

HONOURS THESIS PREPARATION

GEOGRAPHY 4011 – FALL 2012

Course	Dr. Todd A. Randall	Office Hours (or by appointment):
Coordinator:	Office: RC-2006C	<i>As posted on office door.</i>
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Calendar Description:

Fall Term. A research project will be chosen after consultation with the department and with the agreement of the professor who will supervise the work. Students are advised to begin this work in the summer before their final year. This first part of the thesis class involves preparation of a literature review and development of a research methods design. Attendance at a number of workshops is required. There will be an oral presentation at the end of the term. Students who are considering applying for graduate school, or who hope to apply Geography in a professional field such as planning or environmental management, are most strongly advised to complete an Honours Thesis.

Special notes: Students in Geography 4011 and 4013 will be expected to bear the costs of any field research required. Restricted to students in the fourth year of an Honours Geography program.

Prerequisites:

Geography 2251 and 2271; or permission of the Department.

Course Objectives:

The Thesis Preparation course is offered in the fall semester. Its central objective is to lay the groundwork for work you will complete in the winter semester. During the fall semester, students will:

- (a) prepare a written research proposal
- (b) complete a literature review
- (c) prepare a written research plan
- (d) give two oral progress reports

Course Organization:

This course, along with Geography 4013 in the Winter term, involves independent work that will be supervised by a Geography faculty member. During the fall semester, four mandatory workshops are offered during the regular scheduled time (Friday afternoons 1:30 to 4:30 in RC-2005) to assist students in preparing necessary course components. The schedule of workshops is shown below.

GEOG 4011 COURSE SCHEDULE *(subject to changes)*

Week of	Course Meeting (Friday 1:30-4:30)
Sept 9	Sept 14 th : Course Overview (Dr. T. Randall)
Sept 16	Sept 21 st : Writing a Literature Review (Dr. K. Zaniewski)
Sept 30	Oct 5 th : Preparing a Research Plan (Dr. A. Cornwell)
Oct 7 ⁽¹⁾	Oct 12th: First Oral Progress Report
Oct 14	Oct 19 th : Ethics (Dr. R. Stewart)
Oct 28	Nov 2 nd : Thinking Ahead to Grad School (Dr. M. Dowsley)
Nov 25	Nov 30th: Second Oral Progress Report

NOTES: (1) Thanksgiving holiday is Monday, Oct 8th, 2012; (2) First day of term: Mon. Sept 10th, 2012; Last day of classes is Mon. Dec. 3rd, 2012; (3) **Final exams** run from Dec 6th to 17th, 2012, inclusive – there is no flexibility in changing exams to accommodate holiday travel; (4) Final date to register for a course (Fri, Sept 21st);

Course Grading / Deadlines:

Thesis Proposal	5%	(due: Fri, Sept 28 th)
Presentations ^(see schedule above) .		
First Oral Progress Report**	0%	
Second Oral Progress Report	25%	
Literature Review – First Draft	10%	(due: Fri, Nov 9 th)
Research Plan	30%	(due: Fri, Nov 23 rd)
Literature Review – Final Draft	30%	(due: Fri, Dec 7 th)
	100%	

Written submissions should be **handed directly** to Dr. Randall no later than 5:00 PM on the due date. ** *While no mark is assigned to the first progress report, a 5 percentage point penalty will be assessed for students who are absent that day without valid reason (compassionate or medical-related reasons). A similar penalty is applied when a student misses a workshop without being excused.*

Course Manual

A thesis course manual is available on-line from the Geography Department web site.

The manual provides advice on:

- (a) how to go about choosing a topic
- (b) how to develop the various written components of the course
- (c) what is expected for the oral presentations.
- (d) guidelines for formatting the thesis itself

To access the manual, go to the Geography Department home page (<http://geography.lakeheadu.ca/>), locate Thesis in the list of items on the left hand side of the page. Then, look for the link to the Undergraduate Thesis Manual.

Assignment of Supervisors

During the first two weeks of September, students are encouraged to consult various faculty members of the Department regarding possible thesis topics. After proposals are submitted, the Department will meet to determine who can best supervise the projects that have been proposed. Official advisors normally are announced by the end of September.

Note that you need to achieve a mark of at least 70% in Geography 4011 to be able to proceed to Geography 4013.