

UEP 411
Senior Comprehensive Seminar in
Urban and Environmental Policy
Spring 2018

Wednesdays
11:45am-1:00pm
TBD

Professor Mijin Cha
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Office hours:
Tues and Thurs 3-4:30

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Office hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-2pm

The senior comprehensive seminar in Urban and Environmental Policy (UEP 411) is a capstone course that facilitates the research, analysis, and writing necessary to complete your senior comprehensive project. The majority of the semester is dedicated to your independent research, analysis, and writing. Class meetings are opportunities to take stock of your progress, share your accomplishments and challenges, and learn from your colleagues. Participation is of paramount importance and bears on your final course grade.

Key Dates

Wednesday, 1/31 Written Progress Report from break due in class
Wednesday 2/28 Findings Section due in class
Wednesday, 4/4 Final Comps Paper due

Friday, April 20th & Week of April 23rd: M & W (5:45-7:15); Tu & Th 4-7 pm, Fri 28th as needed; Comps Public Presentations

Thursday, May 3rd End of Year Awards Ceremony/Celebrating Seniors

Schedule

Wed 1/24 Welcome back; course timeline; report back schedule

Wed 1/31 *Written Progress Report from break due in class; Report back presentations/Organizing and Sorting Data/Data Analysis Questions*

Wed 2/7 No class, open for meetings by sign-up with professors

Wed 2/14 Analyzing, Presenting, and Visualizing Your Data/Effectively Presenting Your Findings

Wed 2/21 No class, open for meetings by sign-up with professors

- Wed 2/28** Findings Section Due hard copy in class including at least one data visualization/chart/table, etc..
- Wed 3/7** No class, open for meetings by sign-up with professors
- Wed 3/14** SPRING BREAK
- Wed 3/21** Lightning Presentations- 3 minutes
- Wed 3/28** Lightning Presentations – 3 minutes
- Wed 4/4** *No Class, Final Written Comps Paper due by 5:00; deliver two hard copies to UEP office.*
- Wed 4/11** Debrief and Presentation Dry Run: Elements of a successful presentation/questions about presentation; meet with your panel
- Fri 4/20** Senior Comps Public Presentations (All Day)
- Mon 4/23-
Fri 4/27** Senior Comps Public Presentations (Evenings, M-Th and Friday daytime)
- Thursday, May 3rd** **UEP End of the Year Gathering; Celebrate the Seniors!**

Course Grade for UEP 411

UEP 411 Professor(s) will assign a final course grade based on the following:

- Participation (20%)
 - Class participation and discussions
 - Initiative taken with the research and in class
 - Engagement with course material, professors, and classmates
- Written assignments (60%)
 - 1) Progress Report; 2) Findings Section; 3) Final Comps Paper
- Public presentation of comps (20%)

Distinction on Comps

The professor(s) teaching the comps courses (in consultation with other UEP faculty) will read and evaluate each comps project. Students will receive one of the following:

- 1) Pass only;
- 2) Pass w/Distinction only, or
- 3) Pass w/Distinction + Honors

“Pass” designation will be given to comps that meet the following baseline criteria:

- Present a clear, relevant and researchable topic
- Articulate a clear research question and methodology
- Represent a strong grasp of the relevant literature
- Present clear evidence/data that addresses the research question
- Reflect a well defined and organized structure
- Contain strong, analytic writing, clear arguments, and a clear audience.
- Include relevant recommendations
- Capture your passion and engagement in an applied research project.

“Distinction” will be awarded to projects that reflect the criteria above and excel in the following:

- Level of complexity and depth of analysis
- Relevance and applicability of recommendations

Departmental Honors

UEP faculty will also designate “Honors” to students if they have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and have been awarded “Pass with Distinction” on their Comps project. In some cases, UEP faculty may decide to grant Honors to a student with GPAs between 3.25 (the College baseline) and 3.49 in cases where a students’ comps projects reflects an extraordinary effort and research product.

UEP faculty will notify students of Distinction and Honor awards following the comps presentations.

College designated Graduation Honors

The College awards graduation honors based on overall GPA based on the following:

- Summa cum Laude: Grade point average of 3.90 or above.
- Magna cum Laude: Grade point average of 3.75 or above.
- Cum Laude: Grade point average of 3.50 or above.

Grade point averages for Honors are based on work completed at Occidental College only.

Course/Campus Policies and Support Services

Classroom Responsibilities

Teachers and students share the responsibility of learning and teaching. We see our responsibilities as creating the space and stimulating enthusiasm for learning, coming prepared to class, creating the goals and structure for a course, introducing concepts and ideas, and facilitating the sharing of knowledge amongst the students and between the professors and the students. Students are responsible for attending and participating in class, completing assignments in a timely manner, and being prepared to discuss readings and material in class. Students are also responsible for engaging in respectful, open and thoughtful discussion with each other and the professors.

Academic Integrity

Occidental College assumes that students and faculty accept and respect the principle of academic honesty. Academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, is not tolerated. The policies for cheating, plagiarism and academic misconduct are outlined in the Student Handbook (available online at: <http://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook>)

Support Services

The college provides a set of resources to students to support them in learning. The Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) provides writing assistance to students to develop ideas, draft, and revise papers. See <http://www.oxy.edu/writing-center>

Students with documented disabilities who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who experiences significant physical or mental impairments may contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>

The Emmons Health and Counseling Center also provides important support services and can help you address issues of stress, medical and mental health and overall well-being. <http://www.oxy.edu/emmons-wellness-center>.