

GEOG 7101: Research Design
SP 2022

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Course overview

This is a class in the practice of geography and geographic inquiry. Research design necessarily involves reading broadly in one or more subfields of the discipline, connecting often disparate ideas and concepts, and devising methodological approaches to examine various geographic phenomena to draw your own conclusions. Central to this work is the ability to harness your thinking to clear, concise and compelling writing. In addition to proposal writing, you will have opportunities to present your ideas, learn from your peers about the discipline, and set yourself up for success in our graduate program.

You will work on identifying compelling research questions that contribute to ongoing discussions and controversies in relevant literature, in formulating approaches to gather evidence, and in communicating the significance of your research to a broad set of audiences. Critical to this class is the building of a mutually supportive, interdisciplinary community.

Course objectives

The successful completion of the course will result in:

- A thoroughly-workshopped proposal suitable to submit to the National Science Foundation or other funding agencies;
- A plan for research and writing along with measurable outcomes to carry you through your time in our program;
- Practice in critically evaluating research proposals written by others; and
- The ability to situate your research in conversation with other scholars in your subfield.

Readings

There is one required text. Other selected readings are available on Carmen.

Swedberg, R. (2015). *The art of social theory*. Princeton University Press. ISBN-10 069116813X

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Grading

Assignments	
There's Research on That! (TROT)	5
Reverse outlines (2x)	10
Annotated bibliography	10
Response to peer reviews	5
Presentations	
Research inspirations	5
Workshop	10
Final presentation	10
Proposal	
Ugly draft	10
Final draft	10
Peer reviews	5
Final proposal	20

File naming convention

Please name all of your files accordingly: lastname_assignment.doc, e.g., munroe_uglydraft.doc. This helps me keep your work organized.

Assignments There are five assignments during the semester.

1. Reverse outlines. You will closely analyze the arguments and overall structure of two articles written by recent graduates of our department. Due Feb 2 and March 2.
2. [There's Research on That!](#) (or TROT) You will find a newspaper article (or similar from popular media) and use academic references to succinctly explain in 500-1,000 words how geographic scholarship is useful in understanding this puzzle or problem. Due Feb 12.
3. Annotated bibliography. You will write annotations for ~15 sources that include summaries and short description about how they are useful for your project. Due March 9.
4. Response to peer reviews. You will reflect on the peer comments you receive on your draft proposal and explain how they informed your revisions. Due April 13.

Presentations You will present your research interests on January 19. Students will also sign up to workshop their project, with three-four students presenting on Feb 9, March 2 and March 30. Finally, everyone will give a 10-minute presentation on their proposal to the department on April 20th.

Proposal MA or PhD proposal writing will be broken down into four steps: ugly draft, annotated bibliography, final draft, and final. Students will give each other written feedback on the final draft, and you will be graded on how you incorporate that feedback into your final proposal.

Policies

Please follow all COVID accommodations detailed in <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/> and keep me aware of any issues that arise.

In the case of illness or other extenuating circumstance, you are expected to make up any work missed within one week of your absence. Please notify me by email within 48 hours of missing class or missing a deadline.

Course schedule (subject to change)

	Assignment	Activities
12-Jan	Read Watts	Course introduction
19-Jan		Research inspirations
26-Jan	Ugly draft	NO CLASS
2-Feb	Reverse outline 1	Big Qs, Little Qs
9-Feb	Complete reading Swedberg	Workshop 1
16-Feb	There's Research on That!	Note taking
23-Feb		NO CLASS
2-Mar	Reverse outline 2	Workshop 2
9-Mar	Annotated bibliography	Concept mapping
16-Mar		Spring Break
23-Mar	Final draft to peers	Methods and methods
30-Mar	Peer reviews	Workshop 3
6-Apr		How to revise
13-Apr	Responses to peer reviews	
20-Apr		Presentations to the department
27-Apr	Final proposal due	