Urban Planning Methods II

URP 5393 - Spring 2022 Syllabus
- Mix of in person and online
- Durango Building 0.216
- Class Zoom link: https://utsa.zoom.us/j/4035198362
- Wednesdays 6-8:45pm
- Class duration: January 18 – May 11
- *Blackboard is the official and most up to date communication outlet.*

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Student hours:
- Mondays, 4-5 pm (class zoom link)
- Wednesdays, 5-6 pm (office or zoom link)

Table of Contents
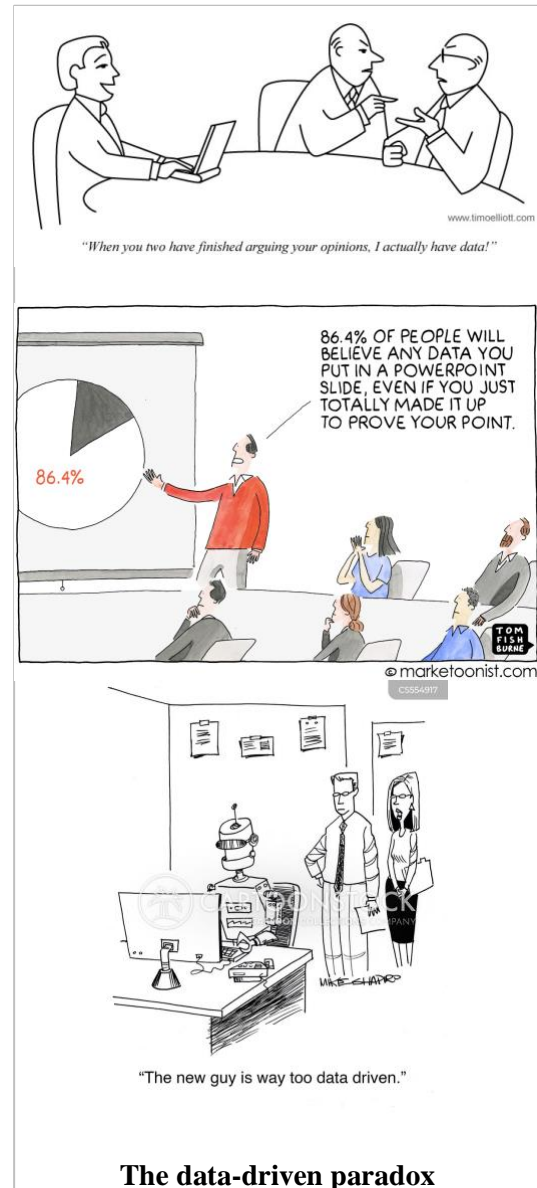
The data-driven paradox

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Design and implementation of quantitative models in urban planning to answer relevant research questions. Emphasis on connecting method to question. Topics include descriptive statistics, difference of means testing, correlation, spatial statistics, regression analysis, and effectively communicating analytic results.

OUTCOMES

This class will present opportunities for students to be able to:
1. Develop an answerable research question for a particular problem or issue of concern in urban planning contexts
2. Select an appropriate method to answer a specific research question
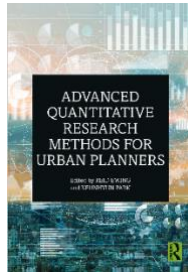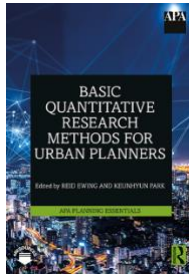3. Demonstrate capacity to develop and utilize quantitative and analytic methods employed in planning practice

4. Demonstrate proficiency in the common statistical methodologies utilized in planning practice
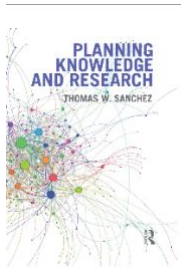
BOOKS
Required

Ewing R. & Park, K. (2020). [BQR] -Basic quantitative research methods for urban planners. APA Planning Essentials. Routledge – Taylor & Francis. ISBN 9780429325021. [Available online by UTSA library]

Ewing R. & Park, K. (2020). [AQR] - Advanced quantitative research methods for urban planners. Routledge – Taylor & Francis. ISBN 9780429325038. [Available online by UTSA library]

Optional

Sanchez, T. (2020). Planning Knowledge and Research. Routledge – Taylor & Francis. ISBN 9781315308715. [Available online by UTSA library]

In addition there will be weeks that book chapters and papers will be required to read, however the instructor will provide those beforehand through blackboard.

