

GEOG4003 Honours Dissertation

This is an optional capstone experience course for Geography majors only, and to be registered in the fourth year of study.

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; Full-year

CREDITS: 12

COURSE COORDINATOR: Professor Ben A. GERLOFS, Dr. He WANG

ASSESSMENT:

COURSEWORK 100 %

- Research proposal (25%)
- Presentation (25%)
- Final written report (50%)

OBJECTIVES:

A major objective of the course is to introduce students to a basic and practical understanding of geographical research and writing a dissertation. Students have to think through the many aspects of crafting, implementing and defending a dissertation.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

The basis of the honours dissertation should normally be the analysis of a phenomenon through fieldwork or through library documentary study under the supervision of an assigned faculty member. The objective is for students to demonstrate a mastery of geographical field and practical techniques within the scope of the chosen study. Studies undertaken should be based on courses taken in the second and third years. Teachers may specify subjects considered suitable for study. The dissertation course begins in the latter part of the third-year of study and must be completed by the end of March in the fourth-year of study. The completed dissertation should be typed with double-line spacing on A4 sheets of paper with a minimum of 12,000 words in length (excluding tables, figures and references). Students are required to give an oral presentation on their research finding. This course is useful to those major students who would be interested in acquiring the research skills for pursuing future research or other postgraduate studies.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Levine, S. J., & Levine, S. J. (2000). Writing and presenting your thesis or dissertation. LearnerAssociates. <http://www.learnerassociates.net/dissthes>.

| Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to: | | Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)* | | | | | | Course Assessment Methods |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| 1 | have specific and in-depth examination of a geographic topic | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Proposal, presentation & report |
| 2 | know the research requirements and processes | | | | | | ✓ | Proposal, presentation & report |
| 3 | acquire critical analysis and interpretation skills | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | Proposal, presentation & report |
| 4 | gain geographic and spatial analytical skills | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Proposal, presentation & report |
| 5 | acquire writing and presentation skills | | | | | | ✓ | Proposal, presentation & report |
| 6 | work independently | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | Proposal, presentation & report |

***Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

PLO1 critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;

PLO2 demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;

PLO3 identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;

PLO4 integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;

PLO5 participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and

PLO6 effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.