

HONOURS THESIS PREPARATION

GEOG 4011 Fall 2024

Coordinator: Dr. Adam Cornwell
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Office: RC 2006D

Description

A research project will be chosen after consultation with the department and with the agreement of the professor who will supervise the work. The central objective of this first part of the thesis class is to lay the groundwork for project completion in the Winter semester. During the Fall semester students will prepare a written thesis proposal, literature review, and research methods design. Two oral presentations will be made to the department.

Students in Geography 4011 and 4013 will be expected to bear the costs of any field research required.

Evaluation Scheme

Thesis Proposal	5%	September 27
Oral Thesis Proposal	0%*	October 4
Draft Literature Review	10%	October 25
Research Plan	30%	November 8
Literature Review	30%	November 22
Oral Progress Report	25%	November 29

Written assignments should be submitted in portable document format (.pdf) to both Dr. Cornwell AND the Thesis Supervisor no later than 5 pm on the due date.

**While no mark is assigned to the oral proposal, a five-percentage point penalty will be assessed for students who are absent that day without valid reason (compassionate or medical-related). A similar penalty will be applied when a student misses a workshop without being excused.*

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

Course Delivery

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, several mandatory workshops are offered during the regular scheduled time, either in class or via Zoom, to assist students in preparing necessary course components.

Meeting Schedule

Fridays, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, RC 2005 or Zoom

Date	Topic	Instructor
September 6	Course Overview	Dr. A. Cornwell
September 20	Writing a Literature Review	Dr. K. Zaniewski
October 4	Oral Research Proposal	
October 11	Research Ethics	Dr. M. Dowsley
October 25	Preparing a Research Plan	Dr. A. Cornwell
November 1	Thinking Ahead to Grad School	Dr. R. Stewart
November 29	Oral Progress Report	

(Subject to changes as necessary)

Course Manual

A thesis course manual is available on-line from the Geography Department web site. To access the manual, go to the Geography Department home page (<https://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 Thesis Supervisors

During the first two weeks of September (or before), 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. Thesis Supervisors normally are confirmed by the end of September.