

CP 8990: Applied Research Paper

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: CP 8990

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Andris, Clio

Course Description

Register for 2 credits in the Fall and 2 credits in the Spring. If you would like to do something different than this, you should ask me, explaining why this might be appropriate. The assignments and grading weights below will be predicated on a 2/2 credit registration regardless.

Course Learning Outcomes

-By enrolling in this course, students will gain experience in performing independent studies on topics that are not taught in a formalized course setting.

-Submit a publishable paper.

Grading Policy

Attendance Policy

This course does not include scheduled class meetings. The frequency and format of student–faculty contact are determined by mutual agreement and are consistent with the number of credit hours for which the student is enrolled.

Academic and Research Honesty/Integrity Statement

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review the student [Code of Conduct](#) and the [Academic Honor Code](#), especially [Appendix A: Graduate Addendum to the Academic Honor Code](#).

Students are expected to perform research in an ethical and responsible manner. All Doctoral and Master’s Thesis students are required to take the [Responsible Conduct of Research training](#), and it is expected that students abide by the principles taught in that training while performing research.

Allegations of scientific or scholarly misconduct are handled in accordance with the procedures outlined by the [Policy for Responding to Allegations of Scientific or Other Scholarly Misconduct](#).

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs. [contact the Office of Disability Services](#)

Student-Faculty Expectations

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The [Expectations of Advisors and Advisees](#) articulates some basic expectations that you can have of your advisor and that they can have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. In addition, a GRA must meet the employment performance expectations and conduct outlined in the [Graduate Student Employment Manual](#).

Below topics and guidelines are courtesy of the MCRP Program Director

Grading: The Fall semester grade will be based on the following deliverables and weights:

Brief proposal on 2-3 topics	5%
Detailed workplan and bibliography	25%
Draft prospectus	35%
Complete and coherent prospectus	35%

If Spring-Fall schedule, 5% peer review comes out of draft prospectus grade

The Spring semester grade will be based on the following deliverables and weights:

Preliminary results described	20%
Full draft paper	20%
Peer review	5%
Final paper	55%

Required Course Materials

Recommended Reading:

- The Introduction Formula: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/khead/research/research-advice/formula>
- Booth, Colomb, & Williams (2014). *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.

Be sure to spend some time looking through old option papers here:

<https://planning.gatech.edu/mcrp-research-papers>. Ask some faculty if they can suggest one or two very good papers that have been done in recent years.

FALL SEMESTER

Students will meet with the Professor on the week following the assignment date based on scheduling with the group.

By Final Friday of August DRAFT BRIEF PROPOSAL ON 2-3 TOPICS

For each topic you should describe as best you can the research question and general research approach you are thinking of using. This should be no more than 1-2 pages.

5% of semester grade. 25% deduction for being late. Not accepted after one week late. Meeting the week following submission. (Meeting 1)

By 2nd Friday of October DETAILED WORKPLAN AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1) A detailed work plan that provides some background on the research topic, more clearly articulates the research question(s), and identifies how you will go about addressing these questions (including describing the basic research design and methods, any existing data that will be obtained, and any data to be collected).
- 2) A bibliography on your topic with at least 30 references (this means you will have skimmed more than 30). This should include any relevant formal scholarly literature but also any applied “gray” literature, important media coverage, etc.

25% of semester grade. 25% deduction for being late. Not accepted after one week late. Meeting the week following submission. (Meeting 2)

By 2nd Friday of November FIRST DRAFT OF PROSPECTUS

A first draft prospectus for your project which must include the following annotated outline for the full paper, understanding that this may change considerably later.

The annotated outline should incorporate:

- a. A placeholder for the introduction (will write at the end).
- b. A draft literature review/background section. If you do not know how to write a literature review, look at some in the *Journal of Planning Literature*. At this point, I will accept a detailed outline of this section.
- c. A fully developed outline and discussion of the remaining work plan and the research design.
- d. A description of all data sources to be used. If you are using “off the shelf” (e.g., census data), then you should describe the fields/variables you will need and the geographies. If new data are to be collected via a survey, a draft survey instrument should be included. If interviews are planned, a draft list of interview questions should be included.
- e. A description of all methods that will be used to analyze the data.
- f. Placeholders for results, discussion, and conclusion sections as needed.
- g. A References section with all works cited.
- h. Appendices as needed.

35% of semester grade. 25% deduction for being late. Not accepted after one week late. Meeting the week following submission. (Meeting 3)

By 1st Friday of December COMPLETE & COHERENT FULL PROSPECTUS

A full prospectus for your project which must include all elements from the draft prospectus plus a completed literature review/background section. Revise all sections as possible. By this time you should be collecting your data already and you should describe them.

35% of semester grade. 25% deduction for being late. Not accepted after one week late. Meeting the week following submission. (One on one meeting as needed)

SPRING SEMESTER

By 1st Friday of February PRELIMINARY RESULTS DESCRIBED

- 1) Basic description of empirical results (summary statistics; analytical/inferential statistics; maps; interview results; etc.)
- 2) Revised, full outline of complete paper that incorporates my suggestions and the preliminary results.

20% of semester grade. 25% deduction for being late. Not accepted after one week late. Meeting the week following submission. (Meeting 4)

By 2nd Friday of March FULL DRAFT PAPER

This should be a *complete* and *coherent* draft paper, and not a description or collection of preliminary results. While length may vary greatly depending on the type and nature of the paper, I generally expect something in the range of 10,000 to 18,000 words *plus* tables, figures, and references. The draft should include all references.

20% of semester grade. 25% deduction for being late. Not accepted after one week late. Meeting the week following submission. (Meeting 5)

By 3rd Friday of March PEER REVIEW OF FULL DRAFT PAPER

Students will complete peer review for at least one other option paper. This feedback will be submitted as a Word document showing comments and suggestions through track changes. Student reviewers will also write a 2-3 paragraph review summary commenting on:

- 1) The paper addresses an issue of major concern for planning research and/or practice.
- 2) The paper makes a significant and/or original contribution to that issue.
- 3) Methods are explicit, sound, and appropriate for the submission.
- 4) Writing and any additional aspects of the paper (e.g., graphs, tables, etc.) are direct, clear, and effective.

While review for grammar and writing style may be appreciated, the focus should be primarily on content and organization of ideas.

5% of semester grade. 25% deduction for being late. Not accepted after one week late. Meeting the week following submission. (Meeting 6)

By 2nd Friday in April FINAL PAPER (INCLUDING ALL REVISIONS SPECIFIED BY ME)

The final product should be revised, edited and proofread.

55% of semester grade. 25% deduction for being late. Not accepted after one week late.