COURSE FORMAT

Each class will have two parts: a lecture and a practical part. At the beginning of each lecture, students will be quizzed on the lecture topics about to be covered. Then the faculty will lead the discussion on the lecture topic and introduce the practical laboratory to be developed on the second half of the class. All assignments are due on Sundays before the following class.

There are two exams. A midterm exam that is half based on theory methods knowledge, with a second part to show a practical challenge.

Written assignments will use the American Psychological Association reference style, 7th edition, used by the Journal of the American Planning Association. The publisher has a straightforward guide for referencing this style in-text and reference lists (Taylor & Francis, 2020).

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Lab assignments	50%
Midterm	25%
Final Project	25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Module 1 —

Week	Read	Lecture	Lab Due
1 – Jan 19	BQR, Ch 1, 2	Research questions & social inquires	Lab 1: Jan 23rd
2 – Jan 26	BQR, Ch 3, 4	Matching questions with methods and data	Lab 2: Jan 30th
3 – Feb 2	BQR, Ch 5, 6	Research design	Lab 3: Feb 6th
4 – Feb 9	AQR, Ch 2	Technical writing – SA Tomorrow intro	Lab 4: Feb 14th

Module 2 —

Week	Read	Lecture	Lab Due
5 – Feb 16	BQR, Ch 7	Data and Visualization	Lab 5: Feb 20th
6 – Feb 23	BQR, Ch 8, 9	Chi- Square & Correlations	Lab 6: Feb 27th
7 – Mar 2	BQR, Ch 10, 11	Diff of Means and ANOVA	Lab 7: Mar 6th
8 – Mar 9	BQR, Ch 12	Linear & Logistic Regression + Matching	Midterm Mar 13th

Midterm Exam: Take home exam begins on March 9 ends on Sunday March 13th by midnight (23:59)
Spring Break: March 14-18 (No class or assignments due, *please rest*)

Module 3—

Week	Read	Lecture	Due
9 – Mar 23	AQR, Ch 4	Negative Binomial and Poisson Regression	Lab 8: Mar 27th
10 – Mar 30	AQR, Ch 5, 6	PCA and Cluster Analysis	Lab 9: Apr 3rd
11 – Apr 6	AQR, Ch 9	LISA & Spatial Econometrics	Lab 10: Apr 10th
12 – Apr 13	TBD	Critical Review of Urban Planning plans	Lab 11: Apr 17th

Module 4—

Week	Read	Lecture	Due
13 – Apr 20	SA tomorrow	Project: SA Tomorrow sub-area plan analysis	
14 – May 4	SA tomorrow	Project: SA Tomorrow sub-area plan analysis	
15 – May 11		Final project presentations	

Final Project: Students will pick one of the SA Tomorrow sub-area plans and conduct a critical assessment of the proposed plan. This critical assessment will examine the contents, data used, replicability of the analysis, and potential analysis that can be suggested to better inform the sub-area plan's impact. Students are expected to identify at least one planning method from those covered in class to be applied, what data will be required, what would be the potential results of the analysis and its potential policy implications. Projects that show an application of their critical analysis will be evaluated with distinction. More details will be provided in Blackboard

R BOOTCAMP

This course will use the R software for all Lab assignments. As such all students are strongly encouraged and expected to participate in the "Intro to R Bootcamp for Urban Scientists" to be held on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 of January from 6-8pm via Zoom. In this Bootcamp we will learn the basics of R programming.

GRADING AND FEEDBACK

To view your grades on Blackboard, click on the "Grades" tab on the sidebar menu of our course in Blackboard. If additional feedback has been included with your grade, a speech-bubble icon will appear next to your grade. Clicking on this icon will open a different window on your screen, providing you with feedback. My goal is to grade assignments within one week from posting to Blackboard. Please get in touch with me if you wish to receive detailed feedback.

