

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
**URBP 297P – PLANNING REPORT PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL**  
**FALL 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor(s):	T. William Lester, Associate Professor
Office Location:	Not Yet Assigned
Telephone:	Not Yet Assigned
Email:	<a href="mailto:thomas.lester@sjsu.edu">thomas.lester@sjsu.edu</a>
Office Hours:	Students are welcomed and encouraged to make individual meetings with the instructor by signing up online at <a href="https://thomaswlester.youcanbook.me/">https://thomaswlester.youcanbook.me/</a>
Class Days/Time:	7:30 – 9:00 pm on six Thursdays 8/20, 9/3,9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 11/12
Classroom:	<a href="https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1369772">https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1369772</a>
Prerequisites:	None
Units:	1

**Course Description**

Advanced research and proposal writing. Students conduct background research and develop a preliminary

translate them into answerable research questions. This begins with how to motivate your question, how to phrase it in a way that will be important to policy makers and the public at large. Students will learn how to frame effective research questions and identify appropriate peer-reviewed literature relevant to their research topic. In addition, the class explores the question of how to identify which research methods might be appropriate to answer a research question. Finally, students will develop their skills at providing constructive feedback on a colleague's writing.

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**Literature review plan:** In consultation with the instructor, each student will map out a literature review plan and develop a personalized reading list. This document will be posted to Canvas.

**Tell a story with (or without) data:** This is a short (1-2) page written assignment that is intended to teach students how to motivate their research questions with some descriptive analysis using publicly available data. The document should include at least one data visualization and a clearly stated argument that helps the reader understand the importance of the overall project. For students conducting qualitative research this post can include a brief interview or narrative about a person impacted by a planning decision, or a mini ethnography from a place or neighborhood. The goal of this assignment is to tell a story.

**Research Proposal Draft:** Students should prepare a draft of their research proposals for 298A by November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Research Proposal:** After receiving written and verbal feedback from the instructor student should submit a final research proposal on December 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the final evaluation component of this course and the goal is the have a high-quality proposal ready for enrollment in URBP 298A.

### Grading Information

Assignments in this course will be graded proportionately as follows:

Assignment	% of Grade	Due Date	CLO
Idealogs	10	Ongoing	1-4
Literature review plan	10	Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	1-4
Tell a story with data	10	Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup>	

This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible accommodations (e.g. temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording). Students are prohibited from recording course materials and/or distributing downloaded recordings outside of the class.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

The San José State University community recognizes that the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, with an enrolled Bureau of Indian Affairs documented membership of over 550, is comprised of all of the known surviving American Indian lineages aboriginal to the San Francisco Bay region who trace their ancestry through the Missions Santa Clara, San José, and Dolores, during the advent of the Hispano- European empire into Alta California; and who are the successors and living members of the sovereign, historic, previously Federally Recognized Verona Band of Alameda County. The San José State University community also recognizes the importance of this land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone people of this region, and consistent with our principles of community and diversity strives to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe whose land we occupy.

### **Citation style**

It is important to properly cite any references you use in your assignments. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning uses Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition (University of Chicago Press, 2013, ISBN 780226816388). Copies are available in the SJSU MLK Library. Additionally, the book is relatively inexpensive, and you may wish to purchase a copy. Please note that Turabian's book describes two systems for referencing materials: (1) "notes" (footnotes or endnotes), plus a corresponding bibliography, and (2) in-text parenthetical references, plus a corresponding reference list. The instructor prefers the latter.

### **Accommodation for Disabilities**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at

[http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires

**SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services**

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling and Psychological Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

## Course Schedule

Note: Students will be expected to complete additional readings based on their individualized consultation with Dr. Lester.

### **Class #1 8/20: Introduction**

Readings:

Creswell, Chapter 1. "Chapter 1 The Selection of a Research Approach"

Creswell, Chapter 6 "The Purpose Statement"

### **Class #2: 9/3: Finding your Niche: Conducting an Efficient Literature Review**

Due before class: Idealog post #1

Readings:

Creswell, Chapter 2. "Review of the Literature" and Chapter 3 "The Use of Theory"

[How to Write a Literature Review](https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/literature-review/), <https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/literature-review/>

### **Class #3 9/17: Designing Research and Finding Data Sources**

*Due before class: Literature Review Plan*

Readings:

Creswell, Part II "Designing Research"

### **Class #4 10/1: Research Ethics and Research Impact**

Readings: Creswell, Chapter 4 "Writing Strategies and Ethical Consideration"

Familiarize yourself with SJSU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) policies

[\(https://www.sjsu.edu/research/irb/\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/research/irb/)

### **Class #5 10/15: Feedback, Revisions and the Writing Process**

"Tell a Story with Data" Assignment Due

Agenda:

- Student presentations of "Tell a Story with Data" assignments
- The "Dos and Don'ts" of giving feedback
- Writing tips

Readings:

Jensen, Joli Write No Matter What: Advice for Academics (Part II: Using Tools that Work).