

## **GEOG 6090 GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH METHODS I**

Fall, 2023

### **Introduction and Course Overview:**

Geographical Research Methods is intended as a forum for first year MA students to develop their research projects. GRM I (6090) supports MA students as they contextualize and scope a research area and identify a research aim. Students are required to prepare and present a context paper in which they identify and critically engage bodies of literature relevant to their research topic. The ultimate aim of the paper is to help students identify a research problem and shape a relevant and meaningful research aim and objectives. GRM II (6091) supports students as they design a research program. Students are required to prepare, present and defend a research proposal. In weekly seminars, the courses also aim to expose students to elements of research design and methodology (6090) and to research and analytic methods (6091).

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of this course are to:

- 1) Identify bodies of knowledge relevant to a chosen research topic/question
- 2) Situate your research topic relative to debates (theoretical, methodological, empirical) in the literature
- 3) Demonstrate broad critical understanding of literatures and other contexts (e.g., policy) relevant to your topic
- 4) Articulate a clear research problem and identify a research aim
- 5) Develop an understanding of the basic elements of research design

### **Course Format:**

Seminars will be held (information withheld) in the Fall semester. Attendance at the seminars is required of all students registered in the course and active participation is expected. In class we will alternate between lecture, presentations and seminar formats and benefit from a number of guest lectures and panels. A considerable amount of our time in class discussion (including workshopping research topics or discussing these in research) and other activities. While class participation is not a graded component of this class, you are expected to come to class regularly, to have prepared materials in advance, and to participate in class discussions, workshops and other activities. This is your class and I want you to get as much out of these meetings as possible. Research is hard! This course is a forum for you to share the progress (and challenges) of your research journey and to learn from your colleagues' experiences.

## **Readings:**

Readings for this course will be made available through the Ares/course link system at least 1 week in advance.

## **Assignments & Assessment:**

- **Context Paper (80% )-- due November 30<sup>th</sup>**
- **Context Paper Presentation (20%)—presentations Nov 16 & 23 (see schedule)**

Both the **context paper** and **context paper presentation** will be jointly evaluated by the course professor and the student's advisor/advisory committee.

## **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Graduate Calendar:

[http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/2016-2017/genreg/sec\\_d0e2709.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/2016-2017/genreg/sec_d0e2709.shtml)

If you are confused about how to attribute sources (or have any other questions related to referencing or plagiarism), please feel free to see me for assistance. For tips and resources on referencing and writing, see:

<http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/writing/citations>

## **Standard Course/Department Policies**

### **E-mail Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and

its students. \*Please also check Courselink regularly, as this will be used to distribute course materials.

#### When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the instructor in writing (by email) as soon as possible. See the graduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

[https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/2016-2017/genreg/sec\\_d0e2232.shtml](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/2016-2017/genreg/sec_d0e2232.shtml)

#### Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **November 2, 2017**. Refer to the Graduate Calendar for the schedule of dates:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/2016-2017/sched/sched-dates-f10.shtml>

#### Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

#### Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) or see the website: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

#### Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

## Resources

The Graduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to graduate programs:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/>

Most importantly, if you have any questions or concerns, please let the instructor know!