

**The University of Winnipeg
Department of Geography**

**GEOG 3330 (3)-001
Research Methods in Geography**

**Fall Term: 09-07-2021 – 12-23-2021
Lectures: Mondays 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm (Lockhart Hall, 5L24)**

Instructors: Joni Storie
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Office Hours: Monday 11:00 am -12:00 pm; Thursday 11:00 am – 12:00pm

**Please note when corresponding with the instructor, use your University of Winnipeg email account system: name@webmail.uwinnipeg.ca. Emails from accounts such as Hotmail or Gmail are frequently treated as spam and thus may not reach the recipient.*

Important Dates - Fall Term 2021

Lectures Begin: Tuesday, September 7, 2021
Lectures End for Regularly scheduled classes: Monday, December 6, 2021
Truth and Reconciliation Day - Sept. 30, 2021 (Uni Closed)
Remembrance Day – November 11, 2021 (Uni Closed)
Make-up day for Remembrance Day: Tuesday, December 7, 2021
Make-up day for Truth and Reconciliation Day will be Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021
Fall Term Reading Week: Sunday, October 10, 2021 to Saturday, October 16, 2021
Final Withdrawal Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021
Exams: Thursday, December 10, 2021 to Wednesday, December 23, 2021

Course Description

GEOG-3330 (3) Research Methods in Geography (3 hrs Lecture) This course introduces students to skills for conducting geographic research, and explores the uses, limitations, and methods associated with quantitative and qualitative analysis in human and physical geography. These skills are relevant for careers in academic and professional fields. Topics include primary data collection and analyses, questionnaire design and structured interviews, data assembly and interpretation, research design and ethics, and the presentation of research results. This course includes a significant practical element.

Requisite Courses: GEOG-1102 and GEOG-1103 and GEOG-1201 and GEOG-1202 and GEOG-2309 or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

Required Textbook

Clifford, N., Cope, M., Gillespie, T., & French, S. (Eds.). (2016). *Key methods in geography*. Third Edition. Sage.

Course Objectives

The primary objective for this course is to develop skills in research based on effective literature searches and synthesis, data collection, data analysis, writing and communication of geographic knowledge. Students will make **individual** contributions to a group research project based on a physical or human/cultural geography topic. Students will be building upon knowledge already gained in previous geography courses such as broad themes of geography from first year courses, applying descriptive and inferential statistics, etc. You will also be expanding your understanding of the research methods, develop experience with geographic data and analysis, and communication of geographic information.

Approved research topics, from a geographic perspective, include:

- Canada Food Security
- Meeting Our Needs with Canadian Wood Products
- Demographic Changes in Winnipeg Neighbourhoods
- Historical Geography of Disease
- Canadian Arctic Cultures
- Mapping Ungulates in Manitoba
- Volunteer GIS for Land Cover Mapping
- Map Automation using Artificial Intelligence

Student Evaluation

Date Due	Assessment Description	Marks
October 4	Effective literature review and synthesis	20%
Variable	Verbal reports on interviews / discussions, participation	15%
November 1	Revisions + Methods Development & Presentation	30%
November 29	Revisions + Data Analysis, Interpretation of Results, and Conclusions	25%
December 6	Presentation of project	10%

*The final date to withdraw from the course without academic penalty is **Tuesday November 16, 2021**. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.*

NEXUS

Documents related to this course (e.g., course syllabus, project guidelines, lecture slides, supplemental readings) will be made available to students through the Nexus system. You must be registered in the course to have access to these materials. To login in to Nexus, go to: <https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/>

If you encounter difficulties with Nexus contact the help desk at 204-786-9149 or help.desk@uwinnipeg.ca.

Literature Review & Synthesis

Each student will explore peer-reviewed literature and write an effective synthesis of those articles. Students will either address (i) why research is important, the research goals and objectives, results and conclusions, and future questions that still need to be addressed, or (ii) the methods used to address the goal and objectives with subsequent results and conclusions. Depending on the number

of the students in each research group, each student will address individual research objectives that contribute the same research goal. Further instructions and discussion about this assignment will occur in class. Assignment is due on Nexus at the beginning of class October 4th.

Methods Development & Presentation

Revisions based on comments given on first assignment. Based on the results from the literature review and synthesis, students will propose best practice methods to address a research question. This will include (i) why research is important, (ii) identification of research goal and objectives, (iii) best practice methods to address each objective (data, analysis (including statistical analysis), proposed accuracy or validation of results; and (iv) best guess for expected results. Both the group presentation and individual written assignment is due on Nexus at the beginning of class November 1st. Students will present on November 1st. Further instructions and discussion about this assignment and presentation will occur in class.

Data Analysis, Interpretation of Results and Conclusions

Revisions based on comments given on previous assignment. This portion of the research project will depend on what was developed previously in the previous two assignments (literature review and best practice methods). Students will be using secondary data collection methods such as demographic data from Statistics Canada or ungulate data from Riding Mountain National Park or whatever data meets your needs. It is expected that you will incorporate qualitative and/or quantitative statistics into their analysis, and this will depend on the data collected. Data analysis is based on using appropriate statistics for the data available for your project and generation of tables, graphs and/or maps to visualize your results. Interpretation of results is based on, for example, explaining trends or patterns in data or results, relating to known events (i.e., flood of 1997) or use of background knowledge (literature review) or experience to propose likely explanations. Conclusions answer the goal statement and put results into context of other article results. Assignment is due on Nexus at the beginning of class November 29th. Further instructions and discussion about this assignment will occur in class.

