

Geography 419: Research in Environmental Geography.

January - April 2010.

Class meets on Wednesdays, 1pm-4 in the UBC Geography building, room 214.

Pre-requisite: Major or Honours in Geography with at least 75 credits, or permission of the instructor.

Instructor, David Brownstein

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Office hour: Monday 1-2pm, or by appointment.

My vision for Geog 419 is a series of linked research skills workshops. These will teach the methods necessary to tackle research problems that integrate insights from both human and physical geography. The research problem you work on for the term is your choice (with instructor approval).

Ultimately, the class will provide a venue for two types of project research. Both paths will create a portfolio that could form the solid basis of an application for graduate school.

Alternatively, the class will provide the experience necessary for entrance into the research streams of government, an NGO, or the corporate world.

- the first, a more standard essay project, will be an ambitious academic question pursued by a lone student.

- the second option will be a more outward-focused *Community Service Learning* project (CSL). These could be pursued by small groups of students, though certainly no more than two per group. In previous years, I have had students work with the Stream of Dreams Mural Society, and OneEarth. FYI:
http://www.learningexchange.ubc.ca/trek_program/community_learn.html

Tentative Mark Breakdown:

Weekly Attendance and participation 15%

Biodiversity Risk Research Project 5%.

Group Research Project 10%.

Individual Project

 Proposal 5%.

 Annotated Bibliography 25%.

 30-Minute presentation 10% [last four weeks of class].

 Essay 30%.

Late assignments will be penalized. Please familiarize yourself with UBC's plagiarism policies as they will be strictly enforced:

http://www.arts.ubc.ca/Plagiarism_Avoided.373.0.html

If you would like your marked essay mailed to you at the end of the term, please include a stamped, addressed envelope when you hand it in.

Weekly Schedule.

January 6, 2010. First Meeting. Introductions etc.

Jan 13. Welcome to the Ethical review process.
One-page proposals due.

Jan 20. Video for Group Project.

Jan 27. Group presentations.

February 3. Field Trip to the UBC botanical garden.
How to write a policy brief, conduct a risk analysis.

February 10. The anatomy of a peer-reviewed journal.
Biodiversity Risk Analysis due.

February 17. Reading/Olympics Week. University closed.

February 24. Reading/Olympics Week. University closed.

March 3. Visit with John Johnstone, Public Works Canada on contract research and possible careers within the Federal Civil Service.
Annotated bibliographies due.

March 10. Trip to the City of Vancouver Archives: Environmental Assessment records search.

March 17. Peer editing exercise.
First draft of paper due.

March 24. Student presentations.

March 31. Student presentations.

April 7. Student presentations.

April 14. Last class. Student presentations.

April 19th. **Papers Due.**