**Module C Coursework Information Sheet 2020-2021**

**GG1011: Geographical Techniques**

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| Course Code: GG1011 | | Course Title: Geographical Techniques, Module C: Qualitative Methods for Human Geographers | | |
| Question/Assignment | Investigating senses of ‘home’ | | | |
| Type of assessment  e.g. essay/report | Field report | Summative | Percentage weighting: 40% | |
| Word/time limit\*\* | 2,000 words | Deadline (12.15 pm) | 13th January 2021 | |
| Date of return of feedback | 9th February 2021 |  | |  |

\*\*The word limit does not include the cover sheet, bibliography, candidate number, assignment title, figure or table captions, text on figures, table headings/numbers or concise text within tables. Boxed text, which may include wordy tables according to the academic judgement of the course tutor, will be included in the word count.

**Critical Information** This section is an outline of some key procedures and assessment regulations; for full details students are directed to the *Department of Geography Undergraduate Student Handbook* (in particular Section 7) and the College’s *Undergraduate Student Handbook*. Both documents are available on the Geography Undergraduate Students Moodle page.

**Deferred deadlines (Extensions)**: If you have had extenuating circumstances which have affected your ability to submit work by the deadline a deferral of that deadline may be requested. Deferral requests should be made via the College’s online extension application portal. Please note that documentary evidence supporting your case for a deadline deferral may be required. Submitting work after the deadline in the absence of an agreed deferral may result in a penalty.

Please do not contact course leaders about deferrals as they are not authorized to issue them, and this can compromise anonymity and confidentiality.

**Penalties for late submission of work**:

Work submitted after the published deadline will be penalised in line with Section 13, paragraph (4) of the College’s [Undergraduate Regulations.](https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/students/study/our-college-regulations/attendance-and-academic-regulations.aspx?)

**Section 13 (4)**

*‘In the absence of acceptable extenuating cause, late submission of work will be penalised as follows:*

* + - *for work submitted up to 24 hours late, the mark will be reduced by ten percentage marks;\**
    - *for work submitted more than 24 hours late, the mark will be zero.’*

\*eg. an awarded mark of 65% would be reduced to 55% and a mark of 42% would be reduced to 32%.

**Please note that computer problems are NOT an acceptable reason for late submission any piece of assessed coursework, including the dissertation.**

**Penalties for over length work:** Any work (written, oral presentation, film performance) which exceeds the upper limit set will be penalised as follows:

* work which exceeds the upper limit by up to 10%, the mark will be reduced by ten percent of the mark initially awarded;
* work which exceeds the upper limit by more than 10% but up to and including 20%, the mark will be reduced by twenty percent of the mark initially awarded;
* work which exceeds the upper limit by more than 20%, the mark will be reduced by thirty percent of the mark initially awarded.

The word limit represents a maximum word allowance; there is **NO** penalty for work shorter than this limit.

**Referencing guidelines:** Please consult your student handbook (section 7.7 and Appendix B) on appropriate referencing:

**Introduction to Module C coursework**

For this module, we would like you to prepare a Human Geography field report. This report will be based on ethnographic fieldwork that you carry out in relation to **both** the 'Observing ethnographically' practical (C3) **and** the 'Interviews' practical (C4):

You must choose one auto-ethnographic method to use yourself after your training in practical C3. You should use this method for no more than 1 week. It is up to you how many hours you dedicate to this, but please bear in mind that you will need to gather enough data to do detailed analysis and empirical exploration in your report.

* The interview material for your report can comprise the interview of the staff member in practical C4, other online interviews with sub-group members, or interviews of people who live in your household. No more than 5 interviews should be conducted by each student.

Your fieldwork will be focused on the ‘home’ – to investigate the different 'senses of home’ that might be present at that site. Working from the geographical understandings of place that you have developed as part of your studies in GG1003 Introduction to Human Geography 1, and in your Human Geography tutorials, this specific focus will be an opportunity to put some of these ideas into practice.

**Research question:** What critical understandings of ’home’ can be gained through ethnographic research?

In investigating this, you might consider:

* What matters in people's 'senses of home' ? e.g. What is the importance of social relations and senses of 'belonging' or 'rootedness'? Of flows and connections that reach beyond the immediate place? What about sensory experience, memory, or emotion?
* How do these 'senses of home' shape how people experience, go about in, and feel about the place?
* What is your own 'sense of home' that you get from your observations and from talking to people virtually?
* How might we understand these 'senses of home' through geographical ideas of the local/global, of sociality and belonging, of identity, of mobility and interconnection?

In your investigation we would like you to explore the experiences, relations, perceptions, and meanings that matter in people's senses of home, and use them to analyse the particular geographies that shape that place.

