



## UNSW Course Outline

# ZPEM3208 Geographic Research Methods - 2024

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## General Course Information

**Course Code :** ZPEM3208

**Year :** 2024

**Term :** Semester 2

**Teaching Period :** Z2

**Is a multi-term course? :** No

**Faculty :** UNSW Canberra

**Academic Unit :** UC Science

**Delivery Mode :** In Person

**Delivery Format :** Standard

**Delivery Location :** UNSW Canberra at ADFA

**Campus :** UNSW Canberra

**Study Level :** Undergraduate

**Units of Credit :** 6

[Useful Links](#)

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

Geography Research Methods is one of the more dynamic course offerings in Geography and it is compulsory to qualify for the Geography major (BA or Bsc). This course draws upon several of the theoretical and applied elements from the undergraduate geography program. Through

lectures and group work, students are exposed to research frameworks in geography, topic definition, theory and methodology, practicalities of data collection, analysis and interpretation and report writing. The course provides students with experience in designing and undertaking a field-based geographic research project. The course normally involves a residential field school of approximately five days duration.

Students are advised that this course requires self-directed study, and those students contemplating enrolling without having taken at least two third year geography courses are advised first to seek academic advice from the Geography discipline co-ordinator.

## Course Aims

The course provides students with a unique opportunity to apply their geographic knowledge and research skills in either a developed or developing country, experience collaborative research that builds capacity and understand challenges, constraints and opportunities facing geographers working in different physical, spatial and societal contexts.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Use a variety of geographical methodologies independently with a high degree of competence
CLO2 : Develop and systematically undertake individual and collaborative research
CLO3 : Demonstrate an understanding of processes of human and physical change
CLO4 : Reflect on their research findings and how they compare to previous research
CLO5 : Manage information and communicate geographical knowledge

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Use a variety of geographical methodologies independently with a high degree of competence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Proposal</li><li>• Final Research Reports</li></ul>
CLO2 : Develop and systematically undertake individual and collaborative research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature Review</li><li>• Final Research Reports</li></ul>
CLO3 : Demonstrate an understanding of processes of human and physical change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Proposal</li><li>• Final Research Reports</li></ul>
CLO4 : Reflect on their research findings and how they compare to previous research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final Research Reports</li></ul>
CLO5 : Manage information and communicate geographical knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature Review</li><li>• Research Proposal</li><li>• Final Research Reports</li></ul>

# **Learning and Teaching Technologies**

Moodle - Learning Management System

## **Learning and Teaching in this course**

Enrolment in this course or participation in any activity that is recorded constitutes consent to be recorded during tutorial and other teaching sessions. Recordings will only be used for the purposes of teaching this course. If you do not consent to be recorded, you must notify your course convenor immediately so other arrangements can be made. Student-centred learning is a key component of the teaching philosophy for this unit. Students will be provided with the support that encourages a level of self-directed learning, appropriate to a third-year undergraduate course. It is understood that students come to the class with a widely diverse skill set but nonetheless with capacities and knowledge on which we can build. Students' active participation in all aspects of the course is encouraged, including collaborating with colleagues to create a supportive learning environment. Lecturer's will also be available for drop-in officehour sessions each week for the purpose of one-to-one guidance on the issues raised during lectures, tutorials and assessments

## **Additional Course Information**

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials/labs as per the timetable.

It is vital that students prepare for these contact hours by completing course readings. You are expected to complete around 7 hours of independent reading and research for the course each week. To pass this course students will need to engage with all the required readings, lecture materials and exercises developed in the tutorials/labs.

For special considerations regarding attendance and assessment for the course, please speak to academic staff associated with this course. Where relevant, students can submit a Special Considerations form to Student Admin. Services (SAS).

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Literature Review Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (7 days)	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 11/08/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 23/08/2024 05:00 PM
Research Proposal Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (7 days)	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 22/09/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 04/10/2024 05:00 PM
Final Research Reports Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	60%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 04/11/2024 11:59 PM

## Assessment Details

### Literature Review

#### Assessment Overview

Assessment 1 (20%):

Literature Review (1,000 words): identify and analyse academic literature from 5 journal articles related to methodological and research topics in contemporary geography. This assessment corresponds to Learning Outcome 2 and 5 (LO2, LO5).

