

LAND 640  
**Research Methods**  
(Spring 2013)

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Office Hours: By Appointment

**Required Readings:**

- 1) Campbell, Donald T. and Julian C. Stanley, 1963, (C&S) Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research,
- 2) Shadish, William R., Thomas D. Cook, and Donald T. Campbell (2002) (SC&C) Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, ISBN0 0-395-61556-9.
- 3) Mohr, Lawrence B. (M), 1992, Impact Analysis for Program Evaluation, Sage, ISBN 0-8039-4981-2.

**Course Description:** This course focuses on research methods for landscape architects. This course is particularly oriented toward practical applications of research methods determining design issues. It is less a course for students wanting to learn how to conduct research than it is a course designed to let the students become good consumers of existing research. Topics covered will include: theory of research design, threats to internal and external validity, research designs, comparison and time-series, and Lazarsfeld Elaboration. Course will focus on theory of research design through a lecture and discussion format, supplemented with readings and review of the landscape architecture research literature.

**Course Format:** The course will be organized in a graduate seminar format. Topics to be covered in the course are arranged by week. The first class period will be devoted primarily to lecture, with a focus on the theory and methods involved; however, students are expected to have completed the textbook readings at the time of class. The second class-period of the week will be devoted to clarification and discussion, with a focus on examples and application; students are expected to have completed the literature review assignments in time for the second class of the week.

**Course Requirements:**

Article Reviews (19 articles)	20%
Exams	15%
Assignments	60%
1. Prove it .....	10%
2. Conceptualize it .....	10%
3. Measure it .....	10%
4. Observe it .....	10%
5. Interpret it .....	10%
6. Design it .....	10%
Class Participation	<u>5%</u>
Course Grade	100%

**Article Review Assignments:** Article reviews will be submitted via **eLearning**. Please type or paste your submission in the submission box, or attach a PDF file to your assignment. For each journal article discussed in class briefly summarize the article. Where summaries should include the

- full citation for the article being reviewed, and brief statements of
- the problem addressed by the article,
- the significance of the problem,
- the underlying research design theory employed in the study,
- the nature of the data or evidence for the study,
- the principle findings,
- the implications of the article, and
- the internal and external threats to validity and how they are addressed.

Article reviews should not exceed one single spaced typed page (font size 10 or greater), but should completely summarize the article under review and express areas of major criticism or concurrence.

**Examinations:** All examinations will be administrated via **eLearning**. The mid-term examination will be available at the end of class **February 28** and be due **March 7** before class. The examination will be comprised of essay questions encompassing the material covered to date. The mid-term will be worth 10 points.

The final examination will be available after class **April 25** and be due **May 2** by 2:30 p.m. The examination will be comprised of essay questions encompassing the material covered, with an emphasis on material covered since the mid-term. The final will be worth 10 points.

***ADA Policy:*** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection to persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building. The phone number is 845-1637

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Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct. The Texas A&M Aggie Honor System Office defines it as "The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit." For more information see their website at <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Descriptions/Plagiarism.aspx>

## CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION EVALUATION SCALE

### CLASSIFICATION-DESCRIPTION

- **Superior**—A consistent leader in the discussion/learning of the class. Has read the assigned material for the class meeting and contributes to the understanding of the text and/or analysis of the case or problem under consideration. Listens holistically and responds meaningfully to the comments of other students. An initiator of activity in the class.
- **Above average**—Reasonably frequent participator in the class. Responds to other students as well as instructor. Occasionally takes the lead in introducing a new relevant subject. Volunteers illustrations from her or his own experience or personal knowledge about the subjects under discussion.
- **Average**—Occasional contributions to the class. Occasional responses to the remarks of other students. Rarely initiates a discussion.
- **Below average**—Answers direct questions from the instructor. Seldom, if ever, takes part in class activities.
- **Inferior**—Takes no part in classroom discussion or activities.

