

History and Methods of Modern Geography

Course Syllabus

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Summary

Course Title	History and Methods of Modern Geography
Course No.	GEOG16290
CRN	42959
Start/End Dates	08/28/18 - 10/22/18
Term/Module	Fall 2018

Delivery Method	Number of Face-to-Face Meetings
Online	None

Course Description

This course provides the theoretical foundation to the field of geography. It explores the different bodies of thought and methodological practices which have shaped the character of geography from the late 19th century to the present. This exploration will cross the traditional sub-disciplinary divisions of human geography, physical geography and GIScience, examining the ways in which all three have been woven together and pulled apart by broad intellectual trends in the discipline. When the course is finished, students should be able to place their own research into disciplinary context, and gain a useful perspective on the similarities and differences between contemporary geographic subfields, and their methods, as contingent, historical products.

Instructor

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Name	Jordan P. Howell, PhD
Email	howellj@rowan.edu ; http://users.rowan.edu/~howellj/
Phone	n/a
Virtual Office Hours	Post questions and comments for the instructor to the Office Hours board (in Discussions Area). The instructor will respond within approximately 48 hours. For faster or more private correspondence, use email.

Objectives

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A course description can be useful, but it doesn't always address the purpose of the course. Sometimes students (and professors) get frustrated when they feel like they don't know what the purposes of a course are or why they are doing what they are doing. I want to avoid this by letting you know, right away, what the goals of this course are:

- Understand the processes of asking and answering significant ('research') questions;
- Appreciate geography's many modes of inquiry and how these have changed in prominence over time;
- Connect geographic modes of inquiry to both professional skills and opportunities for future study;
- Improve critical analysis and communication skills (both written and verbal), including communication using electronic tools and in electronic environments;
- Implement the sensibilities of scholarly research into everyday life in a modern society (and in particular: personal, democratic, economic, and ecological aspects of life)

Prerequisites

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Any **two** of the following courses: GEOG 16100 (Earth, People, and the Environment), GEOG 16110 (Cultural Geography), GEOG 16130 (Earth Sciences Lab I), GEOG 16140 (World Regional Geography), GEOG 16160 (Intro. to Mapping and Geographic Information Sciences)

Materials and Texts

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- Booth, WC, GG Colomb, JM Williams, J Bizup, and WT Fitzgerald. 2016. *The Craft of Research*, 4th edition. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 978-0226939736
- Cresswell, T. 2013. *Geographic Thought: A Critical Introduction*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell Pub. ISBN: 978-1405169394
- Gomez, B and JP Jones III, eds. 2010. *Research Methods in Geography: A Critical Introduction*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell Pub. ISBN: 978-1405107112
- Other readings will be on Canvas or else you will track them down yourselves using various library resources.

Schedule

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The following schedule is tentative and may be changed with prior notification from the instructor.

TCR = The Craft of Research
GT = Geographic Thought: A Critical Introduction
RMG = Research Methods in Geography: A Critical Introduction
Research Article = A Research Article Obtained Electronically

Week	Start Date	Readings, Activities & Assignments
1	08/28/18	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCR pgs. 1-48 • GT pgs. 1-13; 35-78 • RMG pgs. 1-5 • Research Article 1 (Sauer) <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction Lecture • 1-1: What is Geography? What is Research? • 1-2: Geography's Glory Days <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction Post • DQ 1 • DQ 2 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Assignment Component 1: Statement of (Research) Interests • Reading Analysis Memo 1
2	09/04/18	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCR pgs. 49-84 • GT pgs. 79-102 • Research Article 2 (Lakshmanan) <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-1: The Rise of Quantitative Geography • 2-2: Starting Your Research Quest <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DQ 3 • DQ 4

		Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Assignment Component 2: Summary of General Literature Reading Analysis Memo 2
3	09/11/18	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GT pgs. 103-195 Research Article 3 (Peet) Research Article 4 (Pratt) Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-1: Humanist and Marxian Geographies 3-2: Feminist and Postmodern Geographies 3-3: Developing Research Questions Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DQ 5 DQ 6 Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Assignment Component 3: Research Questions and Problems Peer Review Assignment 1 Reading Analysis Memo 3 Reading Analysis Memo 4
4	09/18/18	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCR pgs. 85-104 GT pgs. 218-260 Research Article 5 (Kitson / McHugh) Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-1: More-than-Human Geographies 4-2: Searching for Scholarly Sources Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DQ 7 DQ 8 Exams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 01 Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Analysis Memo 5
5	09/25/18	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMG pgs. 26-90; 173-193, 279-314; 354-375 Research Article 6 (Cromley et al.)

