

Approved SUAPP Theory Courses by Discipline

Effective June 1, 2023, all admitted doctoral students must enroll in two theory-based courses in the Focus Area. This ensures a theoretical grounding in the student's "home" field and at least one other field in our school. Approved theory courses are listed below and are subject to change; please refer to the posted schedule when making enrollment decisions. Wherever possible, doctoral students should enroll in the 8000-level courses listed if available.

ANTH 7200/8200 Engaged Anthropology Theory (offered Fall)
CJUS 7541/8541 Criminological Theory (offered Fall)
CJUS 6533 Juvenile Delinquency Theory and Process (offered Spring)
PADM 7600/8600 Seminar in Administrative Theory and Ethics (offered Fall)
PADM 7641 Theory and Practice for Nonprofit Administration (offered Fall)
PLAN 6206 Housing Policy and Planning (offered Fall)
PLAN 7002/8002 Planning Theory and Perspectives (offered Fall)
POLS 7401/8104 Seminar in Political Theory and Philosophy (offered Fall)
POLS 7100/8100 Scope and Methods in Political Science (offered Fall)
SOCI 7201/8201 Sociology Theory Seminar (offered Fall)
SOCI 7631/8631 Urban Sociology Theory (offered Fall)
SOCI 7511/8511 Theories of Deviance (offered Spring)
SWRK 7030 Social Welfare Policy and Services (offered Spring)
SWRK 8040 Advanced Social Work Theory (offered Fall)

Please note that these courses are subject to change in availability semester-to-semester; students are encouraged to discuss classes that make sense for their theoretical focus and methodological needs with their advisor or the Ph.D. director first.

UAPP Course Class Descriptions

Course Title: UAPP 8009 Exploration of Policy Theory and Frameworks (3 credits; seminar). Offered Fall Semester.

Catalog Description: This course is broadly concerned with public policy theory and research on policy processes in the United States, including democratic theory, multiple streams, and punctuated equilibrium. This course will focus on major policy process theories, explore how policy changes, and examine important empirical contributions to the policy field. The course will examine micro-foundations of policy dynamics through models of individual to organizational decision-making and explore policy agendas, formation of public policies, and the factors influencing change to agendas and policies over time. It will emphasize process approaches to examine policy change rather than substantive issues. However, a focus on policies that impact the urban core, such as housing, education, criminal justice, healthcare, and other social policies, will also be reviewed. This course focuses primarily on American politics but will include select

works on comparative policy process perspectives. This is a required core course in the Urban Affairs Ph.D. curriculum.

Course Title: UAPP 8010 Exploration of Urban Research Theory (3 credits; seminar).

Offered Spring Semesters, on demand.

Catalog Description This survey course provides a critical examination of the theories and theoretical frameworks of the multiple social science disciplines central to the Urban Affairs PhD curriculum. Explores theories relevant to urbanism and urban environments, their structures, the processes of urbanization, urban power and economics, industrial and post-industrial cities, and other urban forces. Covers urban theories ranging from classical to contemporary theoretical perspectives. PREREQUISITE(S): Permission of instructor.

Course Title: UAPP 8011 Epistemology and Philosophy of Social Science Research (3 credits; seminar)

Offered Fall Semester.

Catalog Description: This course focuses on research design and epistemology in qualitative and quantitative research. It introduces different types of studies, such as theoretical, explorative, empirical, and experimental research. Emphasis will be placed on 'ways of knowing' in social science, including a detailed discussion of ontology and epistemology in urban affairs research.

This course also discusses how theories can be developed and how theories lead to testable hypotheses. After theories and hypotheses are derived, the focus shifts to data collection (e.g. surveys, case studies, experiments, interviews, and the selection and use of secondary data). Sampling is crucial to avoid sample and selection biases will be discussed. Finally, students will discuss the construction of variables, including latent variables (e.g., social constructs), the selection of proxy variables, and the use of control variables in social science research. PREREQUISITE(S): Permission of instructor.

Course Title: UAPP 8012 Collaborative Urban Problem Solving I (3 credits, seminar)

Offered Fall Semester.

Catalog Description: Collaborative Urban Problem Solving I is a required course for PhD in Urban Affairs. It is the first course in a two-course sequence that is generally completed in the student's second year of study. This course serves as the synthesis mechanism for the PhD program, which is 1) interdisciplinary, 2) geared at preparing researchers to address urban or metropolitan issues, and 3) designed to give students the opportunity to learn through engaging in local research that benefits the greater Memphis community. PREREQUISITE(S): Permission of instructor.

Course Title: UAPP 8013 Collaborative Urban Problem Solving II (3 credits, seminar)

Offered Spring Semester.

Catalog Description: Second course in a two-course sequence that is generally completed in the student's second year of study. This course serves as the synthesis mechanism for the Urban Affairs and Public Policy PhD program, which is 1) interdisciplinary, 2) geared at preparing

researchers to address urban or metropolitan issues, and 3) designed to give students the opportunity to learn through engaging in local research that benefits the greater Memphis community. Students will work collaboratively (internally and externally) to address a complex community challenge. PREREQUISITE(S): Permission of instructor.

Course Title: UAPP 8014 Seminar in Advanced Quantitative Methods (3 credits; seminar)
Offered Spring Semester.

Catalog Description: This course shows how to do high-quality data analysis in social science. Students will gain a deep intuition behind the theories of inference underlying most statistical methods. This course will cover statistical methods beyond ordinary least squares, including but not limited to binary logistic regression, multinomial logistic regression, hierarchical linear modeling, structural equation modeling, and Cox-Proportional Hazards modeling, dependent on the expertise of the instructor. Students will utilize statistical software (STATA, R, or SPSS) to analyze different datasets throughout the course. This is a required core course in the Urban Affairs Ph.D. curriculum. PREREQUISITE(S): Permission of Instructor.

Course Title: UAPP 8200 Directed Readings (1-3 credits, independent study, repeatable)
Offered On Demand.

Catalog Description: Individually directed readings which culminate in the synthesis of a student's ideas. May be repeated with change in topic for 9 credits. PREREQUISITE(S): Permission of instructor. PREREQUISITE(S) or COREQUISITE(S): Must be enrolled in the PhD program in Urban Affairs.

Course Title: UAPP 9000 Dissertation (1-11 credits)
Offered On Demand.

Catalog Description: Academic credit for a dissertation may be taken for a maximum of 11 hours and a minimum of 1 hour credit. Only 11 credits may be applied toward degree requirements for the PhD degree. Grades of S, U, or IP will be given. PREREQUISITE(S): Doctoral students must complete all coursework in the Ph.D. in Urban Affairs and have passed the Comprehensive Exams before enrolling in UAPP 9000.

Course Title: UAPP 9001 Dissertation Proposal Development (1 credit workshop)
Offered On Demand or alternating Spring Semesters

Catalog Description: This course is a dissertation research and design workshop for students who have completed their comprehensive exams. It will take students through the process of developing a dissertation proposal. It will focus on writing a cohesive literature review, defining and refining theory for testing, developing testable hypotheses, understanding the internal and external validity issues of a student's selected research design, and identifying data or datasets for doctoral students. This is a required course in the UAPP curriculum.