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Develop and systematically undertake individual and collaborative research
- CLO5 : Manage information and communicate geographical knowledge

#### Detailed Assessment Description

You are required to write a literature review of no more than 1000 words. Your review should identify and analyse FIVE key academic publications related to ONE of the following methodological topics in contemporary geography: Visual Methods in Geographic Research; Qualitative Interviews/ Focus Groups in Geography; Ethics and Geographical Research; Non-Representational and Affect-Based Research Methods; Posthuman/More-than-Human Geographical Research Methods; 'Listening Like a Geographer': Sound Methods; Cartographic Methods; Discourse/Textual Analysis; Methodological advances in reconstructing past sea-level change; Methods for predicting future sea-level rise; Aerial Photography/Remote Sensing; Approaches for assessing coastal vulnerability.

Your literature review should outline the state-of-the-art in relation your chosen methodological

topic in geography, reviewing key developments, innovations, and debates in your area, as well as identifying gaps in the literature and avenues for future research.

#### Assessment Length

1000 words

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

#### Generative AI Permission Level

##### No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

## Research Proposal

#### Assessment Overview

Assessment 2 (20%):

Research Proposal (1500 words): outline the research problem, rationale and methodology (conceptual approach and methods). Components of your research plan will include your primary/overarching research question; an expanded literature review of key theoretical debate/s and previous research on your chosen research topic; describe and justify the methodology and other details relevant to your research. You will adapt this assessment item for use in your final report. This assessment task corresponds to LO1-3, LO5

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Use a variety of geographical methodologies independently with a high degree of competence
- CLO3 : Demonstrate an understanding of processes of human and physical change
- CLO5 : Manage information and communicate geographical knowledge

#### Detailed Assessment Description

You are required to write a Research Proposal of no more than 1500 words that identifies and outlines the intended research for your final research project. A research proposal is likely a new concept to some of you. However, in research they are vital in establishing the need for the

research and its successful execution. In the broadest sense, a research proposal describes your planned research. It states the aims and questions of your research and describes why this research is significant; it reviews some of the key thinking and debates related to your topic that can be found in published literature; and it signals the methodological approach you will take to gather data so that you can investigate the topic you propose. In an academic context, research proposals are often submitted to convince research councils to fund specific research.

Proposals should therefore emphasise both the feasibility of the research (that it is achievable in the time-frame, that you have the necessary methodological and research skills to undertake it) as well as the project's significance (that it addresses an important topic, or makes an important or innovative contribution to existing debates). In terms of structure, your research proposal should be organised according to the following headings:

- a) Introduction: Research Aims and Questions Provides a concise summary of what your research is about (i.e. the problem being addressed). It should outline the key aspects of what you will investigate as well as the expected outcomes. It briefly covers the what, why, and how of your research. You should highlight how the research is significant or important (does it seek to extend knowledge? Apply a theory/method to a new context? Test a theory? Or challenge an existing one?). This section should end with a statement of the specific research questions your project will address.
- b) Literature Review This section should offer a concise critical review of the relevant academic literature on your topic. This section should position your proposed research in the context of broader debates in the discipline, and draw out the key concepts or theoretical frameworks that your research will mobilise. It should show how the work of other scholars connects to your proposed topic and identify the key thinking in this area. In terms of structure, think back to the 'funnel' approach from Assessment 1 - so literature on the more general aspects of your topic could come first, narrowing down to published work on your particular area of interest. You might end this section by including a short summary of the main themes you have identified from the literature.
- c) Research Design and Methodology 2 This section should provide an account of the specific methods or techniques your project will use, the pragmatics of how you will collect and analyse your 'data', and information about the specific empirical sites your research will focus on. In writing this section, you want to be crystal clear why you have chosen a specific set of methods, as well as why other approaches may not have been as suitable. The important thing is that you need to demonstrate that you have put thought into your approach and why it provides the most

appropriate way to carry out your research. It should also highlight potential limitations or caveats related to your research, as well as any ethical considerations pertaining to your research and how you will address these.

d) Research Timeline This section should list the different stages for completing the research (e.g. 'Reviewing literature'; 'data collection'; 'Analysis'; 'Writing up of specific sections', 'proof-reading'). You should demonstrate your understanding of the time you have available and how you will best use it to complete this assessment. You are welcome to present this in a timeline, spreadsheet, or tabular format. This section will not be included in the word count.

