

Michigan State University
ESP 804: *Environmental Applications and Analysis*
Fall 2024



Location: Giltner Hall, rm. 273 (ESPP Conference Room)

Class Day/Time: Wednesday 5-8p

Instructor: Joe Hamm

Office Hours: by appointment

Contact Information:

E-mail: jhamm@msu.edu (please include the course number [ESP-804] in the subject line)

Office: 518 Baker Hall

Course Overview:

ESP 804 is the capstone course of the environmental science and policy doctoral specialization. The course is structured as a practicum in which students will identify and test research questions in an interdisciplinary environment. Through class discussions, presentations, workshops, paper writing, and a colloquium, students will learn to work across disciplinary lines and refine the skills and abilities at the heart of the doctoral specialization.

Students will be asked to identify a survey research question of interest to their program of research. Students will then conduct a literature review and identify a measure for inclusion in an online survey of a national convenience sample. Students will then analyze the resulting data and prepare a paper and presentation.

Reading Materials:

Readings for this course will come from original research articles and other documents, all of which will be available online. There is no textbook for this course.

Assignments:

Over the course of the semester, students will complete a research project in several stages.

Research Questions and Module Measure. Students will be responsible for developing research questions with an initial literature review and identifying in a measure for their module of the online survey. The measure can be an established measure of a specific construct or constructs or can be a series of questions created by the student to provide the data needed for their term project. This responsibility is worth 15pts of your overall grade.

Analysis Presentations. Students will be responsible for informally presenting their final analyses. These presentations should be informal but will need to involve visuals for the audience (e.g., PowerPoint, Prezi, whiteboard, handouts). This responsibility is worth 15pts of your overall grade.

Research Presentation. Students will be responsible for presenting their research in a colloquium. These presentations should follow the standard academic format (PowerPoint or other visual medium, approximately 15 minutes, etc.). This responsibility (presenting and discussing) is worth 15pts of your overall grade.

Final Paper. Students will be responsible for completing a term paper presenting their research project. The paper should follow the standard academic format (introduction, methods, results, discussion) and should be no less than ten pages in length (double spaced). Students are free to use any citation style they prefer as long as it is consistent throughout the paper. This responsibility is worth 30pts of your overall grade.

Participation. This course is a participation-heavy practicum (meaning you will have to come to class and be prepared to engage with the material). This responsibility is worth 25pts of your class grade.

Assignment	Value	Points
Research Questions and Module Measure	<i>trying = 15, phoning it in = 0</i>	15
Analysis Presentation	<i>trying = 15, phoning it in = 0</i>	15
Colloquium Presentation	<i>peer-reviewed*</i>	15
Final Paper	<i>excellent = 30, very good = 27.5, good = 20, fair = 15, poor = 10</i>	30
Participation	<i>in class (or excused) and prepared = 10</i>	25
Total Points Available		100

Notes. Grading Scale: **4** = 100 - 95pts; **3.5** = 94.99 - 90pts; **3** = 89.99 - 85pts; **2.5** = 84.99 - 80pts; **2** = 79.99 - 75pts; **1.5** = 74.99 - 70pts; **1** = 69.99 - 65pts; **0** = less than 65pts

*The research presentations will be graded as a class. Students will be asked to anonymously provide a grade of “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” for each of the presentations. In addition, students will have the option to assign one presentation a grade of “exemplary.” Each grade of “satisfactory” will receive 15 points, “unsatisfactory” will receive 5, and “exemplary” will receive 20 points (15 points plus 5 bonus points). Students will receive the average score of the points assigned by the rest of the class.

Data Ownership and Authorship:

The data collected here will be suitable for publication and presentation at academic conferences. To this end, students will have primary ownership of the data that comes from their module for three years (and a corresponding right to author products that come from that data). After three years, ownership will revert to the MSU Environmental Science and Policy Program.

During the three-year embargo, any publications or presentations that include the data from a student's module should include that student as an author unless the student elects not to contribute to the product (the expected contribution and authorship should be explicitly discussed at this point). After the three-year embargo, all use of this data requires the permission of the course instructor or the ESPP Director or his/her identified designee.

Any publications or presentations arising from this data should acknowledge the ESPP for funding and the class generally for the collection of the data.

Housekeeping:

I have long been of the opinion that classes like this have the potential to be the most beneficial experiences in graduate school as long as the students and teacher fulfill their responsibilities to each other. I promise you a considered and deliberate guided tour through conducting interdisciplinary research relevant to the environment. From you I ask your genuine engagement. I do not have a classroom technology policy regarding cellphones or laptops nor a formal policy on missed class meetings (though I do not expect students to miss class without a REALLY good reason and then, I am far more understanding when I am contacted about the absence in advance). I do have somewhat set policies on late assignments, academic integrity, and students who need special accommodations as set by the university (see below). In the past, this "leniency" has been met with honest engagement from students and I look forward to the same in this class. If more formal policies are needed, I will make sure the entire class is aware of them.

Late Assignments. Technically, late assignments are missed assignments which merit a zero. In this class, the assignments you will need to turn in are critical to keeping the class on schedule. Because of this, expect me to be pretty stringent on deadlines. If you anticipate having issues, it is your responsibility to talk to me early in the course to identify alternatives.

Academic Integrity. Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." See: <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html> for further clarification. Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated and will be reported to university officials for proper action. Any student engaging in any form of academic dishonesty in this class will receive a failing grade for the entire course. While not an exhaustive list, the following behaviors constitute academic dishonesty: cheating on exams; plagiarism; fabricating or falsification of source materials; and, having someone else complete your assignments.

Special Accommodations. MSU's portal for formally addressing accommodations is here: <https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/services/accommodations>. If you feel that you have needs that are not addressed there, please contact me directly to discuss. I am happy to work with you, but it is your responsibility to engage me if there is an issue.

Anticipated Schedule (subject to change):

Date	Wk	Topic	Notes	Assignment Due
Aug 28	1	<i>Introductions and Overview</i>	I will overview the course and the potential core module of our survey.	
Sept 4	2	<i>Idea Presentations</i>	Outline your research interests and present general ideas for a survey research question.	
Sept 11	3		No Class Meeting	Research questions and preliminary literature review (on D2L)
Sept 18	4		No Class Meeting	Measure(s) for inclusion in the survey (on D2L)
Sept 25	5	<i>Survey Design</i>	Discuss integrating research questions, literature reviews, and measures into a single survey.	
Oct 2	6		No Class Meeting	
Oct 9	7	<i>Refine Survey</i>	We will work as a group to refine the survey.	
Oct 16	8	<i>Analysis Day pt1</i>	I will present the data and we will use class time to workshop analyses.	
Oct 23	9	<i>Analysis Day pt2</i>	We will workshop the paper analyses.	
Oct 30	10	<i>Analysis Presentations</i>	Present your analyses for class feedback	Analysis presentations
Nov 6	11	<i>Writing Day</i>	We will use class time to workshop writing.	
Nov 13	12		No Class Meeting	Prepare your presentation
Nov 20	13	<i>Colloquium</i>	We will host a colloquium in which you will present your research.	Colloquium presentation
Nov 27*	14		No Class Meeting	Prepare your final paper
Dec 4	15	<i>Revision Days</i>	We will use class time to workshop revising the papers.	
Dec 11	16		No Class Meeting-Finals Week	Final papers due by 11:59pm