

GEOG 601 Sec 01
RESEARCH MODELS IN GEOGRAPHY & PLANNING
Spring 2009 Graduate Seminar
Mon Evening 6:00 0- 8:50 p.m.
111 Butte Hall

Dr. LaDona Knigge

Office: 533 Butte Hall

Email: lknigge@csuchico.edu

Phone: 898-5881

Office Hours:

Wed: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Thur: 2:00 – 3:30

Or by appointment

NOTE: Please put GEOG 601 in subject line of all email correspondence

Syllabus is subject to change. Effective date: February 4, 2009

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.

Student Goals and Objectives:

- To be introduced to geographical research 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 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. If you will be 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.

Required Materials & Seminar Readings:

Creswell, John W. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches, Third Edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Student Website: <http://www.sagepub.com/creswellstudy/02/pdfarticles.htm>

- Articles available online
- Articles made available through VISTA or Electronic Reserve (ERes).
Access ERes materials from any computer that can access
<http://www.csuchico.edu/library/llo/>.
Course: **GEOG 601**
Password: **QGRSU**

Links of interest:

Office of Research & Sponsored Programs
<http://www.csuchico.edu/resp/index.shtml>

Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research
http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/EM93/em93_04.htm

Dept of Geography & Planning Masters Requirements & Policies:
<http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/geop/GEOGGEOGMA.html>

Bibliographical Citation Style: We will use style required by Annals of Association of American Geographers (which is the latest version of Chicago-Style author-date system). See the following links for style guides:

- Style Sheet for the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*
<http://aag.org/Publications/Annals/Annals%20Style%20Sheet%2040105.pdf>
- Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide (author-date system)
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Grading:

Ten Assignments (10 points each)	100 points
Thesis Literature Review	30 points
Thesis Formal Presentation	10 points
Thesis Proposal	30 points
Thesis Formal Presentation	10 points
TOTAL POINTS	200 points (see note below)

NOTE: 10 points are not counted in the class grade computation.

Class Schedule

WK	DATE	TOPIC
1	Jan 26	Introduction Chose topic for Research Methods Activity Assignment
2	Feb 2	Research Design in Geography Visitor: Scott Brady Present Research Methods Activity Assignment 1. Michael Commons
3	Feb 9	Review of the Literature Visitor: Guy King Present/Conduct Research Methods Activity Assignment 2. Jason
4	Feb 16	The Use of Theory Visitor: Jacque Chase Present/Conduct Research Methods Activity Assignment 3. Marlayna 4. Amy
5	Feb 23	Ethical Consideration in Geography Research Visitor: Don Hankins Present/Conduct Research Methods Activity Assignment 5. Warren
6	Mar 2	The Introduction and Purpose Statement Annotated Thesis/Bibliography Assignment due Visitor: (digital) Sarah Elwood
7	Mar 9	Research Questions and Hypothesis Visitor: Nori Sato
8	Mar 16	No Class – Spring Break
9	Mar 23	AAG Las Vegas
10	Mar 30	In-class presentations of Literature Review
11	April 6	Quantitative Methods Literature Review Due Visitor: Dean Fairbanks

- 12 April 13 **Qualitative Methods**
Visitor: Tentative: Guy King, Graduate Coordinator
- 13 April 20 **Mixed Methods Procedures**
Draft of thesis proposal due
In-class peer review exercise
1.
- 14 April 27 **In-class peer review exercise (the rest)**
2.
3.
- 15 May 4 **In-class peer review/discussion**
4.
5.
- 16 May 11 **Student thesis proposal presentations**
- Finals May 18 8:00 – 9:50 PM – Activity To Be Announced**
(Tuesday May 19th possible?)

Tentative Assignments:

ASSIGNMENTS	
Research Methods Activity	10 points
Research Design in Geography	10 points
Literature Review Exercise/Analysis	10 points
Thesis reviews Assignment	10 points
Thesis problem/Research Question	10 points
Worldview, Research Strategy & Methods	10 points
Annotated thesis bibliography	10 points
In-class Peer Review	10 points
One More Assignment TBA (490 class)	10 points
One More Assignment TBA	10 points
Thesis Literature Review	30 points
Literature Review Presentation	10 points
Thesis Proposal	30 points
Thesis Proposal Presentation	10 points
Class Participation/Attendance	30 points
Total Possible	210 points