

# UD 701 URBAN SPACE RESEARCH

Course Code:	8550701
METU Credit (Theoretical-Laboratory hours/week):	3(3-0)
ECTS Credit:	6.0
Department:	Urban Design
Language of Instruction:	English
Level of Study:	Master's
Course Coordinator:	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anlı ATAÖV, Ender PEKER
Offered Semester:	Fall Semesters

## Course Objective

*This course introduces graduate students to the research process design while focusing on selected qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method research approaches as well as proposal writing. This takes a different focus from some available departmental and non-departmental research methods courses.*

*The course aims to identify directions towards conducting research for understanding the urban space that involves multi-dimensional aspects. The course focuses on the different types of research approaches in design and planning, their ontological positions and epistemological frameworks, selected research methods and techniques.*

*The course addresses the selection, development, and analysis of various types of methodological instruments and procedures for conducting research about the physical environment. It also seeks to create opportunities for discussion about research processes and comparison among different methods through a review of applied research projects. Furthermore, the course aims to allow students to start up with developing the proposal of their post-graduate research projects.*

## Course Content

*This course stands on the premise of improving students' skills in the processes of working collaboratively toward liberating outcomes, working both as a stakeholder and as a facilitator. Each student has his/her experiences and standpoint to offer which will differ from what others have to offer.*

*Thus, the class will normally move between mini-lectures, presentations, small group work, and collaborative plenary sessions. Small group work will rely on the students to form a self-managing group, expressing their own expertise and interests in the process of modifying the itinerary of the course and experiencing participatory group processes. At the end of each class, the students will join other graduate students who will be willing to present his/her research project at whatever stage he/she is. Each week will focus on one presentation. Each presentation will be followed by a group discussion.*

## Weekly Program

(Week 1) INTRODUCTION

*Overview of the course, class conduct, requirements, and evaluation (September 29, 2011)*

*(Week 2) SENSE MAKING*

*What is knowledge? What does it look like? How do we make sense? (October 6, 2011)*

*(Week 3) OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS FOR SENSE MAKING I: thought*

*The ontological positions and epistemological frameworks of experimental and quasi-experimental research (October 13 2011)*

*(Week 4) OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS FOR SENSE MAKING II: thought and action*

*The ontological positions and epistemological frameworks of action-based research (October 20, 2011)*

*(Week 5) OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS FOR SENSE MAKING III: applications*

*Review and reflection on research cases applied by using experimental, quasi-experimental, and action-based approaches (October 27 2011)*

*(Week 6) Designing Research I: PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS*

*Determination of research questions and hypotheses; identification of appropriate methodological approach (November 3 2011) -1st proposal submission*

*(Week 7) Data Gathering Methods/Techniques: PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION*

*The purpose of using the participant observation technique; the data gathering principles; the documentation of data; the transformation of data into a meaningful information (November 10, 2011)*

*(Week 8) Data Gathering Methods/Techniques: INTERVIEWING*

*The purpose of using the interviewing technique; the types of interviewing; the data gathering principles; the creation of database (November 17, 2011)*

*(Week 9) Data Gathering Methods/Techniques: FOCUS GROUPS & PARTICIPATORY CONFERENCES*

*The purpose of using the focus group and participatory conferencing methods and techniques; the generation of knowledge; the extraction of meaning from group discussions (November 24, 2011)*

*(Week 10) Data Analysis Methods/Techniques: RELATIONAL MULTIVARIATE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES*

*The purpose of using the relational multivariate statistical techniques; an in-depth discussion of one of the most widely used techniques (e.g., simple regression analysis, multiple regression analysis, canonical correlation analysis, etc.) (December 1, 2011)-2nd proposal submission*

*(Week 11) Data Analysis Methods/Techniques: CLASSIFICATION MULTIVARIATE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES*

*The purpose of using the classifying multivariate statistical techniques; an in-depth discussion of one of the most widely used techniques (e.g., principle component analysis, factor analysis, cluster analysis, etc. ) (December 8, 2011)*

*(Week 12) Data Gathering/Analysis Methods/Techniques: CULTURAL/HISTORICAL*

## **GEOGRAPHY & GIS**

*The purpose of using GIS to understand the cultural/historical geography; the creation of database; the analysis of the created data (December 15, 2011)*

### **(Week 13) Data Gathering/Analysis Methods/Techniques: MULTI-STEP FUZZY COGNITIVE MAPPING**

*The purpose of using multi-step fuzzy cognitive mapping; the data gathering technique; the creation of database; the analysis of the created data (December 22, 2011)*

### **(Week 14) Designing Research II: FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

*Determination of appropriate research methods and techniques in student's research projects (May 29, 2011)*

*Term Papers are due January 5th, 2012*

## **Grading**

*All students:*

*Class and presentation attendance and active class participation (collaboration in the process of class management; collective generation of the group work assignments) (10%)*

*1st Draft: Research Project Proposal writing (25%)*

*2nd Draft: Research Project Proposal writing (25%)*

*Final Draft: Research Project Proposal writing (40%)*

## **Learning Outcomes**

*Upon completion of the course the student should be able to define different research approaches, to identify their principles, and to construct a research design by using the appropriate methods and techniques. It is unrealistic to provide students with all existing methods and techniques in one semester; thus, this course aims to give an introduction about different research approaches about urban space, how and where they can be used, and in-depth discussion on the selected methods and techniques.*

## **Reference Material**

*Creswell, John W. (2003) Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches. Second edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2003.*

*Denzin, Norman K. and Yvonna S. Lincoln (Eds.) (2005) Handbook of Qualitative Research. Third edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.*

*Hair, J.F., et al. (1995). Multivariate Data Analysis. (4th Edition). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.*

*Harding, J.R. (1974). Heuristic Elicitation Methodology and FRM Acceptability. Background paper for W.H.O. Conference on Cross-cultural Research Methods and Instruments and FRM Accessibility, Geneva, Switzerland.*

*Holman, P. & Devane, T. (Eds.) (1999). The Change Handbook: Group Methods for*

*Shaping the Future, San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler.*

*Howard, V.A. & Barton, J.H. (1992). Thinking Together: Making Meetings Work. New York, NY: Quill William Morrow.*

*Jiang, B. & Claramunt, C. (2002) Integration of space syntax into GIS: new perspectives for urban morphology, Transactions in GIS, 6(3): 295-309.*

*Jorgensen, D. L. (1989). Participant observation: A methodology for human studies. London: Sage.*

*Moore, G.T. & Golledge, R.G. (1976). Environmental Knowing: Theories, Research, and Methods. Stroudsburg, PA: Dowden, Hutchinson & Ross.*

*Morgan D., (1988), Focus Groups as Qualitative Research, London: Sage Publications.*

*Neuman, W. L. (2000). Social Research methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, Boston, Ally and Bacon.*

*Reason, P. & Bradbury, H. (2002). Handbook of Action Research. London: SAGE*

*Tolman, D.L. & Brydon-Miller, M. (1997). Transforming psychology: interpretative and participatory research methods. Journal of Social Issues, 53(4), 597-603.*

*Wong, C. (1998) Old wine in a new bottle? Planning methods and techniques since 1990s, Planning Practice & Research, 13(3), pp. 221-236.*

*Zeisel, J. (2006) Inquiry by design. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.*