Research Methods
Geography 330

Course web site: 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 class assignments. This class is required for the Geography major. Class attendance is mandatory. Exams and written assignments are mandatory.

This course satisfies a Quantitative and Formal Reasoning (QQ) 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
Wed. 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: Mondays, 1:30pm to 3:00pm or by appt.

Requirements, due dates and percentage of grade associated with each requirement

1. Citi Training Assignment (due Sept 26) (5 percent)
2. QQ Assignment (due Oct 24) (15 percent)
3. Survey Assignment (due Dec 12) (30 percent)
4. Midterm Exam (in class Nov 28) (35 percent)
5. Career Panel Attendance (in class Nov 14) (5 percent)
6. General Attendance and Class Participation (10 percent)

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

Additional readings will be posted on the course Sakai site in the Resources folder.

Assignments
There are three assignments (Citi Training, QQ, Survey) for the class which will be posted on the course Sakai site under the Assignments link. The assignments will require working individually and working in groups. Your written submissions for all assignments must be done individually and submitted in electronic form via Sakai. **All written assignments must be your own, individual, 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

CCGF = Clifford textbook
Sakai Readings = additional links and readings will be posted to the Sakai site in the Resources folder

Week 1 (Sep 5)  **Introduction: Thinking about Research in Geography**

Week 2 (Sep 12) **Research Design and Research Questions**
*Assigned Reading: CCGF Chapter 1, CCGF Chapter 5*

Week 3 (Sept 19) **Research on Human Subjects - NO IN CLASS MEETING**
Class will be on-line and will entail doing the *CITI Human Subjects Training Assignment*

Week 4 (Sept 26) **Research Ethics**
*Assigned Reading: CCGF Chapter 3, CCGF Chapter 6*  
*CITI Human Subjects Training Assignment due*

Week 5 (Oct 3)  **Sources and Uses of Secondary Data**
*Assigned Reading: CCFG Chapter 30; Sakai Readings – Week 5*

Week 6 (October 10) **Exploring, Describing and Mapping Quantitative Data**
*Assigned Reading: CCGF 32; Sakai Readings – Week 6*  
*QQ Assignment will be distributed*

Week 7 (Oct 17) **Quantitative Thinking, Analysis, and Modelling**
*Assigned Reading: CCGF Chapter 19; Chapter 23; Sakai Readings – Week 7*

Week 8 (October 24) **Qualitative Methods, Case Studies and Participatory Research**
*Assigned reading: CCGF Chapter 11, CCGF Chapter 13, CCGF Chapter 33*  
*QQ Assignment due*

Week 9 (October 31) **Qualitative Methods: Textual Analysis and Visual Information**
*Assigned reading: CCGF Chapter 14, CCGH Chapter 15, CCGF Chapter 36*

Week 10 (Nov 7) **Surveys, Interviews and Focus Groups**
*Assigned Reading: CCGF Chapter 8, CCGF Chapter 9, CCGF Chapter 10*  
*Survey Assignment will be distributed; draft of surveys*

Week 11 (Nov 14) **Careers in Geography**
*Invited Panel of RU Alums*  
*Attendance is Required (5% of Grade)*
Week 12 (Nov 28)  **Midterm**  
*Complete pilot testing and develop plan for survey data collection*  
*(All surveys need to be completed before class of Week 13)*

Week 13 (Dec 5)  **Summarizing Data and Presenting Research Findings**  
*Group work on analysis of Survey Assignment research results and presentation*

Week 14 (Dec 12)  **Presentations of Survey Assignment Results**  
*Survey Assignment Due*