PADM 298, **Research Project** in Public Administration Section 01, **Spring** 2017

Instructor: Peter Haas

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:00-5:30pm (BT 451, as a rule)

Class Days/Time: 6pm – 8:45pm

Classroom: Clark 216

Prerequisites: PADM 210, 212, 213, 214 and 218; instructor consent; chair

consent.

Advanced individual research and projects.

Prerequisites are PADM 210, PADM 212, PADM 213, PADM 214 and PADM 218; consent of instructor and consent of department chair.

If the final project is not completed in one semester, the students will register in PADM 290R for the second and following semesters. The project must be completed within seven years of starting the MPA courses. See the following URL for details.

http://www.sisu.edu/gape/current_students/completing_masters/#11

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Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1 Demonstrate the ability to conceptualize problems from complex, real world situations so the problems are meaningful to clients, and are research worthy

CLO 2 Demonstrate ability to collect, analyze, and synthesize information

Student and instructor will select appropriate supportive materials based on the topic selected and the research method employed.

Crystal Goldman, crystal.goldman@sjsu.edu.

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

This course has no regular class meetings. The student and adviser will develop a work plan designed to enable the student to successfully complete a graduate-level, thesis quality project that meets the goals of the Course Learning Objectives listed above. The student and adviser will meet on an agreed-upon schedule, as shown on the Yellow Card. Iterations of the final draft will be delivered at a time and place agreed on by the student and adviser. Course completion requires submission of the final draft in bound form to the MPA Program Director.

The final project will consist of the following segments:

Format:

The title page should contain the title and author on separate lines, centered, followed by the phrase, "A Thesis Quality Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Masters of Public Administration." The prospectus must be word processed, double spaced using Times New Roman 12 point type. Pages should be numbered beginning with the page after the title page. A sample page is available.

Segments of the Final Project:

1. Introduction/ Research Question/ Problem Statement. In the first paragraph you should state clearly the research question/problem statement that the project will address. In the next few paragraphs you need to give whatever general information is required for your reader to fully understand the context of your research question/problem statement. This may involve the basic facts of the situation, and the historical, cultural, social, and political context. This was part of your prospectus. However, in the final paper the information will be stated in the past tense, as the research will have been completed.

2. Literature Review: The PADM 298 project should contain a comprehensive review of the relevant literature and published reports on the subject of your research question/ problem statement. The purpose of the review is to sharpen your thinking on your topic, and may point you in directions you had not previously considered. The literature review will vary in length. If, for example, you are analyzing a particular public policy question, your entire paper may consist of a review and analysis of public documents. For those engaging in survey research or organizational analysis, the literature review may be as short as six to ten pages.

The literature review covered in the prospectus will be the core of your paper's literature research. You may discover additional sources and so it should probably expand, but the bulk of your sources should already be in the prospectus.

The format of the literature review is an essay describing the available literature related to your topic. You should present the literature in logical order and grouped by relevance to topics in your outline. In the essay you will cite the author's last name and date of the article in APA intext citation style. See Dr. Sylvia's article available on the MPA Student Association's ning site, and distributed at the Prospectus Workshop or in PADM 297.

3. Methodology. This will have been created for your prospectus. It should not change without permission of your adviser. Describe the specific methods that you have used to obtain the data for your project. You may use data analysis, survey research, or any other professional or academic method. The Sylvia and Sylvia or the Haas and Springer books used in PADM 213 provide a number of examples of evaluation methodologies. Bardach and other public policy textbooks are also good guides. The methodology must be appropriate to the subject and your purpose in researching it, and complete, as it guides your research work. Note that while this was part of your prospectus, in the final project it will be in past tense because the research will have been completed,

Additional Segments of the Completed Paper

The finished paper will include the introduction, literature review and methodology that were part of the prospectus, and 2 additional sections.

- 4. Findings: This section constitutes the main body of your paper. You report on what you found. Interviews, data tables or analyses of public policy questions may be appropriate. This section could vary between ten and fifty pages, depending on the topic and methodology.
- 5. Analysis and Conclusion: In this section you interpret your findings and make recommendations (when appropriate) and /or draw conclusions that are grounded in the Findings section. This section may range from 5 to 20 pages.

The program does not have a fixed standard for length. Generally, successfully completed projects are between 40 and 60 pages in length. If you expect to write a longer paper, the acceptable length should be discussed with and approved by the adviser.

TOTAL SCORE FOR PROJECT Overall Assessment:

Excellent Good Marginal

Unacceptable

