

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
University of Toronto
GGR 271S—SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS
WINTER 2006
MS2158: MW 11

(NOTE: this is not an official course outline. It is posted here for informational purposes only)

Instructor:

Professor Jason Hackworth
SS 5027B
Office hours: MW, 4-5

Course Description:

This is a practical course on field methods designed to enable students to carry out their own research projects. The emphasis is on qualitative, and interpretive research methods. The philosophy of qualitative research, behavioural observation, interviewing, questionnaire design, attitude scaling, sampling theory, content analysis of written and graphic material, data coding, and focus groups are among the topics covered.

Website: www.geog.utoronto.ca/info/facweb/Hackworth/GGR271/index.html

A Few Ground Rules:

1. GGR 270 (or a statistics course from another department) is the prerequisite for this course. Unless you have met this requirement, you will be removed from the class roster during the first week of the term. If your statistics course is from another department, it is YOUR responsibility to notify me of its title and number so that I do not remove you from the roster.
2. Please use e-mail judiciously. If you are having a problem in the course, first e-mail the TA that has been assigned to your tutorial. Please do not ask questions over e-mail that cannot be answered with one or two sentences.
3. Late Penalty: Five (5) percentage points (of assignment grade) will be deducted for each weekday (weekends count as one day) on all late assignments. Assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date. *Assignments by e-mail or fax will not be accepted.*
4. Tutorials: In this course, tutorials will function as extra office hours for the teaching assistants. There will be two tutorial meetings, one corresponding to each of your assignments. Attendance is optional but suggested if you are having problems with any of the assignments.

Required Readings:

Bryman, Alan, and Teevan, James. 2005. *Social Research Methods: Canadian Edition*. Oxford University Press.

Available at: *Toronto Women's Bookstore* (73 Harbord Street, Toronto; 416-922-8744)

Evaluation:

30 percent—2 Take-Home Exercises (15 Percent Each)

Assignment 1: due February 8

Assignment 2: due April 12

25 percent—Midterm Quiz (February 15)

45 percent—Final Exam (TBA)

General Outline:

Section 1: Introduction to Qualitative Methods and Social Research

Topics:

- Research Design
- When to Use Qualitative Methods
- History of Qualitative Methods
- Primary and Secondary Data
- Academic versus Popular Sources
- Sampling Theory and Practice
- Research Ethics
- The Case Study

Section 2: Survey Techniques, Cognitive Mapping, Interviews, Focus Groups, Participant Observation/ Ethnography

Topics:

- Survey Administration
- Questionnaire Design
- Cognitive Mapping
- Interviewing
- Focus Groups
- Fieldwork
- Participant Observation
- Ethnography

Section 3: Historical research, content analysis, 'reading' texts

Topics:

- Landscape as Text
- Historical Research
- Content Analysis

Lecture Schedule

Week 1:

January 9: Introduction/ survey

January 11: Fundamentals of social research

Reading: Chapter 1

Week 2:

January 16: History of research methods

January 18: Assignment 1 explanation

Reading: Chapters 2, 11

Week 3:

January 23: History of research methods

January 25: Milgram film

Reading: Chapters 3, 12

Week 4:

January 30: History of research methods

February 1: History of research methods

Reading: Chapter 4

Week 5:

February 6: Survey methods

February 8: Exam review; **ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE**

Reading: Chapter 5

Week 6:

February 13: Survey methods

February 15: Midterm exam (lectures & chapters 1-5, 11-12)

READING WEEK (February 20-24)

Week 7:

February 27: Kinsey film

March 1: Kinsey film

Reading: Chapters 6, 7

Week 8:

March 6: **Assignment 2 handed out**

March 8: Interview methods

Reading: Chapter 10

Week 9:

March 13: Interview methods

March 15: Interview methods

Reading: Chapter 9

Week 10:

March 20: Observation methods

March 22: Observation film

Reading: Chapter 14

Week 11:

March 27: Ethnography, participant observation

March 29: Ethnography, participant observation

Readings: Chapters 15-16

Week 12:

April 3: Content analysis

April 5: Film: Kitchen stories (with worksheet)

Reading: Chapter 17

Week 13:

April 10: Exam review

April 12: **ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE**