

**Landscape Architecture
School of Architecture
College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities
Clemson University**

LARC 8210

Fall 2022

Class meets in Lee3-101 and/or online on Canvas Platform

Research Methods (3 credits)

M, W. 11;15 a.m.–12;30 p.m.

<u>Professor</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>
Dr. Hala Nassar	3-104 Lee Hall	hnassar@clemson.edu	By appt.

Research Methods Assignment

In the second part of this course we will be examining a wide range of qualitative and quantitative research methods that could be utilized in landscape architecture, architecture and the built environment research questions. The goal of this part of class is to achieve a good understanding of the nature of research methods, their suitability for investigating different research projects and how to employ them to collect, analyze and interpret data.

In this assignment, students will work individually or in a group of two, to investigate, present and provide a written summary on research methods. You will be the ***Professor of the Day*** and teach the class on the research topic of your choice. Student/s will sign up for one of the following research methods:

- 1- Experimental and quasi-Experimental research
- 2- Evaluation research—Case Study Method
- 3- Qualitative research—Ethnographical research
- 4- Quantitative research—Survey research
- 5- Historical & Archival Research

During your chosen class session, students will be class facilitator and responsible for leading two components:

Component I: Presentation

- Giving a PowerPoint presentation on the selected research method. It is very important that your presentation is well- structured (with a clear outline), organized, informative, thorough, and well-presented both visually and verbally. Make sure that your presentation covers definitions of methods, research they are suitable for, key concepts regarding data collection, compilation, coding, analysis, and interpretation. You should also discuss strengths and limitations of methods as well as examples.
- Lead a discussion following the presentation. Please prepare a few questions to help stimulate a productive class discussion.

- Students are encouraged to meet with the professor via zoom before the due date to show their progress and discussion any changes or modifications needed.
- Please upload to Canvas the PowerPoint presentation by the due date of your presentation day.

Component II: Leading a seminar on a selected research paper

- Students will identify a research paper exemplary of the research method they selected. Students need to consult with the instructor about where and how to identify research papers and about the papers they identify. Please keep in mind that component II will require the students to have already digested component I and achieved a good level of understanding of their research method.
- Once the student received the professor's approval of the paper to be used in class discussion the student will email the papers to the classmates at least a week before their scheduled class presentation (more time is definitely appreciated). Please DON'T distribute or email the papers to your class until you have acquired an approval from the professor.
- Students will lead a class discussion centered on the papers. Towards that goal, it is very wise to be prepared for discussion by writing questions that stimulate students' critical thinking and discussion. Please keep in mind that as a class facilitator you will be evaluated on how well you were able to conduct a seminar and stimulate discussion.
- The seminar can only be as good as the class preparation for it. The rest of the class have to read the papers beforehand and be prepared to contribute to the discussion.
- Please include the seminar questions at the end of your PowerPoint presentation file that will be uploaded to canvas.

On the day of your presentation, you are ***The Professor of the Day***. It is your responsibility to fit the following in the time allowed (one hour and fifteen minutes total).

- PowerPoint presentation followed by Q&A
- The seminar discussion on the selected paper/s

Grade earned is based on depth, clarity, thoroughness, organization and presentation of materials and seminar.

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Research Proposal Assignment

For the semester-long research project, students will apply knowledge of research design and methods to their own research projects. Students are encouraged to meet deadlines for the different phases, periodically consult and get feedback from instructor, and advance their research proposal which will be presented in class and turned in writing towards the end of semester.

In this assignment, students will work individually to:

- Choose a research field, area, topic and question/s.
- Develop a research proposal which includes different sections (as described below).
- Seek periodic opinion and critique from instructor and classmates.
- Present and provide a fully written proposal for his/her research proposal.

This assignment is considered your final project in LARC 8210 and is designed such that students demonstrate their acquired knowledge, sense of judgment and critical thinking as it applies to research design and methods. Therefore, students are expected to develop research proposals that respond to a particular problem related to landscape architecture or the built environment. It goes without saying that students will be selecting their research topics based on their professional and personal interests. Students are also encouraged to keep up their readings as it will help a great deal in designing their research. It is important that you start immediately thinking and working on the research project.

Guidelines for final research proposal submission:

Your final proposal will be composed of the following sections:

- Abstract: this is a statement of the research and work to be undertaken including background, literature, objectives and expected outcomes. It is typically an overview of the work. Please limit to 600 words. Bibliography included is not part of the word count.
- Introduction: This part presents the project, the background, the value and need for this research, statement of the problem/research questions,
- Literature Review: This is your literature review where you write about what research has been done in the discipline and other disciplines related to your topic. i.e. relationship of your suggested research to the state of knowledge in the field. This section will also

include review of case studies, and your specific site background (to which the research question is being applied).

- Intellectual Merit: This part focuses on the expected significance and importance of your research, its contribution to the advancement of knowledge, and to whom it might be important. This is essentially a justification section in which you explain why this research is important, should be done and should be considered.
- Research Method/s: This part justifies and explains the nature of chosen methods, their relevance and suitability for the research question/s.
- Plan of Work: This part focuses on the suggested methods of conducting your research, objectives, study setting, population, data to be collected, methods of collecting data documentation, organization and data analysis. This part explains your research design.
- General Conditions: This part focuses on explanation of conditions needed for undertaking the suggested research such as, location, transportation, associated costs, duration, and research limitations.
- Expected Results: This is your concluding statement about the research in general and expected results from the work you are proposing. This statement should consider highlighting the broader impact of the work and its expected benefits to scholarship and society in general. i.e. who might benefit from this research, whom might this research impact, who might this research be applicable to.

General instructions:

Research proposal submission should be in Microsoft format, Times New Roman 11 Font for body of text and 12 for titles, 1.25 line spacing, 1 inch margin on all sides, with minimum of ten pages (not including bibliography). Please make use of software spelling checking in addition to your own multiple times proofing of the document before final submission. The paper should be flawless (please double and triple check spelling, grammar and format)! Bibliography should use the APA citation style. Towards the end of the semester, students will give a verbal presentation of their research project and will turn in the final research proposal paper as per the due date mentioned above.

General Grade basis:

Grade will be based on the clarity, depth of content, insights, level of detail and thoroughness, breadth of research and citations, organization, and on how well research methods were used and research design was implemented.

Grade will be distributed as follows:

First submission:	10%
Second submission:	20%
Third submission:	20%
Final verbal presentation:	10%
Final written paper submission:	40%
Total:	100%

Requirements and deadlines for the submissions:

The following deadlines are set to assist you in staying on track for final submission:

- **First submission:** students will identify their research field, area, topic, and question. They will provide a working title for their research, and provide a one page description summary of the problem background and research question i.e. what they intend to research and why the topic is one worthy of research. This first submission should also include your bibliography and citations using APA style
This phase is due Monday Sept 12.
- **Second submission:** students will submit a detailed project background, literature review, research questions, case studies, specific site background, and beginning suggestions of appropriate research methods, and expanded bibliography.
This phase is due Monday, Oct10.
- **Third submission:** students will submit expanded project background, literature review, detailed research design including research method/s with clear explanation of the employment of methods, suggesting a plan of work and data collection methods. A full bibliography is advisable at that time. **This phase is due Wednesday, Nov 2.**
- **Final verbal presentation:** students will give a final PowerPoint presentation of their final Research Proposal. After making final revisions based on feedback, students will upload the PowerPoint presentation to canvas. This is due as per posted schedule and need to be submitted by Wednesday, December 12
- **Final written paper submission:** students will submit the final Research Proposal, which is comprehensive of all sections as described above. Please be advised to start organizing (and including) your bibliography with first submission and not wait until the end because it becomes overwhelming. Please get in the habit of adding references to your bibliographical system and stay organized with all your sources. This is due as per posted schedule and need to be submitted by Wednesday, December 12