

GEOG 293

The course: This course will introduce students to the tools of doing, consuming and communicating research: how to ask a good question; how to answer a question; how to critically read and synthesize literature; how to judge the source and quality of evidence; how to frame a research problem; how to operationally define and measure the factors necessary to answer a good research question; how to report the results of that research well. It's a lot to do in a very short time! And you may not be ready for all this BUT the goal really will be to INTRODUCE you to these aspects of research in order that you may apply them across your other courses over the next few years AND BEYOND.

How it's moved online: We will engage with the material in LEARN. Each session will be a mix of activities that follows the same recipe: **read** (something in advance), **listen** to a lecture burst (a short, voice over power point from me), **watch** (a video/film/short to illustrate concepts), **do** (a weekly, non-graded application of the concepts), **discuss** (an opportunity to share your thoughts and learnings with me and your peers). You will be evaluated throughout the term on your ability to apply the concepts you learn in class – that is, to develop a research question from a research problem and figure out how to answer it in a systematic and rigorous way. Throughout the term, you will do much of this work in groups. For the take home final exam, you will work on your own. We will work throughout the term in an asynchronous fashion but will have regular office hours with the instructor, me, as well as the TA for the course. We will also schedule meetings with groups doing projects together so they we can maintain on-going interaction with each other throughout the term.