

Course outline

Geography 419: Research in Environmental Geography.

January - April 2012.

Class meets on Wednesdays, 9am-noon in the UBC Geography building, room 242.

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

Instructor, David Brownstein

Geog Rm 210H. 604-827-5541. david.brownstein at geog ubc ca

Office hour: Wednesday 12-1pm, or by appointment.

My vision for Geog 419 is as 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. Ultimately, the student 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 research problem you work on for the term will come from one of 20 off-campus *Community Based Research* partnerships that I have created. More details at our first meeting, however for example, some of you will act as consultants on issues such as climate change, outdoor education, infrastructural planning for electric vehicles in Vancouver, life-cycle analysis, environmental toxics, airport waste management, etc.

Tentative Mark Breakdown:

Weekly Attendance, tardiness and participation 10%.

Term Project

Proposal 10%.

Annotated Bibliography 30%.

In class paper draft 10%.

30-Minute presentation 15% [last four weeks of class].

Essay 25%.

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

<http://legacy.arts.ubc.ca/arts-students/plagiarism-avoided.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.

See over for weekly schedule...

Weekly Schedule.

January 4, 2012. First Meeting. Introductions, project selection, etc.

Jan 11. Welcome to the Ethical review process.
Kirsten Bell, UBC Office of Research Services.

Jan 18. **One-page proposals due.**
Proposal presentations.
Anatomy of an academic journal.

Jan 25.
Invited guest Ngaio Hotte: grant and proposal writing.

February 1.
Annotated bibliographies due.

February 8.
The fine art of paper-writing.

February 15. Peer editing exercise.
First draft of paper due.

February 22. Reading week. No class.

Feb 29. Student presentations.

March 7. Student presentations.

March 14. Student presentations.

March 21. Student presentations.

March 28. Public conference, student co-presentations with community partner (location to be determined, possibly central branch of the Vancouver Public library).

April 4. **Papers Due.**