GEOG 601
RESEARCH MODELS IN GEOGRAPHY & PLANNING

Spring 2011 Graduate Seminar
Class time & Location: Wed Evening 7:00 - 9:50 p.m. @ Butte 503

Dr. LaDonna Knigge
Office: 533 Butte Hall
Email: lknigge@csuchico.edu
Phone: 898-5881

Office Hours:
Tues 12:30 – 2:00.
Wed 11:00 – 12:00
Or by appointment

NOTE: Please put GEOG 601 in subject line of all email correspondence
Syllabus is subject to change. Effective date: January 27, 2011

Course Description:
This course provides a critical survey of contemporary methodologies available for research in geography and planning. The major emphasis of this course is to assist graduate students in choosing a thesis topic, writing a literature review for their chosen topic, and producing a formal thesis proposal.

The course will provide an overview of research design. This overview consists of understanding the preliminary considerations that go into designing a research project and includes writing an introduction, specifying a purpose statement, and developing research questions and/or hypotheses. This course will also discuss the methods and procedures for quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods studies as well as the consideration of theoretical framework (or philosophical worldview), review of the literature, the use of theory, and ethical considerations to facilitate you in the development of your research proposal.

Student Goals and Objectives:
• To be introduced to geographical research design and methodology.
• To be introduced to CSU Chico Graduate School requirements
• To increase students’ understanding of geographical scholarship.
• To produce a thesis proposal.
• To enhance students’ oral and written communication skills in developing, discussing, and presenting their ideas.
• To present information about research in a scholarly manner.
• To form a thesis committee consisting of three faculty members.

Attendance:
Attendance is strongly encouraged and expected. Each meeting represents one week of the semester and so you are encouraged and required to attend all classes.

Syllabus Date January 27, 2011
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absent, please notify me beforehand via email or in person. In my experience (both as a student and an instructor), students who never or rarely miss a class and actively participate in classroom activities and discussions tend to perform well; those who lack the discipline required for regular attendance and participation tend to perform poorly. Excessive absence will result in failing grade or dismissal from class.

**Course Format:**
This is a seminar and requires that students be prepared for class, having completed all readings and assignments prior to class and be ready to engage in discussion about their research interests and the course readings at every class. You will use Vista to post discussion topics, summaries and questions.

We may have occasional guest speakers, including former and current graduate students. I have tentatively schedule a tour of the GIC for a Friday afternoon in February 25th.

**Required Materials & Seminar Readings:**
Student Website: [http://www.sagepub.com/creswellstudy/02/pdfarticles.htm](http://www.sagepub.com/creswellstudy/02/pdfarticles.htm)
- Additional Articles available online and through VISTA

**Links of interest:**
Office of Research & Sponsored Programs: [http://www.csuchico.edu/resp/index.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/resp/index.shtml)


Steps towards earning a Master’s Degree: [http://www.csuchico.edu/graduatestudies/documents/steps_toward_earning_masters_degree.pdf](http://www.csuchico.edu/graduatestudies/documents/steps_toward_earning_masters_degree.pdf)
Environmental Action Resource Center (EARC) (resource for books, videos and magazines on environmental issues) Browse catalog online at: http://www.aschico.com/earc/resource

**Assessment:**

You must get at least a “B” in this class for it to count towards your graduate studies.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 – 100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 94</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85-87</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twelve Assignments (10 points each)</td>
<td>120 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature Review Formal Presentation</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis Proposal</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis Formal Presentation</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside activity tbd</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance, Participation &amp; in-class activities</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL POINTS</td>
<td>200 points (see note below)</td>
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NOTE: The lowest 10 point assignment will be dropped.

**Suggested Thesis Project Formatting Workshops for Spring:**

Tuesday, February 15: 3:30-5:30pm in SSC 150: Formatting your thesis
Tuesday, March 8: 3:30-5:30pm in SSC 150

**Miscellaneous Information**

Check the Vista site for this class every few days. It’s best to contact me at my regular email, though. Feel free to email me at lknigge@csuchico.edu. Please also stop by my office during my office hours or make an appointment to see me if those hours do not work for you.

Papers are due in class, and in person. Any late paper will get 10% of the points possible removed, but no paper will be accepted later than a week after the due date.

Students who wish to use Butte 111 to study and work on papers may do so. Please request access from Paula Norton.

