Research Methods  
Geography 330

Course website: Use your Rutgers net id and password to log-in to SAKAI  
Sakai.rutgers.edu

This course provides an introduction to research methods and research design in geography. Topics addressed include formulation of research questions and hypotheses, development of research projects, and quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The class will follow a lecture and group discussion format. Class time will also be devoted to development and execution of assignments for group course research projects. This class is required for the Geography major. Class attendance and all exams and written assignments are mandatory.

This course satisfies a Quantitative and Formal Reasoning (QFRq) requirement. By the end of this course, students will be able to **formulate evaluate, and communicate conclusions and inferences from quantitative information.**

Meeting time and place  
Mon. 1:40pm to 4:40pm, B266 Lucy Stone Hall

Contact information  
Professor Robin Leichenko  
email: robin.leichenko@rutgers.edu; phone: 848-445-4056  
Office: B265 Lucy Stone Hall  
Office Hours: Monday 12noon to 1:30pm or by appt.

Requirements and percentage of grade associated with each requirement
1. First Midterm exam (25 percent)
2. Second Midterm exam (25 percent)
3. Three written assignments related to course project (30 percent; 10 percent each)
4. Discussion questions about weekly readings (15 percent; 3 percent each)
5. Participation (5 percent)  
   -Mandatory participation in class group exercises and discussions  
   -Mandatory attendance in class

Classroom Etiquette.  
Cell phones (including texting) must be turned off while you are in the classroom. Computers are not to be used for non class-related purposes during class time.

Required Textbook  

Key Dates:
October 22  Midterm I
October 29  Assignment 1 is due
November 12  Assignment 2 is due
November 19  Assignment 3, surveys are due
November 26  Midterm II
December 10  In-class presentations of Assignment 3 results
            Assignment 3 is due

Discussion questions
Students are required to develop a list of at least five issues and/or questions for discussion in response to each week's reading assignment (see schedule for weeks where discussion questions are due). These question lists need to be written using complete sentences. They should reflect issues and questions that you think are worthy of further discussion with the class.

Discussion questions will submitted via the course Sakai site and will be graded on a check, check-plus, or check-minus basis. We will also use these questions as a basis for class discussion of the readings.

*Late discussion questions will not be accepted except in the event of religious observance, documented illness, or documented family emergency.*

Assignments and Course Group Project
*The three assignments in the class will each correspond to one part of the course group research project. Assignments will be distributed in class and posted on the course website. All written assignments are handed-in individually. This means that you will work with your group in executing parts of the group project and in the group presentation of the results, but the written assignments must be your own work.*

*Late assignments will not be accepted except in the event of religious observance, documented illness, or documented family emergency.*

Policy regarding Missed Exams
*Make-up exams will not be given except in the event of religious observance, documented illness, documented family emergency, or documented Rutgers team event.*

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to understand and to act in accordance with the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy: [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity)
Weekly Schedule and Reading Assignments

GJ = Gomez and Jones  Research Methods in Geography

Week 1 (Sep 10)  Introduction: Thinking about Research in Geography

Week 2 (Sep 17)  Thinking about Research in Geography

Assigned Reading: GJ, Chaps 1-3

Week 2 Discussion questions due

Week 3 (Sep 24)  Ethics and Politics of Research

Assigned Reading: GJ, Chap 24

Week 3 Discussion questions due

Week 4 (Oct 1)  Planning a Research Project and Discussion of Course Group Projects

Assigned Reading: GJ, Chap 4 and 5

Special guest at 3:15pm: Ryan Womack - U.S. Census data.

Week 4 Discussion questions due

Week 5 (Oct 8)  Description of Quantitative Data

Assigned Reading: GJ Chap 11, Chap 17

Week 5 Discussion questions due

Week 6 (Oct 15)  Mapping of Quantitative Data

GIS mapping tutorial
CJ Chap 16, Chap 22

Assignment 1 will be distributed

Week 6 Discussion questions due

Week 7 (October 22)  Midterm 1
Individual work on Assignment 1

Week 8 (Oct 29)  Analysis of Quantitative Data

Assigned Reading:
GJ, Chap 18
SAS tutorial

Assignment 1 due.
Assignment 2 will be distributed

Week 9 (Nov 5)  Collecting Primary Data for Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis

Assigned Reading:  GJ Chap 6, Chap 8
Individual work on Assignment 2
Week 10 (Nov 12)  Survey Techniques  
Assigned Reading:  
GJ, Chap 12
Assignment 3 parts 1 and 2 will be distributed  
Group work on survey and plan for data collection.  
All surveys need to be completed during week of Nov 12 and brought to class on Nov 19.  
**Assignment 2 is due.**

Week 11 (Nov 19)  Qualitative Data  
Assigned Reading: GJ, Chap 13, Chap 15
Assignment 3 surveys are due  
Group work on processing of survey data

Week 12 (Nov 26)  **Second Midterm**  
Group work on analysis of survey data

Week 13 (Dec 3)  Presenting Research Findings  
Group presentation assignment will be distributed

Week 14 (Dec 10)  Group In-class Presentations of Assignment 3 Research Results  
**Assignment 3, final write-up is due.**