

Geographic Research Methods  
GEOG 35000  
Spring 2022

**Course Information:**

- GEOG 35000
- Pre-requisites: ENGL 12000 and a 200-level GEOG, GEOL, GTECH or PGEOG course

**Contact Information**

- Professor Ines Miyares
- [imiyares@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:imiyares@hunter.cuny.edu) (best way to contact)
- Office: HN 1045
- Contact me via email for appointments via Zoom
- Department Office: HN1006

**Course Materials**

- Required textbook: *Research Methods in Geography* edited by Basil Gomez and John Paul Jones III ISBN 978-1-4051-0711-2 Wiley-Blackwell 2010
- We will be completing exercises at the end of assigned chapters
- Selected additional readings as part of activities
- Activities on Blackboard and Google Earth

**Course Description**

- One of the most important skill sets a geographer needs to develop is the relationship between geographic theories and observed phenomena in the natural and social/cultural environment. We will cover a variety of important historical and contemporary geographic paradigms and theories, and will complete exercises to give you hands-on experience in completing qualitative and quantitative geographic research.
- This course will prepare you to complete research projects in more advanced courses and to develop and complete your capstone project.
- Every week we will cover an aspect of geographic research and complete hands-on exercises in class and/or as homework related to the week's theme.
- You will be working in groups to learn the process of collaborative research

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain and apply the fundamental concepts, theories, and research methods in social, urban, and environmental geography
- Discuss and explain the ethics, laws, and responsibilities in human subjects research
- Apply the scientific method to analyzing various forms of qualitative and quantitative geographic data
- Develop from theory to research question, appropriate methodology, data, analysis, appropriate interpretation, and formal presentation of results

- Demonstrate the structure of scientific writing

### Requirements:

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| • Assignments and exercises              | 30% |
| • Regular participation in group project | 10% |
| • Final Group Paper                      | 30% |
| • Midterm                                | 15% |
| • Final Project Presentation             | 15% |

### Final Project:

- I will assign you to groups. As a group, you need to define a research question within one of the theories we cover in class, and utilize appropriate methodologies for answering the research question.
- We will begin the group projects by week 6, and time in class each week will be given for you to meet as a group. I will create group workspaces on Blackboard for you to be able to communicate and share files. I will create breakout rooms for you to work together during class time. You can share work in other virtual spaces, such as Google drive, but all group members must be able to work in that space.
- Participation is required and you will receive 10% of your grade for active participation in your group. 10 points will be awarded per week. Lack of attendance and participation for a particular class meeting must be excused in advance, and only for legitimate documented reasons. Except in cases of legitimate documented emergencies, no more than 2 absences will be excused.
- You will present your research on the final exam day. We will conduct the class in the same format as a professional research conference. You will also submit a single, collaboratively written paper in lieu of a final exam.

### Grading and Other Essential Information:

- We will do several in-class and homework exercises, most of which are taken from the textbook. Assignments typically have a written component submitted on Blackboard.
- There will be significant deductions in points given for late assignments. No points will be given for an assignment submitted more than 2 weeks late unless you have given me an *excellent documentable* excuse.
- If a documentable emergency situation arises that may result in the late submission of an assignment, please let me know as soon as possible via email. Once I have responded and approved the late submission, please put a note in the comments box reminding me of our email interaction so I can confirm it when grading your work.
- Email Policy: I do check my email regularly and will strive to respond promptly until 10 pm. I expect professional respectful communication via email. Email is the best way to contact me.

### Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

If I suspect plagiarism, I will run your work through SafeAssign. If there is clear evidence of plagiarism, I will give a zero on the assignment and will notify the Dean of Students. We will discuss appropriate citation and bibliographic formats early in the semester.

### **ADA Policy**

In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214 or call (212) 772-4857 /or VRS (646) 755-3129.

### **Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct**

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose ([jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry ([colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct

Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ia/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

- Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
- If changes are made to the syllabus, I will notify you via email through Blackboard. It is essential that you have your correct email linked to your Blackboard account and that you check your Hunter or other Blackboard-linked email regularly. Bounced emails will not be an acceptable excuse for not being aware of changes or any other communications to the class.

Readings and Weekly Assignments: Read and complete the exercises as follow-up to the lecture and in class activities. **All assignments are due before class the week after they are assigned.**

### **Weekly topics:**

Feb 1: Introduction to Theory, Ontology, Epistemology RMG Ch 1-2; Exercise 2.1 ***In-person***

- Feb 8:** *No class—Follow Friday schedule*
- Feb 15: What is a question? Conceptual Framework? Discussion of Exercise 2.1 **Zoom**
- Feb 22: Research Ethics RMG Ch 24; CITI online Human Subjects Research Basic Course. Link to CITI on Blackboard. **No class meeting-intensive online course.**
- Mar 1: Interplay of Theory and Observation RMG Ch 3; Exercise 3.1 (adapted-see Blackboard for details) **In-person**
- Mar 8: Research Approaches/Making Operational Decisions/IRB Applications RMG Ch 5; Complete exercise in folder on Blackboard in preparation for group projects. **Zoom**
- Mar 15: Measurement and Observation. RMG Ch 4; Exercise 4.1 Start group projects. **Zoom**
- Mar 22: Sampling and Secondary Data RMG Ch 6, 11; Exercise 6.1. Work in groups to confirm question. Midterm exam becomes available. **Zoom**
- Mar 29: Surveys, Interviews, and Focus Groups RMG Ch 12; Work in groups to develop conceptual framework, research plan **Zoom**
- April 5: Ethnography and Participant-Observation RMG Ch 13; Ethnographic interviews; Work in group to develop survey or interview schedule or focus group questions for group project **Zoom**
- April 12: Cultural Landscapes RMG Ch 14; Cultural landscape exercise (see Blackboard for details); Work in groups **Zoom**
- April 19:** *No class. Spring Break*
- April 26: Human-Environment Field Study RMG Ch 15; Exercise 15.1 **In-person**
- May 3: Maps and Representation of Data RMG Ch 11, 16; Exercise 11.2 revised on Blackboard; Work in groups **Zoom**
- May 10: Analyzing Meaning and Writing Up Research RMG Ch 23, 25; Work in groups **Zoom**
- May 17: Work in groups to finalize and rehearse group presentations **Zoom**
- May 24: Group presentations and papers due in lieu of final exam **In-person**