

Course Title: Theory & Theorizing in Planning & Environmental Design

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Office Hours: please email for an appointment

Time: Tuesday, Thursdays 12:00 – 13:50

Location: tba

Course Description

This course is designed to supplement EVDS 753 in enabling the research student (MEdes or PhD) to think critically (& in greater depth) about the theories they are applying or devising, which will underlie their research proposal. It aids in avoiding many of the common pitfalls in thinking about & designing research.

Introduction

The first section will present some useful concepts & distinctions which are necessary for critical thinking. The second examines theories within the old (modernist) paradigm, which are still influential in many disciplines. The second section examines theories within newer (post-positivist) approaches. These sections employ case studies from public policy, planning and management at different scales – community, urban and regional – to develop an awareness of the complexity in applying theory to actual situations. The fourth section looks critically at some concepts which are currently influential, and the difficulties which may arise in different applications.

Outline

1. Thinking

Theory & theorizing – some useful distinctions

Different descriptive accounts - causal & intentional

Science & scientism/positivism

Social science & social institutions

Different worldviews – modern, post-modern, pragmatic/post-positivist

Communication as interpretation

Normative & ethical thinking

2. Old Paradigm (Modernist) Theories

of Public Design, Planning, Policy, Management

Old paradigms & new approaches

Social reform

Rationalist

Critiques

3. *Newer Approaches (Post-Positivist) Theories of Public Design, Planning, Policy, Management*

Liberalism & neo-liberalism (Rawls)

Social learning & communicative/dialogical approaches (Friedmann, Innes)

Progressive/equity approaches (Forester, Krumholz)

Critical approaches (Habermas, Foucault)

Dialogical approaches (Healey, Stein & Harper)

Critiques

4. *Popular Concepts*

Sustainability

Resilience

Health

Complete Communities

New Urbanism & Smart Growth

Complexity & Chaos

Format

lectures, group presentations of cases, individual presentations of current concepts.

Textbooks

(recommended for purchase)

Project Management Institute 2012. *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide) Fifth Edition*

R. Mulcahy 2006. *PM Crash Course*. RM Publications.

Suggested Readings

Will be available online

Evaluation:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1) Case presentation | 20% |
| 2) Written case report | 20% |
| 3) Seminar on concept | 30% |
| 4) Written report on concept | 30% |

Note: *A satisfactory grade is required on each of the last two course components to receive a passing grade in the course.*

Grading Scale

All grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range.

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	92.5-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	85-92.49	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	80-84.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	76-79.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	73-75.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-72.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	66-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	63-65.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	60-62.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	56-59.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	50-55.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-49.99	

Notes:

- A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

NOTES: Other Relevant Course Related Policies and Procedures

Written work, term assignments and other course related work may be submitted to the course dropbox on Blackboard. Such submissions will be considered to have met deadlines. In addition, please submit hard copies on the next working day.

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>) Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Plagiarism - Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work

(this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test), (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author, (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or, (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.

Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)

Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)

Contact Info for: Student Union (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/contact>); Graduate Student representative (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights>).