

Research Design in Geography
GEOG 70154
Spring 2021

Course Information:

- GEOG 70154 Research Design in Geography
- Lectures, activities, development of thesis proposal
- Tuesdays 5:35-8:25 on Zoom

Contact Information

- Professor Ines Miyares
- imiyares@hunter.cuny.edu (best way to contact)
- Appointments via appointment via Zoom

Course Materials

Required textbook: *Research Methods in Geography* edited by Basil Gomez and John Paul Jones III ISBN 978-1-4051-0711-2 Wiley-Blackwell 2010

- Selected additional readings as noted on Blackboard and the syllabus

Course Description

- This is a required course for the MA in Geography. The focus of this course is how geographic research is conducted and what the components of your thesis or final research paper will need
- If you have not selected a thesis advisor, this course will help you identify who the best advisor would be based on your proposed research
- The primary goal of this course is to help you identify a research question and to develop a proposal that includes a literature review and methodology for answering the research question

Learning Outcomes:

- Be able to explain the fundamental concepts, theories, and research methods in geography
- Be able to discuss and explain the ethics, laws, and responsibilities in human subjects research
- Be able to apply the scientific method to analyzing various forms of qualitative and quantitative geographic data
- Be able to define a research question and write a literature review that gives a context to the question
- Be able to develop an appropriate methodology for answering a research question
- Be able to demonstrate the structure of scientific writing through the writing of a research proposal

Requirements:

- Reading responses and Assignments 25%
- Question and Framework 10%
- Literature review (in lieu of midterm exam) 25%
- Methodology 10%
- Proposal (in lieu of final exam) 30%

Grading and Other Essential Information:

- All written assignments will be submitted on Blackboard
- All written assignments will have a rubric and will be graded according to that rubric
- All written assignments will go through SafeAssign for plagiarism review
- Assignments submitted in any other way will not be graded
- There will be significant deductions in points given for late assignments. No points will be given for an assignment submitted more than a week late unless you have given me an *excellent* excuse.
- *I do not give incompletes.* Your grade at the end of the semester is your final grade
- If a documentable emergency situation arises that may result in the late submission of an assignment, please let me know as soon as possible via email.
- Email Policy: I do check my email regularly and will respond promptly until 9 pm. I expect professional respectful communication via email

Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

If there is clear evidence of plagiarism, I will give a zero on the assignment and will notify the Dean of Students. We will discuss appropriate citation and bibliographic formats early in the semester.

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230. If you have a documentable disability or condition that makes it impossible to complete an assignment as written, please contact me immediately so an alternative can be arranged.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct

Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ia/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

Syllabus Change Policy

- Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
- If changes are made to the syllabus, I will notify you via email through Blackboard. It is essential that you have your correct email linked to your Blackboard account and that you check your Hunter or other Blackboard-linked email regularly. Bounced emails will not be an acceptable excuse for not being aware of changes or any other communications to the class.

Weekly topics:

Week 1: Introduction to Theory, Ontology, Epistemology **RMG** Ch 1-2 *Reading Response on BB*

Week 2: What is a question? Conceptual Framework? *Find a thesis in geography related to your interests. Come Week 4 prepared to discuss it in terms of its question, framework, methodology, and any ethics issues*

Week 3: **Research ethics. No live meeting. Complete the CITI graduate student researcher course and post completion certificate**

Week 4: Interplay of Theory and Observation **RMG** Ch 3; Additional readings on BB *Discussion in class of theses*

Week 5: Research Approaches/Making Operational Decisions, Collaborative research

- discussion **RMG** Ch 5; *Presentation of research questions and frameworks*
- Week 6: Components of a literature review; *Readings on BB; work on literature review*
- Week 7: Data and sampling **RMG** Ch 6, 11; *work on literature review*
- Week 8: Right method for the question: Surveys, Interviews, and Focus Groups, Ethnography and Participant-Observation **RMG** Ch12; ***Literature review due***
- Week 9: ***Politics and ethics of research—quantitative, qualitative, issues of scale***
RMG Ch 24 *Revised literature review due*
- Week 10: Cultural Landscapes/Incorporating landscape observations in research **RMG** Ch 14 *Landscape exercise on BB.*
- Week 11: ***Methodology due. Oral presentation of methodologies with link to question***
- Week 12: Human-Environment Field Study, Maps and Representation of Data **RMG** Ch 11, 15, 16; *Work on final proposals*
- Week 13: TBA
- Week 14: Oral Presentation of Proposals
- Week 15: ***Final proposals due May 25th***