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Office Hours: Tuesday, Friday 3:00-4:00pm or by appointment

Course Description
The course is designed to be a graduate-level exposure to the process of doing geographic research. Basic epistemological and ontological approaches will be reviewed through the use of readings on research methodologies and selected readings from the geography literature. Class discussion will focus on the identification of research problems, construction of hypotheses, and development of research design. The course is designed to have the students learn from the instructor, other faculty, the reading material, and from each other. The course is divided into three major sections.

- Section 1: Introduction to the process of scientific research - questions of epistemology and ontology, research methods in Geography, conceptualization of the research problem.
- Section 2: Research operationalization - introduction to basic methods, choosing a research method, positivist and non-positivist approaches, qualitative and quantitative approaches
- Section 3: Critique and evaluation of research methods - review of current research within Geography, and student presentation of research proposals.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes
The course is designed to facilitate a set of learning outcomes for students. The key outcomes include the following:

1. Translate concepts into operationally measured variables and indicators
2. Understand the connections between different epistemologies and ontologies and different research design protocols
3. Define criteria to evaluate research proposal
4. Practice a variety of data gathering techniques
5. Gain facility with different types of data – qualitative and quantitative
6. Develop and detail a research proposal

Grading
Your grade will be based on following set of assignments and responsibilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Grade</th>
<th>Assignment 1</th>
<th>census and archival data search</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>questionnaire and survey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>index and scales; field work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>final draft of your proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal Presentation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>public presentation of your proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>involvement in class discussion; submission of 1-2 page Comment papers</td>
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There will be no exams in the class. Three assignments will be given out during the course of the
semester. Each assignment will focus on a different topic and have associated supplemental readings. The research proposal will include the submission of a single page introductory outline sheet, an annotated bibliography, a rough draft, and a final draft. Research topics and paper drafts will be critically reviewed during class discussions. You also will be expected to publicly present your research proposal before your classmates. The final draft of the proposal is expected to be a polished piece of writing - complete and coherent from beginning to end. You will work on this project throughout the semester. Half-digested treatments will receive poor grades. It is expected that each of you will work closely with a faculty member(s) in the department who define themselves as an expert on the topic of your proposal.

Class attendance and class participation are a critical part of the semester grade. This means that you must be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the day. Other specifics as to the nature of the assignments, term paper and the participation grade will be discussed in class. Late assignments will receive a reduction in grade. No grades of "incomplete" will be given except in cases of extreme circumstances.

**Academic Honesty**

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 CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonest, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations.

**Students with Disabilities**

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 need disability-related accommodations for your work in this course, please let me know.

**Required Text**


**Optional Text**


The books are available at the Hunter College bookstore, or can be purchased online.

Other readings are available via email from the instructor or via the Hunter College Blackboard. The readings are to be read for the week they are listed. Additional readings might be assigned on a weekly basis.
Topics

1. Introduction to Inquiry and Writing Research.
2. Ethics and Politics of Research
3. Theory and Research
4. Epistemology in Geography
5. Research Design – Conceptualization
7. Indexes and Sampling
8. Quantitative Research
9. Unobtrusive Research
10. Creating New Data: Survey Methods
12. Qualitative Data Analysis
13. Evaluation and Assessment Research
14. Student Presentations
15. Student Presentations
16.