

**DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to introduce students to the use of scientific methodology in geography and the application of scientific explanatory frameworks to geographic research projects. Data collection procedures are discussed with particular emphasis on measurement, sampling designs, and interview surveying techniques. These principles will be discussed in lectures, class discussions as well as assignments.

*My goal for this course is to make sure every student receives an excellent final grade and each student live up to their full potential.*

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Develop skills in hypothesis generation and thesis statements as related to geographic research
- Examine the components of explicit report measurement tool, including closed and open-ended questions, and survey design
- Discuss the procedure and methods for behaviour observation as a tool to collect information for research
- Discuss the overall physical sampling methods in geographic research
- Review methods to analyze data collected, including statistical and graphical tools
- Understand ethics in research including forms of plagiarism, as well as human participation in research

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Dr. John Iacozza

Phone: (204) 474-8483

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:30-10:30 am.

Course website: [umlearn.ca](http://umlearn.ca)

Office: 472 Wallace Building

Email: [John.Iacozza@umanitoba.ca](mailto:John.Iacozza@umanitoba.ca)

**TEXTBOOK**

Required: Montello, D.R. and P.C. Sutton. 2013. *An Introduction to Scientific Research Methods in Geography and Environmental Studies (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*, Sage Publications. ISBN: 9781446200759

**PREREQUISITES**

A grade of C or better in a minimum of three credit hours from Geography courses numbered at the 1000 level, or permission of department head.

**EVALUATION**

Assignment 1:	7 %	Quizzes:	16 % (4 @ 4 %)
Assignment 2:	11 %	Final Exam (2 hr):	30 %
Assignment 3:	11 %	Class Participation:	10 %
Assignment 4:	15 %		

**FINAL GRADE ALLOCATION**

A+	90% or above	C+	65% - 69%
A	80% - 89%	C	60% - 64%
B+	75% - 79%	D	50% - 59%
B	70% - 74%	F	49% or below

#### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions during the lectures.
- ***Cell phones and portable music players must be turned off during lectures. Students are also required to remove earphones. NO TEXTING DURING CLASS.***
- Students are required to attend all lectures and take notes. Students are expected to be punctual for classes. Not all material presented in the lectures is covered in the text. *If you miss a lecture, make arrangements to get notes from a fellow student, not from instructor!* Lecture slides will not be provided on UMLearn (the learning management tool).
- The individual student is required to read the assigned chapters of the textbook *prior to class*. Not all the textbook will be covered in the lectures but may be covered on the quiz or exam.
- Students are required to complete the necessary assignments individually and on time, unless otherwise stated.

#### COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating) is a very serious matter in any academic institution and is dealt with severely at the University of Manitoba.

Plagiarism is copying another student's assignment or examination. While I strongly encourage collaboration, the assignments must be submitted individually, **using your own words**. If you quote other sources of information in an assignment, make sure to provide proper credit.

Cheating is the possession of an unauthorized material during the final exam, including crib notes, texts or dictionaries. Students must not be in possession of a cell phone, iPod, iPad or any other electronic device.

Commonly, the penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is a grade of zero on the assignment or final exam, or a final grade of F in the course. Please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic dishonesty found on the following website:

[http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/cheating\\_plagiarism\\_fraud.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/cheating_plagiarism_fraud.html).

Audio/Video Recording: Students are NOT permitted to photograph, audio or video record the lectures in its entirety or any parts.

Questions/Concerns: If you are having a problem and want to discuss something, please feel free to see me before/after class, during my office hours or make an appointment at a more convenient time. I can be reached through phone or email (preferred method).

Emails: Ensure that the course name and number are included in the subject line for all emails. Please make sure emails are written in a professional manner, including complete sentences and do not use text language (I am not fluent in shorthand). Please address the email to John or Dr. Iacozza (not Buddy or any similar terms). Emails must be sent from University of Manitoba email accounts; emails from other accounts (such as gmail) will not be responded to. Emails will typically be responded to during regular office hours. You should not expect a response on weekends or in the evenings (i.e. after 4 pm).

#### VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DATE

The voluntary withdrawal date is the last date for withdrawing from this course without academic penalty. The voluntary withdrawal date for this course is November 18, 2015. Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to this date.