Presentation of Projects

The final presentation will be done by all the individuals in the group, each student presenting their most significant contribution to the project. You will be expected to ask **good content-related** questions of other groups and effectively answer questions based on your presentation. The group presentation is due on Nexus at the beginning of class on December 6th.

Faculty Interviews

The purpose of faculty interviews is to learn about their research focus now, what key questions need to be addressed in their field, what methods do they (mainly) use to conduct research, what statistical tests and tools (if any) do they apply, etc. This opportunity sometimes leads to an academic interest, an opportunity to work for a faculty member, learn about job prospects or lead to a thesis topic.

Participation

Participation has intrinsic value for students including improvement of critical and higher-level thinking skills; it helps students learn from each other and develop peer relationships; it may assist you to identify avenues for further development; and encourages a sense of responsibility to your own education and knowledge¹. Participation grading is based on attendance and punctuality, preparedness for class discussions, contribution to discussions based on readings or other resources, listening to others, and keeping focused on class materials and topics.

Late Assignments

Extensions without penalty will be granted only if accompanied by a medical certificate, death certificate, or because of a pre-established religious holiday. Please note computer problems are not an acceptable excuse for late submissions. Ten percent per day will be deducted for late assignments (including weekends), commencing as soon as the submission deadline has lapsed. Assignments will not be accepted five business days after the due date.

Grading

The University does not have a standardized grading scheme. For this course, grade equivalents are as follows:

A+	90-100 %	C+	65-69.9 %
A	84-89.9 %	C	56-64.9%
A-	80-83.9%	D	50-55.9 %
B+	75-79.9 %	F	less than 50 %
B	70-74.9 %		

The numeric boundaries separating letter grades may be altered at the request of the Department Review Committee or University Senate.

¹ Czekanski, K. E., & Wolf, Z. R. (2013). Encouraging and Evaluating Class Participation. *Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice*, 10(1), 7.

Course Topics*

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Options
1	Sept 13	Syllabus and Course review. Developing a research question Conducting a literature review	Chapter 1, 4
2	Sept 20	Secondary data collection	Chapter 30 and one of the following Chapters 7, 22, 25 Or Chapters -8,9, 10, 11 or 15
3	Sept 27	Writing a synthesis	Chapter 5
4	Oct 4	Literature Review and Synthesis due (Nexus) Physical Geography Human / Cultural	Chapters 18, 19, 20 Chapters 13, 14
5		Reading Week (no classes)	
6	Oct 18	Faculty Interviews	
7	Oct 25	Verbal report on faculty interviews conducted. Statistics Decision Making	Chapter 31, 32, 37 Chapter 33, 36, 38
8	Nov 1	Revisions + Methods Development due (Nexus) Presentations	
9	Nov 8	Writing a report as a team Working with different cultures	Chapter 6
10	Nov 15	Explanation and Prediction	Chapter 23
11	Nov 22	Group draft summary (verbal) Peer feedback and assistance	
12	Nov 29	Revisions + Data Analysis, Interpretation of Results, and Conclusions Communication	Chapter 5
13	Dec 6	Presentations of Projects	

The dates the University is closed for holidays, irrespective of campus closure related to COVID-19: September 6 (Labour Day), Truth and Reconciliation Day (Sept. 30), Thanksgiving Day (October 11), November 11 (Remembrance Day), Fall mid-term reading week is October-10-16.

****All topics listed on the outline may not be covered depending on student interest and time.***



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

1. When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, I will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated in this outline), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms.
2. Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or their course instructors.
3. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.
4. The first day of class is Tuesday September 7, 2021. Last class will be held on December 6 with make-up classes for Remembrance Day on Tuesday December 7 and Truth and Reconciliation Day will be Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021. Evaluation period is December 10-23, 2021. There is no final exam scheduled for this course

[See <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/dates.pdf> for all dates]

5. Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they **must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance**. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2021-22 Undergraduate Academic Calendar.
6. Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams or during lectures/laboratories are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204.786.9771 or <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility-services/> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.
7. Reference to the appropriate items in the Regulations & Policies section of the *Course Calendar*, including Senate appeals and academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf> Instructors should become familiar with the procedures for dealing with alleged academic misconduct at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

Avoiding Academic and Non-academic Misconduct. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Academic Regulations and Policies found in the University Academic Calendar at: <https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf> . Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals). Please note, in particular, the subsection of Student Discipline pertaining to plagiarism and other forms of cheating.

Detailed information can be found at the following:

- The University of Winnipeg library video tutorial “Avoiding Plagiarism”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>
- Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and
<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
- Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and
<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

Misuse of Filesharing Sites. Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.

Avoiding Copyright Violation. Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor /presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.

Research Ethics. Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html>.

8. All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn, and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/>.

9. *Indigenous students* seeking additional supports, academic or other, are encouraged to contact the Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC). The ASSC offers a variety of support services, and was created to maintain a safe, educational and culturally sensitive environment for all Aboriginal students (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) as they pursue their academic studies at The University of Winnipeg. More information can be found at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/assc/>.