#### Assessment Length

1500 words

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

#### Generative AI Permission Level

##### **No Assistance**

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

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## **Final Research Reports**

#### Assessment Overview

Assessment 3 (50%): Final Research Report (max 4500 words, including references). This assessment corresponds to L01-6.

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Use a variety of geographical methodologies independently with a high degree of competence
- CLO2 : Develop and systematically undertake individual and collaborative research
- CLO3 : Demonstrate an understanding of processes of human and physical change
- CLO4 : Reflect on their research findings and how they compare to previous research
- CLO5 : Manage information and communicate geographical knowledge

### Detailed Assessment Description

Your task for the final assessment is to produce a 4500-word final research project based on your independent geographical research conducted in the second half of the course and as outlined in your research proposal (Assessment 2). The purpose with this assignment is for you to not only undertake your research appropriately and effectively, but also to present it in a coherent format that follows the conventions of an academic journal article. Week 7's lecture gave some general hints and tips on writing a research project, and also more specific advice and examples relevant to each of the main sections of the report, so please consult the slides and lecture recordings for more information on this assessment task. Given that Geography is a very broad discipline, the structure and content of your research papers may be quite different. Please discuss with your supervisors the most appropriate structure for your research. You can also look through relevant articles in relationship to your topic for inspiration on how you might structure and write your own research. In general, the main elements that we expect from your projects are (note: these will form the bulk of the marking criteria):

- Title
- Abstract (no more than 250 words)
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Results
- Analysis/Discussion
- Conclusion
- Bibliography
- Other Supplementary Sections, as appropriate.

It may be appropriate in the context of your research area to combine these different main sections [e.g., including the Literature Review as part of the Introduction in Phys Geog projects; combining Results and Analysis in a single Discussion section in Human Geog projects]. But they should all be explicitly stated.

### Assessment Length

4500

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

### Generative AI Permission Level

#### No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

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## General Assessment Information

### Note on Generative AI

#### PLANNING ASSISTANCE

As all the assessment tasks for ZPEM3208 involve some planning or creative processes, you are permitted to use software to generate initial ideas. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e. only occasional AI generated words or phrases may form part of your final submission. It is a good idea to keep copies of the initial prompts to show your lecturer if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.

If the outputs of generative AI such as ChatGPT form a part of your submission, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

### Grading Basis

Standard

# Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 15 July - 19 July	Lecture	Lecture: Introduction Tutorial: Concepts of Research
Week 2 : 22 July - 26 July	Lecture	Lecture: Smart Urbanism Tutorial: Visualising Smart Cities
Week 3 : 29 July - 2 August	Lecture	Lecture: Biophilic Cities Tutorial: Biophilic Cities
Week 4 : 5 August - 9 August	Lecture	Lecture: Coastal Geography Tutorial: Sea-level rise
Week 5 : 12 August - 16 August	Lecture	Lecture: Postcolonial Memory and History Tutorial: Postcolonial Memory and History
Week 6 : 19 August - 23 August	Lecture	Lecture: Research Aims and Objectives Tutorial: Field School Preparation
Week 7 : 9 September - 13 September	Lecture	Lecture: Writing a Research Project Tutorial: Project Supervisions
Week 8 : 16 September - 20 September	Lecture	Lecture: Research Skills Tutorial: Project Supervisions
Week 9 : 23 September - 27 September	Lecture	Lecture: Research Ethics Tutorial: Project Supervisions
Week 10 : 30 September - 4 October	Lecture	Lecture: Online Research Methods Tutorial: Project Supervisions
Week 11 : 7 October - 11 October	Lecture	Lecture: Writing a Methodology Tutorial: Project Supervisions
Week 12 : 14 October - 18 October	Lecture	Lecture: Course Conclusion Tutorial: Project Supervisions

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## General Schedule Information

Lecture: Wednesday 1100-1300 (SEM 06).

Tutorial: Wednesday 1610-1800 (Z-22-211)

## Course Resources

### Prescribed Resources

There is no textbook requirement for this course. Alternatively, course materials are accessible on MOODLE and there are several new research methods and report writing texts available to students on Course Reserve via the Academy Library website.

## Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in

education.

One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of this course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the “On-going Student Feedback” link in Moodle, Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings in schools, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups.

Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for this course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development. Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct Policy <https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf>

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Andrew Lapworth		Room 331, Building 22	+61 2 5114 5586		No	Yes