

GEOG 7101: Research Design

SP 2020

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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

The primary text is Creswell and Creswell, *Research Design* (5th Edition, Sage). Other selected readings are available on Carmen.

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

Reactions to the Carmen readings	5 points each (12 total)	60
Presentations		
	Research interests	5
	Individual workshop	5
	Buddy reflection piece	5
Proposal		
	Ugly draft	5
	Annotated bibliography	5
	Final draft	5
	Final proposal	10
	Total	95

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.

Reactions to the readings Every week you will write approximately 500 words (2 double-spaced pages) in response to the readings on Carmen (NOT the Creswell text). **These should be posted by 5 pm on Tuesdays. Then, you will synthesize the responses on at least two other students' postings in the form of discussion questions and post by noon on Wednesdays. Please read through these discussion questions before our class begins at 4 pm.**

Presentations You will present your research interests in Week 2. Students will also sign up to workshop their project, with two students presenting each week.

Everyone will be assigned a "buddy." **Please try to meet via Zoom every week for roughly one hour to discuss research (optional). At the end of the semester, you will write a 3-5 page reflection on your buddy's research to share with the class.**

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.

Faculty visits We have four slots on the schedule for you to invite faculty and ask them questions about the practice of geographic inquiry.

Policies

Course attendance is required. In the case of illness or other extenuating circumstance, you are expected to make up any work missed within one week of your absence.

Course schedule (subject to change)

Date		Due	Creswell	Other	Discussion
8-Jan	What does it mean to be a geographer?			Watts	
15-Jan	Which conversation do you want to be a part of?	Bring lit review example	1	Demeritt	Presentations
22-Jan	What is your field?	First proposal draft	2	Simm & David	Faculty 1
29-Jan	What makes a proposal competitive?		5	Kelsky	
5-Feb	Ethical commitments in research		4	Madge	1,2
12-Feb	Ethical commitments in publishing			Lane	Faculty 2
19-Feb	Outward facing research	Annotated bibliography			
26-Feb	Navigating an IRB application		6	Campbell et al.	Faculty 3
4-Mar	Writing research questions		7	Bradshaw & Stratford	3,4
11-Mar	SPRING BREAK				
18-Mar	SECOND SPRING BREAK				
25-Mar	Writing a theoretical framework	Martini diagram	3	Bailey et al.	Faculty 4
1-Apr	Writing the empirical context			Kent et al.	5,6
8-Apr	Earth Day (webinar)				
	Writing your own research methods	Final proposal draft	8 thru 10	Longley	7,8
22-Apr	Buddy reflection (Zoom discussion)			Crane and Pearson; Castree	
29-Apr	Final proposals DUE				