

GRG-390L
RESEARCH IN GEOGRAPHY
Spring 2011, Tues. 5:00-8:00pm
Room: GRG-408

unique number 37685

Prof. Paul Adams

Department of Geography and the Environment

Office Hours W 1:00-3:00, GRG-414

Research is structured intellectual exploration. It is variously intended to obtain information, test theories, develop and apply models, describe, explain, predict or improve management and control. While ideally the researcher knows the purpose of a particular project, quite often the purpose changes at some point or points during the research process. Research is messy and complicated. It can outrage, confuse and annoy. This is all part of the path of discovery. It is a bit like going for a walk with a very large dog on the end of the leash. This course will help you explore your options in regard to what leashes are available for you to use.



READINGS

- Readings selected by the professor will be distributed via e-mail or Blackboard on a weekly basis
- Readings selected by the students must be relayed to Prof. Adams for distribution.
 - Student-identified readings will be forwarded to the class and they become required reading. They must be forwarded to Paul Adams by Friday at 9:00 am, so that others can print them or download them before the weekend.
 - You will be asked to select material that is pertinent to your research with an eye to the task of refining your own research methodology through discussion and debate.
 - Since you may need to sift through a large number of articles to get the “right” one for the rest of the class to read, plan to canvas articles on Wednesday and Thursday. Budget your time accordingly. Please don’t send out a reading selection unless it is truly useful and appropriate to the topic of the week.

GRADING

Research proposal draft	50 points
Notes and reading presentations	50 points
<u>Research proposal</u>	<u>100 points</u>
TOTAL	200 points

SESSION	TOPIC	PREPARATION
JAN 18	Introduction to the class and the professor How come y'all are here?	none
JAN 25	What is a research proposal? (elements, organization, style, length constraints, picking a methodology, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Przeworski and Salomon ○ Proposals by Fadiman, Fry, Gaffney, Johns, Kirkham, Lambert, Patel, and Perramond
FEB 1	Why research? (description, explanation, prediction, modeling, management, optimization, critique, intervention, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings—Hubbard et al. Chapters 2 & 3
FEB 8	Where does inspiration come from? (perspiration, inspiration, and finding your personal muse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Selected Readings—Select and forward to Prof. Adams a research paper or book chapter that <i>inspires</i> you for some reason and be prepared to talk at length about what is inspiring about it. (10 pts.)
FEB 15	What makes for clarity? (organization, writing style, simplification, attention to detail, metaphor, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Selected Readings—Select and forward to Prof. Adams a research paper or book chapter that lays out its research methodology and arguments in the clearest possible terms and be prepared to talk about it. (10 pts.) • Reading—Smith “Geographical Rhetoric: Modes and Tropes of Appeal”
FEB 22	Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting—Meet with the person you would most like to head your grad committee and discuss your research plans. • Notes—Turn in formal, edited notes of this meeting along with a list of at least 9 readings you will complete that support your research project. (5 pts.)
MAR 1	Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes—Reading notes for 3 readings (5 pts.)
MAR 8	Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes—Reading notes for 3 readings (5 pts.)
MAR 15	SPRING BREAK	
MAR 22	Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes—Reading notes for 3 readings (5 pts.)
MAR 29	Toward a professional identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where am I relative to existing geographical specializations? • How do I present my research and myself at scholarly meetings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading—Sluyter et al. “The Recent Intellectual Structure of Geography”
APR 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and critique of preliminary research proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Proposal—Submit a complete a first draft of your proposal by e-mailing it to Prof. Adams for circulation to the rest of the class. (50 pts.) • Notes—Read your class-mates’ preliminary research proposals and take careful, critical, and constructive notes to guide the discussion. (10 pts.)
APR 12	To be announced (AAG mtg.)	
APR 19	How will ethical issues shape my research? (gross violations, minor infractions, and differences of judgment and opinion) Can I say it with an image?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ McLemee “What is Plagiarism?” ○ Bartlett “Professor Copycat” ○ AAG forum on science, policy and ethics Harman et al., Waterstone, Henderson-Sellers, Proctor
APR 26	How can I build my career? (publishing, interviewing, and general survival strategies) Faculty Status Trends (chart)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fogg “Grad School Blues” ○ Gifford and Bigelow “Strategies for Journal Publishing” ○ Rubin “Turn and Face the Strange”
MAY 3	Final Presentations	Final Proposal —Submit a final draft of your proposal (100 pts.)