**TESTING**

The exam will consist of short answer questions. These questions will be based on lectures, assigned readings and class discussion. No extraneous devices (i.e. dictionaries, cell phones, notes, textbooks, etc.) will be allowed for the final exam. You will need to bring a writing utensil (i.e. pencil/pen) and a form of identification (Student ID card preferred).

Four quizzes will be available online (through UMLearn) throughout the term. These quizzes will focus on the material presented in each section of the course. Students will have a maximum of 15 minutes to complete each quiz. The quiz will be available on the date indicated below between 6:00 am and 10:00 pm. Students **will not** be able to re-write the quiz or write it at another time or date. If missed for a compassionate reason (see list below for acceptable reasons), the total grade of the quizzes will be calculated from the written quizzes.

If you miss the final exam due to illness or compassionate reasons, you **must** make arrangements with your own Faculty office.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Four assignments will be distributed through the term. The assignments will focus on the practical application of the research method discussed in class. The first assignment will focus on the formulation of a research problem. The student is encouraged to select a topic of interest with a focus on a physical or human geographic issue. The second and third assignments will focus on a data collection method and actual collection that can be used to examine the geographic problem in the first assignment. The final assignment requires the student to produce a document that will highlight the dissemination of the results for the geographic problem.

Assignments must be submitted as a **SINGLE WORD DOCUMENT** and electronically through UMLearn (formally D2L). The course website is available for registered students at: [umlearn.ca](http://umlearn.ca). Your login name and password are the same as your UMnetID. Documents **MUST** be labelled with the student name, student number and assignment number. Emailed assignments **WILL NOT** be accepted at any time for any reason and therefore will not be graded. If you are not familiar with this tool, please ask your instructor. Assignment grades will be posted on UMLearn.

Assignments must be handed in on time – by 2:30 pm on due date. **Late assignments will be given a grade of 0** unless the student has obtained Instructor approval in advance of the deadline.

*Reasons for granting an extension (assignment or midterm):* a death in your immediate family, an illness in either yourself or in a dependent (requires written note from a doctor dated BEFORE the assignment is due), and required to travel for work. The Instructor will not accept a note dated **AFTER** the due date.

*Reasons for not granting an extension:* having another assignment due at a similar time/day, being away from the university for a personal reason (i.e. holiday or personal vacation), being too busy with other course work (i.e. having a midterm that same day or week), not attending the lectures due to personal or compassionate reasons (or other reasons), car broke down and could not submit assignment on time, computer is not working properly and you lost the assignment, or any other reason deemed inappropriate by the instructor. This is not an exhaustive list. Please don't ask for an extension if any of these or similar reasons apply. If you know that you will be away, you **MUST** submit the assignment before the due date.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

Students with disability-related needs or are experiencing difficulty should discuss issues with a councillor in one of the following Student Affairs offices as soon as possible. You can also discuss any issues with your instructor, who can direct you to appropriate institutional resources.

- Student Accessibility Services: 155 University Center, 204-474-6213, 204-474-9790 (TTY)
- Learning Assistance Center: 201 Tier Building, 204-480-1481
- Student Counselling and Career Centre: 474 University Center, 204-474-8592

**COURSE/READING SCHEDULE**

<i>LECTURE TOPIC</i>	<i>READING</i>
Introduction Scientific Research in Geography	Chapter 1
Formulation of Geographic Research Problems	Chapter 2
Data Collection Sampling Methods Research Design Interviews Physical Sampling	Chapters 4 and 9 Chapter 8 Chapters 6 and 7 Chapter 5
Introduction to Data Analysis	Chapter 10
Dissemination of Results	Chapters 3, 11 and 12
Ethics in Scientific Research	Chapter 14

**TENTATIVE DATES (please note that the dates may change)**

<i>ASSIGNMENT</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Quiz #1	September 29, 2015
Assignment #1: Hypothesis and Data Classification	October 1, 2015
Quiz #2	October 13, 2015
Assignment #2: Sampling Theory and Explicit Reports	October 15, 2015
Quiz #3	November 10, 2015
Assignment #3: Behavioural Obs. and Physical Measurements	November 5 and November 12, 2015
Quiz #4	December 1, 2015
Assignment #4: Dissemination of Results	December 8, 2015
Final Exam	Scheduled through SRO