		<p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-1: What is Data? Where is Data? • 5-2: Methods Set #1: Quantitative Methods <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DQ 9 • DQ 10 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Assignment Component 4: Annotated Bibliography • Reading Analysis Memo 6
6	10/02/18	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCR pgs. 105-172 • RMG pgs. 194-240 • Research Article 7 (Howell) <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-1: Methods Set #2: Qualitative Methods • 6-2: Understanding Research Arguments <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DQ 11 • DQ 12 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Assignment Component 5: Research Argument • Peer Review Assignment 2 • Reading Analysis Memo 7
7	10/09/18	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMG pgs. 155-172; 241-278; 376-407 • Research Article 8 (Brenner and Christman et al.) • Research Article 9 (Seegers et al.) <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-1: Methods Set #3: Maps, Remote Sensing, and GIS • 7-2: Methods Set #4: Mixed Methods • 7-3: Selecting and Defending Research Methods <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DQ 13 • DQ 14

		Exams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 02 Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Assignment Component 6: Selecting Methods and Data • Peer Review Assignment 3 • Reading Analysis Memo 8 • Reading Analysis Memo 9
8	10/16/18	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCR pgs. 189-213. 232-268 Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-1: Putting it All Together Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Review Assignment 4 • Major Assignment Component 7: Complete Draft of Proposal

Assignment Outline

There are four types of assignments in this course. They all work together to get you thinking about how geography theory has changed over time, how this has impacted the ways that people do research, and how you can develop your own research projects.

Of course, all assignments will be submitted online. The exams are short-answer and essay based and you will complete them using the online testing feature. Additional information about the other assignments can be found on Canvas.

Quiz and Exam Policy

There will be 2 fully online quizzes and or exams in this course. Detailed information is provided in the week in which each exam is administered. Exams must be submitted by their posted due date.

During all quizzes and examinations, students are permitted to use the following resources:

- Textbook(s) by specific title
- Handwritten or typed notes
- Notes on your computer
- Internet access or web sites of any kind other than the Canvas LMS system
- **No** use of mobile phones or other devices other than the device on which you will take the exam

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Each student is expected to work on this **individually** and within the confines of the University Academic Honesty Policy (see <http://www.rowanonline.com> for University Policies and details).

Grading

Final Grade Breakdown

Grading Criteria/Assignment	Points
Exams (2 x 30 points each)	60
Reading Analysis Memos (complete 6 out of 9 possible; 6 x 15 points each)	90
Research Proposal Major Assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Statement of (Research) Interests = 10 points b. Summary of General Literature = 20 points c. Research Questions and Problems = 10 points d. Annotated Bibliography = 40 points e. Research Argument and Warrants = 30 points f. Selection of Methods and Rationale = 40 points g. Final draft = 100 points 	250 total points
Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discussion Questions (15 x 10 points each) = 150 points b. Peer Review of Project Components (4 x 10 points each) = 40 points 	190 total points
Total	590 possible points

Grading Scale

A	93% and Up	C	74 – 76
A-	90 – 92	C-	70 – 73
B+	87 – 89	D+	67 – 69
B	84 – 86	D	64 – 66
B-	80 – 83	D-	60 – 63
C+	77 - 79	F	59% and Below

Course Policies and Rowan Online Standard Policies (addendum)

The current version of Rowan Online Standard Policies, which are an addendum to this syllabus, are found in the [Rowan Online Standard Policies Document](#). I encourage you to read and be familiar with them! Some additional and specific policies are included below:

Class Etiquette (*adapted from Dr. Lesley Rigg*): Students are entitled to and deserve respect, courtesy and tolerance, regardless of their race, background, religious affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, disability or any other perceived difference. Likewise, faculty, staff and fellow students deserve the same treatment. Therefore, within this class community, regardless of the mode of communication, every effort will be made to create a safe haven for diverse thoughts and communication. For more information, see the University “Classroom Behavior Policy and Procedures” document.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Don’t do either of these; it is a waste of your time, a waste of my time, and extremely disrespectful to me and your classmates. It may also get you into serious trouble with the University. We can discuss academic integrity in class. In the meantime, be sure to read the full University policy on ‘Academic Integrity’. We will make use of plagiarism prevention tools as well, as a regular part of this course.

E-Mail Policy: Please send me email directly from your Rowan email account to my Rowan email account (howellj@rowan.edu) to ensure that I receive your message quickly. You can send messages through Canvas but sometimes I am not notified for several hours that you sent a message. I will do my best to respond to your emails quickly, though I cannot make any guarantees. You can help me answer your email by adhering to the following sample:

Subject: Question about Assignment/Exam/Issue

Greetings/Hey/Dear Professor/Jordan/dude,

I was hoping for clarification about this specific issue. I understand parts X and Y, but part Z is really making me confused. Should I think about it according to A, or is B a better approach? Also, I’m not quite sure when the assignment is due – it doesn’t say on the page, and I don’t believe you mentioned it in class.

Thanks/Sincerely/Peace out,

First Name Last Name

Name of course you’re in with me

Late assignments: Please turn assignments in on time! Assignments are due as indicated on the schedule. Late assignments will be accepted for feedback, but not for any credit (even partial credit) without documentation of a university-excused absence. **The single biggest reason why people fare poorly in this class is because they do not turn things in. Don’t let this happen to you!**

Readings: If readings are not from the assigned texts, then they will be available electronically for free. In this class, you may be responsible for tracking down journal articles and book chapters on your own. **In any case, readings are to be completed before you view the recorded lectures.** Please note that while we may not discuss all aspects of a given reading in a recorded lecture, you are responsible for all assigned readings for exams, including any information from charts, maps, and other graphics.

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