

**URS 410 Urban Empirical Research (4cr)**  
*Winter 2000*  
5:35-8:15 Tuesday or Thursday  
330 CA

**Instructors:** Jay D. Gatrell, Ph.D      **Course Website:** <http://www.wright.edu/~jay.gatrell>  
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**Office Hours:** MWTh 4-5:15pm

**Purpose & Objective:** Introduces students to research and data collection methods used to explore and explain urban issues. Preparation course for URS 411 and students interested in empirical research. Investigates what makes research useful, valid, and ethical. Requires evaluating and developing research designs. The course will include the preparation and presentation of a research proposal. In addition to the proposal, students will be asked to review/critique a scientific article.

**Required Text:**

**Locke, L., Spiruduso, W., and Silverman, S.** 2000. *Proposals that Work: A guide for planning dissertation and grant proposals.* Thousand Oaks: Sage.

**Reserve Note Pack (provided by Dr. Gatrell)**

**Lecture Slides On-Line** <http://www.wright.edu/~jay.gatrell>

**Hyperstat On-Line** (an introductory statistics text with links to others). [davidmlane.com/hyperstat/index.html](http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/index.html)

**Recommended Text:**

**Grossman, J (ed).** 1993. *Chicago Manual of Style (14<sup>th</sup> Edition)* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Students are responsible for all lecture, assigned readings, & class participation. For the purposes of evaluation, attendance will be taken randomly 6 times during the quarter. You will **not** be penalized for 1 absence. **(5X5=25 Points)**.
2. Since this is a writing intensive course, several writing assignments will be assigned and evaluated on style. Writing style will be assessed based on general structure, technical accuracy, and overall 'read'. Style will be given a pass or fail grade. The purpose of these assignments is to fulfill the writing intensive requirement--as well as prepare you for the next course in this sequence 411. Upon completion of this course, you will have a draft of a working proposal that you may or may not use as your 411 project. Each of these assignments builds up to the proposal and portions of their content can easily be integrated into the final proposal. **TO PASS THE COURSE & WRITING INTENSIVE SECTION YOU MUST TURN IN ALL ASSIGNMENTS. THE FINAL PROPOSAL WILL BE CONSIDERED YOUR 4<sup>th</sup> HOUR PROJECT. STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DR. GATRELL'S GIS COURSES ARE EXPECTED TO WRITE A PROPOSAL FOR A GIS PROJECT.**

Assignments: Writing

- |                                       |           |              |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Article Review (2 to 3 pgs)        | -         | P/NP         |
| 2. Proposal Draft (5 to 7 pgs)        | -         | P/NP         |
| 3. <u>Final Proposal (5 to 7 pgs)</u> | 35        | P/NP         |
|                                       | <b>35</b> | <b>P/NOP</b> |
3. Students will be expected to demonstrate a general knowledge of quantitative research methods. To demonstrate this knowledge, a series of exercises will be assigned. **TO PASS THE COURSE YOU MUST TURN IN ALL ASSIGNMENTS.**

**Assignments: Statistics**

Notation & Data Type	5
Central Tendency & Dispersion	10
Standardized Variables, Probability & Normal Distribution	10
Z-Test & T-Test	10
Chi-Square/Re-Code	10
OLS	10 (if time is available)

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**55**

4. A midterm exam will be given in Week 5. **(20pts)**
5. 5-7 Minute Presentation of Research Proposal **(10 pts)**
6. The grading scale is as follows:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%

Note: Grades will be rounded up to the nearest full percent.
7. Students are responsible for maintaining academic integrity
8. To pass the course—ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN.

**Additional Information**

1. Dictionaries or other electronic/non-electronic aids will **NOT** be permitted. Calculators will be permitted.
2. Graded materials will be discarded after 1 quarter (or complete summer term). However, grade sheets and spreadsheets (if applicable) will be maintained.
3. **Late assignments will not be accepted for full or partial credit.** The window for accepting assignments extends from anytime prior to the start of class and up to 5 minutes following the start of class the day on which it is due. *WHETHER OR NOT CREDIT IS ASSIGNED, ALL WORK MUST BE TURNED TO PASS THE CLASS.*
3. All items, rules, and codes of conduct detailed in the student and faculty handbooks apply.

*WSU is committed to the ideals and principles of social justice. I agree with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. WSU does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further a positive learning environment within the WSU community in this class will be greatly appreciated and given the utmost consideration. Additionally, if you have any special needs please do not hesitate to bring those needs to my attention.*

*NOTE: Course Outline Subject to Change*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Homework Due</i>
Week 1	Course Outline & Objectives Philosophies of Social Science Data Collection & Types	
Week 2	Culture of Research Notation Quick Library Walk	
Week 3	Central Tendency & Dispersion Literature: Part 1 -Methods -Concepts	<b>Notation</b>
Week 4	Std. Variables, Probability, & Normal Distribution Population v. Sample Literature: Part 2	<b>Central Tendency</b>
<i>Article to be Reviewed</i> O'hUallachain, B. and Reid, N. 1991. The location and growth of business and professional services in American metropolitan areas, 1976-1986. <i>Annals of the American Association of Geographers</i> 81:254-70.		
Week 5	The Research Question "Mid-Term"	<b>Distribution</b>
Week 6	Z & T Test The Proposal: What's in It?	<b>Article Review</b>
Week 7	Chi-Square & Crosstabs Working with SPSS: Quick Demonstration	<b>Z &amp; T Tests</b>
Week 8	Correlation & OLS	<b>Draft Mock Proposal</b>
Week 9	Working Session on Returned Mock Proposals	<b>Chi-Square</b>
Week 10	Student Presentation of Research Proposal	<b>OLS</b>
Exam Week	Proposal Due at Final Exam Period	<b>Final Proposal Due (if time allows)</b>