Following is a general grading rubric, and some assignments will include a more specific rubric:

90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	0-59
The product exhibits clear innovation and excellent delivery—may be ready for professional use.	The product shows full knowledge of the task, precise execution, and minimal errors.	The product clearly addresses the task but includes significant errors.	Product minimally addresses tasks but has serious logic and clarity problems.	The product is incomplete and does not address the stated task.

The final course grade will be based on the following scale:

Grades Scored Between	Will Equal
97.5% and 100%	A+
95% and < 97.5%	A
90% and <95%	A-
87.5% and <90%	B+
85% and <87.5%	B
80% and <85%	B-
77.5% and <80%	C+
75% and <77.5%	C
70% and <75%	C-
67.5% and <70%	D+
65% and <67.5%	D
60% and <65%	D-
0% and <60%	F

LATE WORK

Late work is allowed under some circumstances and with prior approval from the instructor. Points will be deducted at a rate of 10 percentage points per day, including weekends and holidays. Work is accepted up to 7 days after the due date. At that time, the grade will be zero.
Incompletes
Course incompletes will be given only in extreme cases. If you feel you have extenuating circumstances that warrant an incomplete for the course, contact the instructor as soon as possible.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

- Basic computer skills, including online library search and word processing.
- Computer with a web camera and speakers/earbuds/headphones. You can use your device (laptop or desktop). If you need to borrow a device, contact the Tech Café (see contact information below) to inquire about checking out a laptop for the semester.
- For more information on accessing desktop computers on campus in the labs and the library, visit the UTSA Student Connect Computer Lab information page.
- Internet access. Wired or reliable connection recommended for online exams and assignments.
- Google Chrome is the recommended browser. *If you have trouble opening or accessing content, clear the cache and try a different browser*. You can run the Blackboard Browser Checker.
- Access to the Microsoft Office suite and Adobe Creative Cloud suite. These tools are provided free of charge to UTSA students, and you can learn more about this software, including instructions on how to access these programs by visiting the Digital Tool Resources page.
- Review the Blackboard Self Help Portal.
- Review the Minimum Technical Requirements for Online Learning page.

If you have a problem with Blackboard and you have already **cleared the cache** and tried with a **different browser**, please submit a ticket to University Technology Solutions (UTS) Tech Café. Be ready with your course ID and section. A screenshot of the issue will accelerate the troubleshooting process. Always notify the instructor about the issue you are encountering.

University Technology Solutions (UTS) Contact Information
Email UTS Tech Café at techcafe@utsa.edu
Call UTS Tech Café at 210.458.5555
Visit the UTS Tech Café website

INTERPERSONAL INTERACTIONS AND ONLINE NETIQUETTE

We will discuss ideas and topics in class that you may not agree with. It is also possible you will present ideas and topics in class that others will not agree with. It is vital that we respect the opinions of others and behave in a civilized manner during classroom discussions, whether online or in person. To that end, be prepared to back up any opinion you may have with facts rather than emotions. This is a university where we encourage everyone to openly share their ideas and opinions without penalty or judgment, but learning should always be based on facts and research. It is possible to disagree without being disagreeable.

Netiquette represents proper manners and behaviors online. Netiquette refers to the social expectations and behavior norms for online interactions and communications. In the online learning environment, you should follow common social standards. For additional information, read the Digital Learning Netiquette page.

COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE

It is important to understand the issue of intellectual property rights. You may not use the images or thoughts of others for profit or gain without their written permission. The UTSA library has a Copyright Laws and Public Performance Rights (PPR) page.

LOGGING IN TO VIRTUAL DESKTOP (VDI)

UTSA introduced a virtual desktop console, called **MyAppsVDI** (https://myappsvdi.utsa.edu). A virtual desktop allows students to use their own devices (laptops, desktops, tablets, phones, Chromebooks etc.) as an interface. Once you are in the MyAppsVDI website, you will be asked to log in before the programs are streamed to your device.