Source: Nancy D. Turner, Ph.D TAMU Syllabus for NUTR 481-500

In the Spring of 2013 The Department Head has informed us that:

*“Students in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (LAUP)[except for BLA freshman and PhD students] enrolled in the LAUP courses are required to participate in “Real Projects Design Week” event during January 14 through 18, 2013, in lieu of attending regular scheduled LAUP courses. Students’ participation including attendance during the week will be recorded and provided to LAUP course instructors for use towards your semester grade. Participating students are required to attend the opening ceremony at **8 a.m. on January 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** in the Geren Auditorium (Langford B101) and be actively involved with scheduled activities, including design, planning, writing, presentation, etc. Details of the event can be found at <http://laup.arch.tamu.edu/dw>”*

Hence class will be cancelled between January 14 and 18 as all students are expected to participate in “Design Week” activities. The first class session on January 22 will cover material from the “Introduction and Overview” and continue with “Common Language.”

Schedule of Classes

Week	Dates	Tuesday	Thursday	Reading	Assignments
1	15-Jan	<b>Introduction &amp; Overview</b>			
2	22-Jan	<b>Common Language</b>			
	24-Jan		Kuo, Bacaicoa & Sullivan, "Transforming inner-city landscapes"   Michael, Hull & Zahm, "Environmental factors influencing auto burglary"		<b>1. Prove It</b>
3	29-Jan	<b>Measurement &amp; Validity</b>		M p.107-116	
	31-Jan		Lutik, "The value of trees water openspace reflected in house prices"  Devork & Volder, "Green roof vegetation for North American ecoregions: A literature review"		
4	5-Feb	<b>Research Design &amp; Validity</b>			<b>2. Conceptualize It</b>
	7-Feb		Palmer & Hoffman, "Rating reliability and representation validity in scenic landscape assessments"		
5	12-Feb	<b>One-Shot Case Study</b>		C&S p.6-7	
	14-Feb		Rogers, "Environmental justice dimensions of siting a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility in Texas"   Kweon et al "Large scale environmental knowledge"		
6	19-Feb	<b>One-Group Pretest-Posttest Design</b>		C&S p.7-12	
	21-Feb		Hull & Stewart, "Validity of photo-based scenic beauty judgments"		<b>3. Measure It</b>
7	26-Feb	<b>Static-Group Comparison</b>		C&S p.12-13	
	28-Feb		Fazal, "The need for preserving farmland"  Kuo & Sullivan, "Aggression and violence in the inner city"		
8	5-Mar	<b>Pretest-Posttest Control Group Design</b>			
	7-Mar		Chapin, Deyle & Baker, "A parcel-based GIS method for evaluating conformance of local land-use planning with a state mandate to reduce exposure to hurricane flooding"  Evans, Hygge & Bullinger, "Chronic noise and psychological stress"		<b>Mid Term Due</b>

Week	Dates	Tuesday	Thursday	Reading	Assignments
9	12-Mar	<b>Spring Break</b>			
	14-Mar	<b>Spring Break</b>			
10	19-Mar	Posttest-Only Control Group & Solomon Four Design		C&S p.25-27	
	21-Mar		Rogers & Sukolratanamete, "Neighborhood design & sense of community"   Lange & Shaeffer, "A comment on the market value of room with a view"		<b>4. Observe It</b>
11	26-Mar	Time Series		C&S p.37-43	
	28-Mar		Rogers & DeFee, "Long-term impact of development on a watershed: early indicators of future problems"   Noon, "A model of created wetland primary succession"		
12	2-Apr	Equivalent Time Samples Design		C&S p.43-46	<b>5. Interpret It</b>
	4-Apr		Evans & Carrere, "Traffic congestion, perceived control, and psychophysiological stress among urban bus drivers"   Ulrich, "View through a window may influence recovery from surgery"		
13	9-Apr	Nonequivalent Control Group Design			
	11-Apr		Parsons et al "The view from the road: Implications of stress recovery and immunization"		
14	16-Apr	Separate-Sample Pretest-Posttest Control Group Design		C&S p.53-54   C&S p.55	<b>6. Design It</b>
	18-Apr		Separate-Sample Pretest-Posttest Design		
15	23-Apr	Poster Presentations		C&S p.67-71	
	25-Apr		Poster Presentations		
16	30-Apr	No Class	Redefined as a Friday		
17	2-May	Final Exam Due			<b>Final Exam</b>