, or other indications of a comfortable and pleasant classroom community.
- We will be on time for class: please plan for no late arrivals and no packing up early.
- We will avoid disruptions during class such as loud noises, private conversations, reading newspapers, speaking on cell phones or texting, using a laptop for something other than current classroom work, and, of course, sleeping (especially snoring). Please be fully present physically and mentally!
- We will avoid negative behavior viewed as racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, or in other ways excluding, disturbing or bullying to members of our local/campus community.

Attendance is not mandated, but is fundamental to your participation/collaboration grades. The instructor reserves the right to give an incomplete or failing grade for any student with over four unexcused absences, and will make exceptions only for medical and family emergencies or other pre-approved reasons. The letter grade equivalents to the numerical scores are:

- $> 93 = A$; $90-93 = A-$; $87-90 = B+$; $83-87 = B$; $80-83 = B-$; $77-80 = C+$; $73-77 = C$
- $70-73 = C-$; $63-70 = D$; $< 63 = F$
Class Schedule *Preliminary: subject to adjustment, but no additional meetings/assignments*

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sept 05:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the Course</strong></td>
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<td>Discussion of the syllabus, course goals and requirements.</td>
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<td><strong>Sept 07:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sustainable Community Research Alternatives</strong></td>
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<td><em>In class activity: Instructor-led / student-led interviews (groups of 3)</em></td>
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<td><em>In class activity: What is Integrative Thinking?</em></td>
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<td><strong>Sept 12:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sustainability Science and Culture</strong></td>
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<td><em>Assignment due: Integrative Thinking paper: knowledge, skills, and values (1-2 pages)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Sept 14:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research Strategies and Techniques</strong></td>
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<td><em>Optional Readings:</em></td>
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<td>The Craft of Research, pp. 3-8. Prologue: Becoming a researcher; Ch. 1: Thinking in print: The uses of research, public and private</td>
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<td><em>Assignment due: Schedule a required meeting with Prof. Mark Hamin</em></td>
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<td><strong>Sept 19:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research Areas and Topics</strong></td>
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<td><em>Assignment due:</em></td>
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<td>Research Interest Area(s): 500 words to describe which subjects areas interest you most.</td>
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<td><em>Topics:</em> Land and Resource Use, Building and Infrastructure Design, Transportation and Mobility/Accessibility, Community Character and Equity, Economic and Financial Base</td>
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<td><em>Tasks:</em> Data Analysis, Spatial Analysis, Case Studies, Interview/Survey</td>
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<td><strong>Sept 21:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Multimedia Communication Resources</strong></td>
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<td><em>Assignment due:</em></td>
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<td>Research various media related to your interest area; present findings to class</td>
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<td><strong>Sept 26:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research Focus and Framework</strong></td>
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<td><em>Optional Readings:</em></td>
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<td>The Craft of Research, pp. 35-65. Ch. 3: From topics to questions; Ch. 4: From questions to a problem</td>
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<td><em>In-class activity: From broad areas to narrow questions</em></td>
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<td><em>Assignment due:</em></td>
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<td>Identify at least 10 relevant data analysis/assessment sources re: area of interest</td>
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**SEPT 28: ENGAGING AND EVALUATING SOURCES**

*Optional Readings:*
- The Craft of Research, pp. 68-99. Ch. 5: From problems to sources, Ch. 6: Engaging sources

*In class activity: Literature Review Tips - Source validity, citation style and disciplinary*

*Assignments due:* Identify a faculty member or expert outside the university for consultation.

**OCT 03: DEVELOPING YOUR RESEARCH SOURCE REVIEW**

*Assignment (ongoing): multi-source research work*

**OCT 05: LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR SUSTCOMM RESEARCH**

Class with Madeleine Charney

*Assignment due:* Before the visit, make sure to explore the following:
- Library's website: www.library.umass.edu/
- Madeleine Charney’s library guide: http://guides.library.umass.edu/landscape
- Refworks: http://guides.library.umass.edu/refworksatumass

*Assignment due:* Short paper: ‘Research Topic’ (1-2 pages, double-spaced)

**OCT 10: NO CLASS (MONDAY SCHEDULE)**

**OCT 12: PEER-REVIEW 1: PROJECT RESEARCH SOURCE REVIEW**

*Assignment due:* Draft Research Source Review: 3-4 pages, double-spaced

*In class activity: Peer review (3 papers per reviewer)*

**OCT 17: SUPPORTING AND CORROBORATING YOUR ARGUMENTS**

*Optional Readings:*
- The Craft of Research, pp.120-149. Ch. 8: Making claims; Ch. 9: Assembling reasons and evidence; Ch. 10: Acknowledgements and responses

*In class activity: Presentation Storyboard*

**OCT 19: RESEARCH DESIGN**

*Optional Readings:*
- Inquiry by design pp. 59-86. Chapter 5: Research Strategy: Approaches, Designs and Settings; Ch. 6: Research Quality
**Oct 24: Research Methods Alternatives**

*In-class Activity: Student presentations (10 min, groups of 5): research methods.*  
*Assignment due: Power Point (method of choice); Handout (1-2 pages)*

**Oct 26: Organizing Your Methodology**

*In-class Activity (cont.): Student presentations (10 min, groups of 5): research methods.*  
*Assignment due: Research Design Outline: 1-2 pages, double-spaced*

**Oct 31: Drafting Your Project Report**

*Optional Readings:*  
The Craft of Research, pp. 177-210. Ch. 12: Planning; Ch. 13: Drafting your report; Ch. 14: Revising your organization and argument

**Nov 02: Working Introduction: Purpose: Question(s), Goal(s), Objective(s)**

*Assignment due: Working Introduction: 4-5-page draft, double-spaced*

**Nov 07: Project Development**

*Optional Readings:*  
The Craft of Research, pp. 211-260. Ch. 15: Communicating evidence visually; Ch. 16: Introductions and conclusions; Abstract  
*In-class work: Bring your sources and notes and be prepared to work on your proposal in class*

**Nov 09: Peer Review 2: Full Draft Project Report**

*Assignments:*  
Draft Proposal 1: ‘Full Draft Proposal’ including abstract, introduction, literature review, methods and conclusion (12-15 page paper, double-spaced, plain font and formatting)  
*In-class Activity: Team Peer Review*

**Nov 14: Revising and Presenting Your Project Report**

*Readings:*  
The Craft of Research, pp. 261-267. Ch. 17: Revising style: telling your story clearly  
*In-class activity: Elevator Pitch*  
*Final Presentations: Instructions and Sign-up*
**Nov 16: Project Report Presentations (1)**

*In-class Activities:*
- Team presentations: You have a choice of developing a poster, video, digital story, or a PowerPoint that presents your proposal.
- Peer reviews: You are expected to attend and evaluate one another’s presentations

*Assignment due:*
- Second Draft proposal: Expanded from previous drafts and revised using feedback from peers and instructors (15 pages double-spaced, plain font and formatting)

**Nov 21 & 23: No Class (Thanksgiving)**

**Nov 28: Project Report Presentations (2)**

Team presentations and peer reviews

**Nov 30: Project Report Presentations (3)**

Team presentations and peer reviews

**Dec 05: Project Report Presentations (4)**

Team presentations and peer reviews

**Dec 07: Proposal Presentations (5)**

Team presentations and peer reviews

**Dec 12: Discussions and Conclusions**

*Assignment due:*
- Turn in Final Project Report by Tuesday Dec 19, 9:00pm