

Research Design in Geography
GEOG 70154
Spring 2022

Course Information:

- GEOG 70154 Research Design in Geography
- Lectures, activities, development of thesis proposal
- Tuesdays 5:35-8:25 hybrid-take note of “location” of each meeting

Contact Information

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

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 15%
- Question and Framework 15%
- Literature review (in lieu of midterm exam) 25%
- Methodology 15%
- 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 10 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/la/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:

Feb 1: Introduction to Theory, Ontology, Epistemology RMG Ch 1-2; Reading response on Blackboard. Find a thesis in geography related to your interests. Come Feb 15 prepared to discuss it in terms of its question, framework, methodology and findings. **In-person**

Feb 8: No class—Follow Friday schedule

Feb 15: What is a question? Conceptual Framework? Presentation of theses **Zoom**

Feb 22: Research Ethics RMG Ch 24; CITI online Human Subjects Research Basic Course. Link to CITI on Blackboard. **No class meeting-intensive online course.**

Mar 1: Interplay of Theory and Observation RMG Ch 3; Reading response on Blackboard. Presentation of research questions and frameworks. ***Question and framework due. In-person***

Mar 8: Research Approaches/Making Operational Decisions/IRB Applications/literature reviews; RMG Ch 5; Reading response on Blackboard. Begin working on literature review. **Zoom**

Mar 15: Measurement and Observation. RMG Ch 4; Reading response on Blackboard. Work on literature reviews. **Zoom**

- Mar 22: Sampling and Secondary Data RMG Ch 6, 11; Components of a literature review. Reading response on Blackboard. **Zoom**
- Mar 29: Surveys, Interviews, and Focus Groups RMG Ch 12; *Literature reviews due*. Brief presentation of literature review themes and organization. **Zoom**
- April 5: Ethnography and Participant-Observation RMG Ch 13; Reading response on Blackboard. Right method(s) for the question. **Zoom**
- April 12: Cultural Landscapes RMG Ch 14; Cultural landscape exercise (see Blackboard for details); Reading response on Blackboard. Revisions on literature review if necessary. Work on methodology. **Zoom**
- April 19: No class. Spring Break***
- April 26: Human-Environment Field Study RMG Ch 15; Reading response on Blackboard. ***Methodology due. Presentation of methodology. In-person***
- May 3: Maps and Representation of Data RMG Ch 11, 16; Exercise 11.2 adapted on Blackboard; Reading response on Blackboard. Revise methodology if necessary. Work on final proposal. **Zoom**
- May 10: Analyzing Meaning and Writing Up Research RMG Ch 23, 25; Reading response on Blackboard. Work on final proposal. **Zoom**
- May 17: Discussion of any final issues related to proposals. **Zoom**
- May 24: Written and oral presentation of proposals in lieu of final exam ***In-person***