

Course Outline

Geography 2251 FA

Approaches to the collection, analysis, display, and interpretation of information pertaining to geographical landscapes. Introduction to philosophical and methodological traditions of geographical inquiry.

Instructor:

Dr. Robert Stewart

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Office: RC 2006A

Lectures and Labs:

Lecture (RC2003) Tuesday and Thursday 10:30am- 11:30am

Lab 1 (RC2003) Thursday 12:30pm-2:30pm

Lab 3 (RC2003) Tuesday 12:30pm-2:30pm

Course Objectives:

Students are expected to attend weekly lectures and labs, complete lab assignments and actively manage their own time and participation in course activities. Students are expected to be independent and:

- Regularly review the D2L course website for new postings, readings and information
 - Complete all assigned readings/viewings before lecture
 - Do original research and submit a research paper
 - Participate in discussion forums available through the D2L Course Site
1. To understand the different approaches to speciality disciplines, e.g., anthropology, water science, resource management, human ecology, environmental science, etc. How are these all related to each other through multi- and interdisciplinary approaches?
 2. Develop critical and analytic thinking skills.
 - There are often multiple perspectives and multiple options for resolving issues; don't assume everything you read/watch has considered all relevant viewpoints.
 - Consider: Why do certain approaches work/not work? What can be done to ensure better outcomes? Whose perspectives may have been prioritized/left out in decision-making?
 3. Develop practical knowledge and skills.
 - Use of case studies and professional insights. Let's focus on what works! It's easy to sit back and identify flaws, it's much harder to do the job right.
 - Consider: What do geographic issues look like in practice? What would I do if I were working in this field?

Evaluation:

Item	Grade Weighting
Participation in D2L Discussions	15%
Research Proposal	15%
Research Paper	30%
Labs	40%
Total	100%

Participation: Students are expected to participate in class and online discussion forums on the D2L course website. While the instructor will present sample discussion questions in lecture, students are also encouraged to discuss other topics relevant to the weekly lectures and respond to discussions initiated by other members of the class. To achieve full marks, students must be active participants in these class and discussion forums, engage in meaningful and thoughtful discourse, apply critical perspectives and discuss examples pertinent to the course, and be coherent (spelling, grammar, and overall readability of remarks will be assessed). There will be no tolerance for discussions that are disrespectful, abusive, or harassing of any kind.

Research Proposal and Research Paper: Students will prepare a 2-page Research Proposal (worth 15%) to be approved by the instructor, and then complete research towards the delivery of a **2500-word** Research Paper worth an additional 30% (due dates specified in the schedule). The Research Paper is approved through a research proposal process to ensure that your topic is appropriate for an undergraduate research paper and structured to investigate a topic before you choose it. Once the proposal is approved, students will then conduct literature-based research and investigation into a particular topic. Further details on the Research Proposal and Paper will be provided during the first weeks of class and available through the D2L course website.

Labs: 4 Face to Face lab assignments (See schedule) will allow students to practice various skills, methods and techniques related to the fields of Geography and Environmental Studies. Labs are intended to introduce you to a range of techniques that researchers currently use and are intended to prepare you for a 4th year thesis topic and methodology (a key component of your undergrad that will allow you to qualify for a Master's degree).

Academic Integrity:

Students are required to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and demonstrate behaviours that support the university's academic values. Students are responsible for being aware of and demonstrating behaviour that is honest and ethical in their academic work.

Such behaviour includes:

- Completing one's own original work;
- Knowing and following citation and punctuation methods for referencing sources of information when quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing;
- Asking for clarification of expectations as necessary;
- Collaborating appropriately on assigned group and teamwork;
- Acknowledging the contribution of others (giving credit);
- Preventing their work from being used by others
- Adhere to Academic Integrity when conducting/reporting research, and;
- Following published examination regulations and protocols.

Students are responsible for their behaviour and may face penalties under Lakehead University's Academic Integrity Code, if they are found to be in violation of breaching Academic Integrity.

Student Accessibility Services:

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

Dates	Important Due Dates	Topic
Week 1: September 6-9		Introduction – The Context of Geographical Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies of Inquiry Themes in Geography • Philosophical Frameworks and Historical Approaches • Research Design • Communication Skills
Week 2: September 12-16	<i>Library Tutorial on Geographic Resources - TBD</i>	Basic Research Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Reviews • Making Use of Secondary Data • Finding Historical Sources
Week 3: September 19-23	Lab 1: Hypothesis Testing vs. Research Statement	Considerations and Ethics in Geographical Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety in the Field • Cross Cultural Research
Week 4: September 26-30	<i>Library Tutorial on Geographic Resources - TBD</i>	Collecting and Analysing Qualitative Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires Semi-Structured Interviews • Focus Groups • Internet Mediated Research
Week 5: October 3-7	Lab 2: Developing a Research Topic: The inverted triangle Research Proposals Due!! Submitted before Friday at 4pm. See D2L for guidelines	Collecting and Analysing Qualitative Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Observation Participatory Action Research • Diaries and Experiential Methods
Week 6: October 10-14		
Week 7: October 17-21		Representing & Interpreting Qualitative Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coding Transcripts & Analyzing Historical/Archival Sources • Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis
Week 8: October 24-28		Representing & Interpreting Qualitative Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing Cultural Texts Interpreting Visual Imagery

Week 9: November 1-4	Lab 3: Qualitative Methodologies	Collecting and Analysing Quantitative Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Information – Palaeo & Historical Data Sources • Field work - Making Observations & Taking Measurements
Week 10: November 7-11		Collecting and Analysing Quantitative Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing a Natural System Numerical Modeling Using Remote Sensing
Week 11: November 14-18	Lab 4: Quantitative Methodologies Research Papers Due!! Submitted before Friday at 4pm. See D2L for guidelines	Collecting and Analysing Quantitative Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing & Interpreting Quantitative Data • Data Handling & Presentation Using Statistics • An intro to Geostatistics
Week 12: November 21-25		Collecting and Analysing Quantitative Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing & Interpreting Quantitative Data • Mapping and Graphicacy Using GIS
Week 13: November 28- December 1		Course Review and Wrap-up