DHA 8467 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES IN HOUSING (3 cr)
University of Minnesota, College of Design

Wednesday 8:30-11:30 am
398 McNeal Hall

Instructor:
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Office Hours:
Wednesday 1:00-2:00 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on the investigation and evaluation of theories applied to the study of housing. We will examine theoretical perspectives from various levels of analysis from individual psychological viewpoint such as “meaning of home” to the macro or global perspectives such as comparative world views.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
As a graduate level course only students who are registered at the Master’s or PhD level are eligible to take this course. Housing Studies Certificate Students may enroll with the instructor’s permission. All students must take the course for an A-F grade.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completing this course, students will be able to:
1. analyze multiple theories used in housing research
2. evaluate the appropriateness of different theories to specific research problems
3. apply, adapt, or develop a theory related to a particular research problem
4. explain how the theory would be operationalized for research including appropriate research questions and analytical methodologies

COURSE EXPECTATIONS
• This is a seminar course, you are expected to arrive prepared for a lively interactive discussion on the theories. Please be attentive during class, ask questions if you do not understand something, and to participate in class discussions. You are also expected to listen respectfully to other students and me when speaking. Racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, ageism, and other forms of bigotry are inappropriate to express in this class.

• All assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of the class on the due date. (See schedule for deadlines.) Late assignments will be graded down one full letter grade for each day they are late.

• Students are expected to follow the honor code of the University of Minnesota and any violation will result in the loss of credit.
Incomplete grades are given only in strict accordance with University guidelines. In most cases, a grade of I is given only for students who have completed all of the course work and due to an illness or family emergency miss the final exam. In no case will an I be given when the student has not completed a substantial portion of course work. There must be a legitimate excuse for requesting an incomplete, and a reasonable exception that all the course work will be completed before the end of the next term.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Weekly reflections papers.** (10 points each- 50 points). Five short 2-5 page reflection paper are required. These are personal reflections and do not require references. Appropriate topics include thoughts on the readings, reaction to previous class discussions, or recording of progress regarding the course projects. You may turn these in whenever you wish, but you may not turn in more than one per week.

2. **Annotated bibliography.** (5 points each- 50 points). At least three new references should be identified each week for use in the course projects. Please provide a citation using APA style and a short paragraph annotation for each citation.

3. **Class participation.** As this is a seminar class—everyone is expected to participate in the discussion. Please come to class prepared. At a minimum, it is necessary to complete the assigned readings.

4. **Assigned Theory.**
   
   (a) **Discussion leadership.** (25 points). Each student is assigned a theoretical perspective at the beginning of the semester. You will be expected to lead the seminar discussion on that perspective. You may want to provide class members with “points to ponder” regarding the required reading prior to the class. You will need to locate additional material about the assigned theory, key exemplars, and application to housing research.
   
   (b) **Field guide entry.** (75 points). Throughout the course of the semester you will focus on an assigned theoretical perspective. We will be developing a “field guide to housing theory” as a collaborative project during the semester. Each student will be responsible for a 2-3 page summary or field guide entry. A format will be provided. At the end of the semester the entries will be uploaded and each student will have the opportunity to purchase a bound copy of the resulting book. Tentatively we will be doing with project in conjunction with students at Oregon State University.

5. **Term paper.** (100 points). The final paper is a critical examination of a theory of your choice with an application to your own dissertation or thesis research topic. The paper will consist of two parts. The first part is a discussion of the theory and its previous application to your research topic. This may be first or second draft of your dissertation/thesis chapter two. The second part of the paper will identify your specific research question and discuss the process for using the theory in your methods and analysis. This is the rough introduction to chapter three of your dissertation/thesis. Clearly show how you will use the theoretical perspective to predict our outcome and/or explain your results. You do not need a detailed justification or literature review; I assume that your topic is important.

All assignments must be word processed, double spaced in 11 or 12 point font. Use 1’ margins on all sides. Use APA style for all citations and references. Number all of your pages. Use a header with your name and date.
GRADING
Grades are based on a percentage of total possible points. The exact grade determination is as follows:

- A = 100%-90%  270-300 points
- B = 89%-80%  240-269 points
- C = 79%-65%  195-239 points
- D = 64%-55%  165-194 points
- F = less than 55% <165 points

READINGS/TEXTBOOK
There is no required textbook for this course. Readings will be assigned weekly.

Suggested resources:

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
- The Student Conflict Resolution Center is an organization that assists students with campus-based concerns including grading and instructional complaints. While I hope you will not feel a need to use this service, it is located at 211 Eddy Hall. E-mail: sos@umn.edu. Telephone: 612-624-7272.
- Students with disabilities that might hinder their ability to participate in the full range of class activities should contact Disability Services, McNamara Alumni Center for assistance. E-mail: ds.@umn.edu. Telephone: 612-626-1333.
- Writing assignments must be clearly organized and in coherent prose containing proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Assignments not meeting these specifications and papers judged by the professor to contain excessive errors will be returned. Resources to help you write well are available on the College of Design website. Go to ‘current students’ and then click on ‘writing assistance and resources’.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the instructor.
Reading List – Spring 2009

**Class Handouts**

**Articles available on-line**