For more information visit http://utsa.edu/vdi. At this website, you can find answers to **Frequently Asked Questions** like:

What is a VDI/Virtual Desktop?
How does it work?
Who can access VDIs?
How do I access VDI?
May I access the VDI from my tablet or phone?
Why are other users able to see other VDIs that I may not have access to?

As a CEID registered student, you are entitled to see and use the following VDIs:

CACP_VDI
Engineering_VDI
Student_General

Note that once you start working on one of the applications, you will need to save your work on OneDrive or an external drive before logging out. Work will NOT BE SAVED if you log out before saving.

 Users cannot access both the UTSA VPN and MyAppsVDI at the same time.
If you have to use the UTSA VPN, please connect to **MyAppsVDI** first, and then connect to the UTSA VPN.
If you are already using the UTSA VPN, you have to disconnect first. (Some users find it easier to just reboot their computer).

PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

The health and safety of our campus community is a shared responsibility of all Roadrunners. It is important to note that none of us can guarantee a COVID-19 free environment. We all must, however, follow the guidelines outlined in the UTSA Public Health Task Force Report ("Report") and any other applicable policies as may be communicated by the University from time to time. This will include regulating behaviors outlined in the Report including:

- Encouraging the use of face coverings,
- Self-monitoring for symptoms using the Daily Health Check before coming to campus,
- Getting tested for COVID-19 if showing symptoms or after a close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual (if you are not already fully vaccinated and are not symptomatic),
- Following proper hygiene practices, including frequent hand sanitization, using cleansing wipes to disinfect surfaces, and minimizing the use of shared devices, tools and equipment,
- Avoid congregating (i.e. bottlenecking) near the entrances and exits before and after class – keeping your distance to reduce possible transmission from symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals.
- Communicating any COVID-19 related health concern to your supervisor or professor, and
- Submitting a self-report to report your positive test results or exposure (if not fully vaccinated and are also symptomatic for COVID-19 infection).

In turn, faculty members or supervisors will submit a COVID Case Referral to alert the COVID Response Team about positive COVID-19 cases for operational action. Failure to abide by these guidelines and requirements may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or applicable employment policies and procedures. Violations should be reported to the Office of Institutional Compliance via the UTSA Hotline for appropriate action.

Face coverings/masks are recommended in indoor public and common spaces, especially for those individuals who are high risk and/or not vaccinated. For the latest information, please review the Roadrunner Roadmap.

COMMON SYLLABUS INFORMATION

Counseling Services: Counseling Services provides confidential, professional services by staff psychologists, social workers, counselors and psychiatrists to help meet the personal and developmental needs of currently enrolled students. Services include individual brief therapy for personal and educational concerns, couples/relationship counseling, and group therapy on topics such as college adaptation, relationship concerns, sexual orientation, depression and anxiety. Counseling Services also screens for possible learning disabilities and has limited psychiatric services. Visit Counseling Services at http://utsa.edu/counsel/ or call (210) 458-4140 (Main Campus) or (210) 458-2930 (Downtown Campus).

Student Code of Conduct and Scholastic Dishonesty: The Student Code of Conduct is Section B of the Appendices in the Student Information Bulletin. Scholastic Dishonesty is listed in the Student Code of Conduct (Sec. B of the Appendices) under Sec. 203   http://catalog.utsa.edu/policies/administrativepoliciesandprocedures/studentcodeofconduct/

Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas at San Antonio in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities. Only those students who have officially registered with Student Disability Services and requested accommodations for this course will be eligible for disability accommodations. Instructors at UTSA must be provided an official notification of accommodation through Student Disability Services. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.utsa.edu/disability or by calling Student Disability Services at (210) 458-4157. Accommodations are not retroactive.

Transitory/Minor Medical Issues: In situations where a student experiences a transitory/minor medical condition (e.g. broken limb, acute illness, minor surgery) that impacts their ability to attend classes, access classes or perform tasks within the classroom over a limited period of time, the student should refer to the class attendance policy in their syllabus.

Supplemental Instruction: Supplemental Instruction offers student-led study groups using collaborative learning for historically difficult classes. Supported courses and schedules can be found on the TRC website. You can call the SI office if you have questions or for more information at (210) 458-7251.

