

Course outline

Geography 419: Research in Environmental Geography.

January - April 2016.

Class meets on Wednesdays, 9am-noon in the UBC Geography building, room 242.

Pre-requisite: Major or Honours in Geography with at least 75 credits, or permission of the instructor.

Instructor, David Brownstein

Geog Rm 210H. 604-827-5541. david.brownstein at geog ubc ca

Office hour: Mon, Wed, 12-1pm, or by appointment.

My vision for Geog 419 is as a series of linked research skills workshops. These will teach the methods necessary to tackle research problems that integrate insights from both human and physical geography. Ultimately, the student will create a portfolio that could form the solid basis of an application for graduate school. Alternatively, the class will provide the experience necessary for entrance into the research streams of government, an NGO, or the corporate world.

The research problem you work on for the term will come from one of 20 off-campus *Community Based Research* partnerships. More details at our first meeting in the fall, however for example, some of you will act as consultants on issues such as waste management, program assessment, policy analysis, life-cycle analysis, project evaluation, etc.

Tentative Mark Breakdown:

Weekly Attendance, tardiness and participation 10%.

Term Project

Proposal 15%.

Literature review 30%.

In class paper draft 10%.

30-Minute presentation 15% [last four weeks of class].

Final Written Report 20%.

Late assignments will be penalized by -10% per day. Please familiarize yourself with UBC's plagiarism policies as they will be strictly enforced:

<<http://legacy.arts.ubc.ca/arts-students/plagiarism-avoided.html>>

Any student who does not submit an electronic copy of their final report to the UBC Library for inclusion on cIRcle, our digital repository, *will fail the class*, no matter how well you may have actually done in the weeks previous.

E-mail: Use our course list-serve for questions. That way everybody can see both question and answer. Please allow 48hrs. for a response, sometimes longer on weekends. Not appropriate for the list-serve? Come and see me in person during my office hours.

See over for weekly schedule...

Term at a glance.

| Date | Topic | Deadline |
|--------------------|---|--|
| January 6, 2015. | Introductions, project selection, etc. | |
| Jan 13. | Research Ethics. Jean Ruiz, UBC Office of Research Services. | Two-page proposals due. Proposal presentations. |
| Jan 20. | Anatomy of an academic journal. Non-Academic writing (briefing notes, etc). | Online Research Ethics certificate. |
| Jan 27. | The fine art of paper-writing. | |
| February 3. | Intro to speaking in public. | Literature Reviews due. |
| February 10. | Surveys and Interviews | |
| February 17. | Reading week. No class. | |
| February 24. | Peer editing exercise. | First draft of paper due. |
| March 2. | Student presentations | 30-minute presentation. |
| March 9. | Student presentations. | |
| March 16. | Student presentations. | |
| March 23. | Student presentations. | |
| March 30. | Public conference, student co-presentations with community partner (location to be determined). | Five-minute presentation. |
| April 6. | | Final Reports Due. |
| April 20 (Approx). | CityStudio conference. | |

Mid to late April. Incorporate instructor/partner feedback, post report to cIRcle.
Don't make any travel plans in April.

Support Services

Academic Advising

<<http://students.arts.ubc.ca/academic-planning-advising/advising.html>>

International Student Advising: <<http://www.students.ubc.ca/international/about-us>>

ESL Support: <<http://cstudies.ubc.ca/academic-english-support-program/index.html>>

Free writing tutoring services: <<http://cstudies.ubc.ca/writing/resources.html>>

UBC Toastmasters: <<http://ubctoastmasters.weebly.com/>>

Important calendar dates: <<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/academicyear.cfm>>

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>.

Access & Diversity works with the university to create an inclusive living and learning environment in which all students can thrive. The university accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Access & Diversity unit: <<http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/drc.cfm>>. Students must register with the Disability Resource Centre to be granted special accommodations for any on-going conditions.

The university accommodates students whose **religious obligations** conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Students should let their instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if they will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the course drop date. UBC policy on Religious Holidays: <<http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy65.pdf>>