

## **EST 797 Environmental Studies Research Seminar Syllabus (#41530) Spring 2009**

Instructor: Professor Richard Smardon, Ph.D. Meeting time: Mondays 11:40 - 12:35

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The objectives of this research seminar are to:

1. Have students develop research questions and subsequent research design utilizing appropriate theory & methodology
2. Become familiar with both quantitative and qualitative research methods that can be utilized within Environmental Studies research
3. Be able to critique and “unpack” an environmental studies research design and results.

The course will begin with each student developing a series of research questions and then focusing on one research question set. This will be followed by hypotheses development, research theory and methodology, and anticipated outcomes. Each student will produce a full research proposal in stages, with peer review plus a pertinent literature review. Reviews of other submitted research proposals will be included as well as class presentations. There will be no class exams as such but a series of work products culminating in the final research proposal.

### **Schedule**

- Jan. 12 – week one – Introduction to course + developing research questions  
Assignment develop research question sets  
Readings: White; 1<sup>st</sup> three chapters
- Jan. 19-week two - Discussion of research question development –  
Review research question sets in class  
Assignment: refine question set for next class  
Readings: White; Last two chapters
- Jan 26-week three - Research design and literature search  
Second refined question set due  
Assignment- start literature review on student topic  
Readings; Davis Parts 1 & 2 plus USEPA sections
- Feb. 2 -week four - Qualitative research methods and theory  
Assignment-continue literature searches  
Readings Davis; Part 3 plus USEPA sections
- Feb. 9 –week five - Quantitative research methods and theory  
Literature searches due  
Assignment: outline for research proposal design  
Readings: Davis: Part 4
- Feb. 16 – week six- Research design tracking plus review of research outlines in class  
Assignment revise research designs
- Feb 23 – week seven Review in class 2<sup>nd</sup> draft research designs  
Assignment: Continue to refine research designs  
Readings: USEPA appropriate sections

- March 2 – week eight How to write a research proposal plus review of NSF proposal submitted in class.  
Assignment: Find and review a research article close to your research topic
- March 16 -week nine Presentation of reviews in class & hand in  
Assignment: Continue to work on research proposals
- March 23-week 10 Discussion of proposal writing strategies, especially interdisciplinary proposals  
Assignment; Continue to work on proposals
- March 30 - week 11 Research results & manuscript writing for publication  
Assignment: Prepare proposals for class presentation
- April 6 -week 12 Presentation of final proposals in class (1/2 class)
- April 13 -week 13 Presentation of Final proposals in class (1/2 class)
- April 27 - week 14 Last class – class evaluations plus debrief  
Final research proposal due

**Textbooks:**

- Davis, M.B. 2007. **Doing a Successful Research Project Using Quantitative or Qualitative Methods**, Macmillan Press
- White, P. 2009. **Research Questions to research Design; A guide for Students, Researchers and Practitioners**, Macmillan Press
- USEPA.2002. **Community, Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding Sense of Place**. USEPA (EPA 842-B-01-003), Office of Water, Washington, DC.