



University of Nevada, Reno

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPY**  
Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering  
College of Science  
(775) 784-6995  
<http://www.unr.edu/geography>

## **GEOG 707 Planning Methods (1 Credit)**

**P. ANTHONY BRINKMAN**

**SPRING TERM 2010**

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Class meets on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 until 5:00 in 304 Mackay Science Hall. Please make every effort to be punctual. While class absences do not directly affect your course grade, you are responsible for all the material covered in this course. Questions by individual students related to lectures and discussions missed in whole or part will receive the instructor's lowest priority. A detailed schedule of readings and assignments appears below.

### INSTRUCTOR

P. Anthony Brinkman  
brinkman@unr.edu  
325 Mackay Science Hall  
(775) 784-4762

Please feel free to contact me for any reason. Electronic mail is the best way to reach me. I will try to respond within 24 hours. Do not, however, expect lengthy written replies from me. Office hours and telephone appointments are appropriate for more extended communication.

### OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are on Monday evenings from 5:30 until 7:00 and Friday afternoons from 4:00 until 6:00. Subject to change. Other times are available by appointment.

### TEXT

Students in this course must have the following text readily available throughout the semester.

Welch, Susan and John Comer. 2001. *Quantitative Methods for Public Administration: Techniques and Applications*, 3d Ed. Long Grove, Ill.: Waveland Press.

## OVERVIEW

This course is designed primarily for planning students intending to practice professionally. It seeks to expose planning students to the most common methods found in practice and provides practice applying them to planning questions.

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to prepare students to compute statistics useful in planning involving one or two variables; to understand the logic of and be able to interpret some of the more commonly used multivariate statistics; and to converse knowledgably with other design professionals about problems encountered in producing useful information.

## REQUIREMENTS

Review all materials before the class session for which they were assigned.

<i>Grading</i>	Due	Proportion of Final Grade (%)
Informal Participation	weekly	5
Problem Sets (8)	varies	40
Midterm Examination	23 March	15
Group Project	4 May	15
Final Examination	11 May	25

### *Informal Participation*

The instructor expects all students to come to class having completed all weekly assignments and prepared to ask questions. Participation is especially important in a methods class such as this, because it is the best indicator of student understanding for the instructor. Your informal participation grade will be based on the quality of your contributions to class.

### *Problem Sets*

Complete and submit eight problem sets distributed during the term. These are intended to reinforce the basic concepts presented in class. Although you are welcome to work with your classmates on these exercises, you must submit your work individually.

### *Midterm Examination*

The midterm examination is closed book and will cover all material presented through 2 March. It will comprise a series of computational problems as well as

questions that address theory. This examination will take you about 45 minutes to complete.

### *Group Project*

Depending heavily on the concepts and techniques presented in this course, groups of two to three students each will work collaboratively to address a real-world planning problem.

### *Final Examination*

The final examination is comprehensive and closed book. It will comprise a series of computational problems as well as questions that address theory. This examination will take you about 75 minutes to complete.

### *Basis for Assessment*

From 1,000 possible points, the instructor will assign grades based on the following schedule.

1,000–900	A	699–650	C+
899–850	A–	649–600	C
849–800	B+	599–550	C–
799–750	B	549–500	D
749–700	B–	< 500	F

## DEADLINES

Students are required to meet the assignment deadlines set for this course. Except in very rare cases, the instructor will not grant deadline extensions. Late assignments will carry grading penalties based on the age of the deadline at assignment submission.

## ORIGINAL WORK

As professionals—or future professionals—and graduate students, you should adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct. The instructor assumes that a paper, report or other material that bears your name is your original work. The line between scholarship and plagiarism is very thin. You may use the ideas and words of others in your work, but only with proper attribution. Exact passages from other sources also require quotations. In your professional work, failure to adhere to this rule will have severe consequences—this course is no different. Plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade for the course and may subject the plagiarist to disciplinary action by the University.

## STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMODATION

If you have a disability for which you will need to request accommodations, please contact the instructor or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

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|-------------|---|
| 19 January  | Introduction<br>Welsh and Comer, Chapter 1  |
| 26 January  | Hypotheses and Research Design<br>Welsh and Comer, Chapter 2                                    |
| 2 February  | Summary Measures<br>Welsh and Comer, Chapter 5, 119-34<br><br><i>Problem Set 1 Due</i>          |
| 16 February | Measures of Association<br>Welsh and Comer, Chapter 6, 144-66<br><br><i>Problem Set 2 Due</i>   |
| 23 February | Sampling<br>Welsh and Comer, Chapter 7, 167-90<br><br><i>Problem Set 3 Due</i>                  |
| 2 March     | Statistical Significance<br>Welsh and Comer, Chapter 7, 190-211<br><br><i>Problem Set 4 Due</i> |
| 9 March     | <i>Midterm Examination</i>  |
| 23 March    | Linear Regression<br>Welsh and Comer, Chapter 8, 212-26<br><br><i>Problem Set 5 Due</i>         |

30 March	Goodness of Fit Welsh and Comer, Chapter 8, 226-35  <i>Problem Set 6 Due</i>
6 April	Multivariate Regression Welsh and Comer, Chapter 9  <i>Problem Set 7 Due</i>
13 April	Catch Up and Review
20 April	Population and Employment Forecasting Handouts Welsh and Comer, Chapter 10, 289-93  <i>Problem Set 8 Due</i>
27 April	Data Collection Welsh and Comer, Chapter 3, 52-85
4 May	Examination Review <i>Group Project Due</i>
11 May	<i>Final Examination</i> 2:15-4:15 PM