Tutoring Services: Tomás Rivera Center (TRC) may assist in building study skills and tutoring in course content. The TRC has several locations at the Main Campus and is also located at the Downtown Campus. For more information, visit the Tutoring Services web page or call (210) 458-4694 on the Main Campus and (210) 458-2838 on the Downtown Campus.

Academic Success Coaching: The Tomas Rivera Center (TRC) Academic Success Coaching Program offers one-on-one study skills assistance through Academic Coaching. Students meet by appointment with a professional to develop more effective study strategies and techniques that can be used across courses. Group workshops are also offered each semester to help students defeat common academic challenges. Find out more information on the TRC Academic Success Coaching website or call (210) 458-4694.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct: UTSA is committed to providing an environment free from all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual misconduct, sexual assault, domestic

violence, dating violence, and stalking. If a student has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that UTSA has resources to help.

UTSA faculty have the responsibility to create a learning environment that is safe and free from hostility. State and federal law as well as UTSA's Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP 9.24) require that instructors must report incidents of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct they learn about to the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. This means that if a student tells their instructor about a situation (including classroom discussions, written work and/or one-on-one meetings) involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, the instructor must report it to the EOS/Title IX Office. Although the faculty member must report the situation, the student will still have options about how their case will be handled, including whether or not they wish to pursue a formal complaint. The university's goal is to make sure students are aware of the range of options available to them and have access to the resources they need.

If a student wishes to speak to someone confidentially, they can contact any of the following on-campus resources, who are not required to report the incident to the EOS/Title IX Office: (1) Counseling Services at 210-458-4140; (2) Student Health Services at 210-458-4142; or (3) PEACE Center at 210-458-4077.

Campus Safety & Emergency Preparedness: UTSA is committed to providing a safe campus environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. As members of the community, we encourage you to take the following actions to be better prepared in case of an emergency:

Alerts: Ensure you are signed up for UTSA Alerts through your ASAP.utsa.edu account.

Emergency Procedures: Read through the emergency response guide on the UTSA Alerts website (www.alerts.utsa.edu)

Safety App: Download the LiveSafe App on your phone through the Apple store or Google Play; visit the UTSA Alerts website for details.

Important Numbers: UTSA Police - Emergency: (210) 458-4911; Non-Emergency: (210) 458-4242

Each one of us play a critical role in making sure ALL ROADRUNNERS are safe, know what to do, and how to stay informed during a campus crisis. Don't be scared, be prepared! #UTSAprepared

Inclusivity Statement

The University of Texas at San Antonio, a Hispanic Serving Institution situated in a global city that has been a crossroads of peoples and cultures for centuries, values diversity and inclusion in all aspects of university life. As an institution expressly founded to advance the education of Mexican Americans and other underserved communities, our university is committed to ending generations of discrimination and inequity. UTSA, a premier public research university, fosters academic excellence through a community of dialogue, discovery and innovation that embraces the uniqueness of each voice. Learn more at https://www.utsa.edu/inclusiveexcellence.
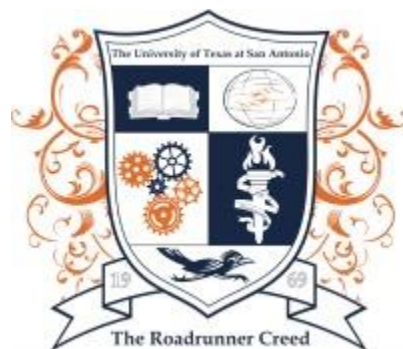
The Roadrunner Creed

The University of Texas at San Antonio is a community of scholars, where integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, respect, collaboration, and innovation are fostered.

As a Roadrunner, I will:

Uphold the highest standards of academic and personal integrity by practicing and expecting fair and ethical conduct;

Respect and accept individual differences, recognizing the inherent dignity of each person;

Contribute to campus life and the larger community through my active engagement; and

The Roadrunner Creed

Support the fearless exploration of dreams and ideas in the advancement of ingenuity, creativity, and discovery.
Guided by these principles now and forever, I am a Roadrunner!