

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
GEOG 2251 - GEOGRAPHICAL INQUIRY AND INTERPRETATION
Winter 2020 - COURSE OUTLINE

- Lectures RC 2004 – Wednesday and Friday 4:30 – 5:30
- Labs RC 2004 – Wednesday 10:00am – 12:30pm

Instructor

Dr. W. Wilson, Department of Geography, RB 2006C, 343-8274

Office Hours: TBA.

Tel: (807) 343-8274

E-mail: My preference is face to face discussion. We see each other several times a week and we can talk then. My email for only for extreme emergencies is wrwilson@aspencroft.ca

GA

Victoria Petersons

Office: NB 2005K

Office hours: By appointment only

Email: vspeters@lakeheadu.ca

Introduction

Welcome to GEOG 2251 – Geographical Inquiry and Interpretation. This class will provide you with an exploration of the many and varied traditions of geography. In addition, you will be instructed in some basic methods of geographical investigation, analysis, and communication. The focus of this class will be on how geographical traditions undertake geographical inquiry, how they understand the interpretive task of geography, how each of these traditions can contribute to our current practice as geographers, and on how each tradition understands the importance and form of geographical communication. Workload and expectations of excellence in this class will reflect the fact that it is a specialized step towards an Honours Geography degree. My job is to facilitate your movement to this new stage in your geographical career, i.e., to facilitate your growth as a critical, professional geographer.

Aim

By the end of this course, successful students should understand:

- 1) The history of geographical thought and practice;
- 2) The necessary link between clear thinking and clear communication;
- 3) The full wealth of geographical methods and philosophies;
- 4) The practice of geographical inquiry;
- 5) The practice of geographical interpretation.

Successful students will also gain technical skills in:

- 1) Writing;
- 2) Research;
- 3) Cartography;
- 4) Various software packages

Successful students will emerge from this class with the ability to participate in conversations about geography at an advanced academic and professional level. This means that they will be familiar with the language, terminology, and theories used by academics and professionals in the various fields of geography. Some advanced students should emerge from this class with concrete ideas for further, advanced research at the senior undergraduate level, i.e., ideas for undergraduate theses or projects.

Readings and Materials

- The required textbooks and readings are online the royal geographical society website: <https://www.rgs.org/in-the-field/advice-training/> . The texts are PDFs under resources I believe. There is excellent info and tools here that we will be using extensively.
- In addition, you will be required to purchase some equipment, **maps**, and notebooks for the lab and the tutorial.
 - These are all resources that you will use throughout your career as a geographer, i.e., at the undergraduate, professional, and graduate levels. More information on this will be available in the labs and tutorials.

Assignment Title	Weight	Description
Research Expedition Management Plan	45%	This assignment will be primarily spoken about in class hours. Please see attached assignment description
Library Treasure Hunt	45%	This assignment will be primarily spoken about in lab hours. Please see attached assignment description
Weekly Lecture Question	10%	Each lecture will have a question of the day in which you will have to submit a writing answer to a simple question about that days readings.

NOTE FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITTEN MATERIAL SUBMISSIONS:

- If a minimum standard of spelling, grammar and referencing is not met within the submission, the assignment will be returned to the student(s). It can be resubmitted after addressing the issues thought editing or going to see the writing center in the library.
- **THE ONLY REFERENCING STYLE ACCEPTED IS CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE**

PLAGIARISM

In a university environment, misrepresentation of work is taken very seriously. Students are directed to the LU Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures, Article 1, point #1 (<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures>) and the University Regulation IX of the Calendar.