

**SURV 772**

**SPRING 2012**

**SURVEY DESIGN SEMINAR**  
**Wednesdays 4:00-6:30**

Stanley Presser  
301 314-7836  
[spresser@survey.umd.edu](mailto:spresser@survey.umd.edu)  
Office hours: By appointment

**Course Overview**

This course is intended to develop team-work consulting skills in applying theoretical concepts to practical problems. It is an applied course, involving real clients seeking assistance with actual survey design problems that are in need of solution. Drawing on the expertise gained from previous coursework, students study each problem, review the relevant research literature, develop potential solutions, propose ways to evaluate the solutions, and present recommendations, including an assessment of costs and benefits.

The specific objectives of the course are:

- to improve understanding of methods used in actual practice
- to demonstrate how theoretical principles are applied in actual research settings
- to develop skills in interpreting technical articles and summarizing their content for researchers less familiar with survey methodology
- to improve problem solving and analytical skills
- to improve interpersonal and team working skills
- to improve communication skills

**Course Organization**

Students will work in teams to develop potential solutions to the client's problem. On weeks when no class meeting is held, students should plan on meeting with their team.

The schedule will be as follows:

Week 1: Presentation of the problem by the client, with opportunity for student questions, followed by organizational discussions among team members.

Weeks 2 and 3: Work in teams.

Week 4: Presentation of recommendations to the client.

Week 5: Assessment of the presentations.

After week 4's class but before week 5's class, students will evaluate the contributions of all members of their team including themselves (in an email to [spresser@survey.umd.edu](mailto:spresser@survey.umd.edu)).

## Course Schedule

Feb 1: Introduction

### PROBLEM 1

Feb 8: Meet with Joe Parsons, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Feb15/22: Team work

Feb 29: Presentation of recommendations to client

March 7: Evaluation of presentations

### PROBLEM 2

March 14: Meet with Wan-Ying Chang, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

March 21/28: Team work

April 4: Presentation of recommendations to client

April 11: Evaluation of presentations

### PROBLEM 3

April 18: Meet with James Knaub & Carrie Hughes-Cromwick, Energy Information  
Administration

April25/May2 Team work

May 9: Presentation of recommendations to client

May 16: Evaluation of presentations and course review

**PROBLEM 1**

<u>TEAM A</u>	<u>TEAM B</u>
Dai	Feld
Kc	Foster
Levy	Harwell
Parsell	Mercer
Piccone	Zamora

**PROBLEM 2**

<u>TEAM A</u>	<u>TEAM B</u>
Dai	Levy
Kc	Mercer
Feld	Parsell
Foster	Piccone
Harwell	Zamora

**PROBLEM 3**

<u>TEAM A</u>	<u>TEAM B</u>
Dai	Foster
Feld	Harwell
Kc	Levy
Mercer	Parsell
Zamora	Piccone