Please be familiar with the university’s policy on academic honesty.

Let me and Disability Support Services know if you have any special needs to succeed in this class. You can contact DSS at 898-5959.
# GEOG 601

## RESEARCH MODELS IN GEOGRAPHY & PLANNING

### Class Schedule

<table>
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<th>WK</th>
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| 1  | Jan 26 | Introductions to course, each other and research interests  
In-class writing |
| 2  | Feb 2  | Preliminary Research Question and Introduction to Research  
- Turabian, Ch 1: What research is and how researchers think about it  
- Creswell, Ch1: The selection of a research design  
- Turabian, Ch 18 & 19: Parenthetical Citations (for annotations)  
- Guide to Graduate Studies: Policies, Procedures & Format (GGS) From Admission to Graduation: pg 1-17  
http://www.csuchico.edu/graduatestudies/gradguide.shtml  
Assignment #1: Annotated Bibliography & preliminary research question and research design |
| 3  | Feb 9  | Research Design in Geography  
- Creswell, Ch 1: The Selection of a Research Design exercises and application  
- Newing et al, Ch 1: Introduction: social science research in conservation, page 3-21 (on Vista)  
- Turabian, Ch 15: General Introduction to Citation Practices  
Assignment #2: Selection of a Research Design |
| 4  | Feb 16 | The Use of the Literature  
- Creswell, Ch 2: Review of the Literature  
- Turabian, Ch 3: Finding Useful Sources  
Assignment #3: Review of the Literature Exercise |
| 5  | Feb 23 | The Use of Theory  
- Creswell: Ch 3  
- Turabian Ch 2 & 4: Moving from a topic to a question to a working hypothesis & Engaging Sources |

Assignment #4: Building a storyboard & the Uses of Theory

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### 6 Mar 2  Writing Strategies & Ethical Consideration in Geography Research

• Creswell: Ch 4: Writing Strategies & Ethical Considerations
• Turabian, Ch 5 & 25: Planning your argument & Quotations
• Methods readings TBD

Assignment #5: Research Methods Assignment

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### 7 Mar 9  The Introduction and Purpose Statement

• Creswell, Ch 5 & 6: The Introduction and Purpose Statement
• Turabian, Ch 6 & 7: Planning a First Draft & Drafting Your Report
• Master’s proposals and thesis
• Methods readings tbd

Assignment #6: Introduction and Purpose Statement

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### 8 Mar 16  No Class – Spring Break

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### 9 Mar 23  Research Questions and Hypothesis

• Creswell: Ch 7: Research Questions and Hypothesis
• Pyrzcak & Bruce Writing Introductions and Literature Reviews (on Vista)
• Review Creswell, Ch 2 Review of the Literature
• Don Hankins Reading

Assignment #7: Map of Literature & Annotations
In class presentation of Literature Review

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### 10 Mar 30  Developing Your Research Methodology

• Newing, Ch 3: Developing the methodology
• Creswell, Chapter 8: Quantitative Methods

Assignment #8: Literature review due – exchange copies for peer review

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### 11 April 6  Research Methods

• Creswell, Chapter 9: Qualitative Methods
• Methods readings tbd

Assignment #9: Peer Review of Literature Review- in-class discussion

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12 April 13       AAG – Seattle – LaDona gone

13 April 20       Research Methods
• Newing, Ch 3: Developing the methodology
• Creswell, Chapter 10: Mixed Methods
Assignment #10: Research Design for your thesis

14 April 27       Draft of Thesis Due
• Turabian, Ch 10 & 11: Writing your final introduction and conclusion & Revising sentences
Assignment #11: Draft of Thesis Proposal Due

15 May 4          Peer Review of thesis proposal
Turabian, Ch 9
Assignment #12: Peer review of draft proposal

16 May 11         Thesis proposal presentations
7:00 – 7:20
7:20 – 7:40
7:40 – 8:00
8:00 – 8:20
8:20 – 8:40 Break
8:40 – 9:00
9:00 – 9:20
9:20 – 9:40

Please plan on a fifteen minute presentation, with 5 minutes for questions (20 minutes total). Dept faculty may attend. If you have formed a committee or are thinking about asking someone to be on your committee, please ask them to attend.

Finals May 18
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

8:00 – 9:50 PM Final Thesis Proposal Due. Please turn in a hard copy in class and submit a digital copy through VISTA portal.