

CourseNo: PLANA8222_001_2013_3

Meeting Location: [FAYERWEATHER 200 S](#)

Meeting Time: R 11:00A-01:00P

Instructor Information: [Jesse M Keenan](#)

Thesis I: Research Methods

Jesse M. Keenan, Research Director

Center for Urban Real Estate (CURE.)

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Fall 2013 Course

1 Unit

Sept. 4th: 5-7pm;

Oct. 10th, Nov. 14th & Dec. 5th: 11-1pm

200 Fayerweather

*(See Files for Updated Syllabus)

Introduction

This foundation course is the first in a sequence within the research and thesis elective of the Real Estate Development Department at GSAPP. Utilizing a singular Built Environment Research text, this course examines the methods of analyzation which unite the two dimensions of real estate finance and the three dimensions of urban systems and form. This course will start with the fundamentals of research strategy and design. It will then progress into three core areas of examination: (i) the research management process

and its corresponding theoretical foundations; (ii) qualitative methods; and, (iii) quantitative methods. Students are exposed to everything from how to design a case study to how to convert a business model into a testable model subject to the objectivity of scholarly rigor. Drawing the ethical and philosophical distinctions between report production and scholarly research, this course attempts to find a balance of techniques which have relevance in both professional and academic contexts. The ultimate goal of the course is for students to develop working methods to which there is an awareness of the design's relative strength and appropriateness for any given plan, problem, site or model.

Students will be evaluated on their development of a thesis topic, research strategy and the initial drafting of an abstract complete with footnotes. The course readings will be limited to one text, so as to allow the students to independently develop their own research. The assigned reading is intended to refine the student's methods and perspectives. As the reading will not be tested directly, time should be properly allocated between balancing independent research and course readings.

All produced written material should be double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 Font, and should be footnoted and cited according to the Law Review standards of the 19th Edition of The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (Harvard Law Review 2010). Topics for each student's project must be approved on or prior to October 7th. Students are required to submit at least one working draft abstract and outline on or prior to December 2nd. There are no word and/or page minimums or maximums. Office hours are by appointment only.

Course Text

Andrew Knight & Les Ruddock, Eds., Advanced Research Methods in the Built Environment (Wiley-Blackwell 2008)

Course Schedule

Introduction to Thesis

Class 1, September 4th, Managing Research, Epistemology, Scientific Theories, Grounded Theory, Case Study/Business Model Research (Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9)

Real Estate Development Methods

Class 2, October 10th, Qualitative & Mixed Methods: Construction Management, Architecture & Legal Research (Chapters 1, 2, 3, optional, 10, 11)

Class 3, November 14th, Quantitative Methods: CRE Financial-Economic Modeling, Computational Scenario Planning, Risk & Network Analysis (Chapters 5, 13, 15)

Thesis Reading

Class 4, December 5th, Seminar Reading of Thesis/Research Abstracts (Chapter 17)