The field report itself has two key elements:

**1.** **A reflection on the methods used during fieldwork**

In this first section of the report, you will critically reflect on the uses and challenges of **both** auto-ethnography **and** interviews in investigating 'senses of home'. This reflection should detail your personal experiences of using the ethnographic methods and should be realised through clear engagement with relevant methodological literature, using suggested course readings as your starting point.

**2.** **The presentation and analysis of your fieldwork findings**

In the second section of the report, you will present and analyse the findings of your fieldwork. Here you will integrate material from your auto-ethnography **and** interviews to analyse different 'senses of home'. This analysis should also show engagement with relevant academic literature on the geographies of home and place (see course reading list for some suggestions).

The marking criteria for the report are drawn from the department's criteria for fieldwork and laboratory reports (see Undergraduate Handbook). The aims, research questions, and methodologies for the project have, on this occasion, been set for you. As a result some of these points do not apply. Marks for the report will instead be based on the following criteria:

* appropriate employment of methods in the field;
* quality of critical reflection on each method used, including your application of it in the field;
* quantity and quality of field data;
* analysis and engagement with the wider literature;
* quality of critical interpretation and analysis of fieldwork findings;
* structure and presentation of work;
* appropriate bibliography and referencing style;
* effective communication.

**Structuring your field report**

The report should be structured using the following headings (word counts are guidelines only):

**Title:** Investigating 'senses of home'

**Introduction (approx. 200 words)**

Introduce your fieldwork: your designated location (i.e. which home(s) you are focusing on); any particular geographical aspects of the site (e.g. social relations, material environments, atmospheres/feelings, etc) that you focused on in your fieldwork or in the analysis of your findings.

**Reflecting on method: Auto-ethnography (approx. 400 words)**

Drawing on your personal experiences of fieldwork, critically reflect on the uses and challenges of using auto-ethnographic observation to research 'senses of home'. Reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of your approach to this method. You should engage with appropriate methodological literature in this reflection (see Module C Reading List #1).

**Reflecting on method: Interviews (approx. 400 words)**

Drawing on your personal experiences of fieldwork, critically reflect on the uses and challenges of using interviews to research 'senses of home'. Reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of your approach to the method. Once again, you should engage with appropriate methodological literature in this reflection.

**Fieldwork findings (approx. 800 words)**

Using material gathered from **both** your auto-ethnography **and** your interviews, critically analyse the particular ways ‘senses of home’ matter. This should be done in close conversation with geographical ideas on home and place from the academic literature (see Module C Reading on Moodle with themed section to help aid you). While you should make every effort to include both auto-ethnographic and interview data, your analysis might be based more on one or the other depending on your field material. You must include quotations from at least one recorded interview in this section. You may also wish to include any auto-ethnographic notes or visuals to support your analysis.

**Conclusions (approx. 200 words)**

Summarise the key findings of your research and the key points in your evaluation of each method for investigating 'senses of home' at your designated site. Consider what you might keep the same and what you might change in your approach to each method next time.

**References**

Please ensure that your references are properly formatted according to the guidelines shown in Undergraduate Student Handbook. There is no set number of references to be cited but you should aim for a minimum of ten sources in your reference list.

**Appendices**

This section must include scanned/photographed copies of your fieldnotes/ auto-ethnographic research, and at least one typed transcripts (or notes if interviews not recorded) from the interview research.

**Please note that you are permitted only to work in your designated fieldwork sub-group and must not join with other groups or share findings afterwards. Amongst your specific fieldwork group members, you are only permitted to share interview fieldnotes. These notes/audio-files can be stored and shared on your sub-team channel. You may *discuss* other material (i.e. auto-ethnographic material) as a group, but their production during fieldwork must be individual. Further to this, transcripts from group interview recordings must be produced individually. All field reports must be written on a strictly individual basis.**

**Word count**

The maximum word limit for the report is **2,000 words** (see attached assessment guidelines for information on what is included and excluded in this count).

**Deadline**

The deadline for the assessment is **Wednesday 13th January 2021, 12.15pm**. **The reports should also be submitted through Turnitin. You should include the ‘Geography assessment cover sheet’ available on Moodle with your submission.**

**Readings**

In the writing of your report you should engage closely with relevant academic literature. The Module C reading lists contain suggested readings to help you in writing the report. These include methodological readings on the doing of ethnographic research, and geographical readings on the geographies of home and place. You may find it useful to consult these sets of sources as you reflect on your fieldwork methods and analyse your findings, alongside relevant notes and readings from the Introduction to Human Geography 1 (GG1003) course.