



ENVG380

Human Geography in Action

S2 Day 2015

Department of Geography and Planning

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and lecturer

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W3A428

Please email for an appointment

Lecturer

Jessica McLean

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Credit points

6

Prerequisites

39cp including (ENVG330 or ENVG340 or ENVG350 or ENVG370 or ENVG390 or ENVG461 or ENVG462 or ENVG463)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Drawing on field-based research this unit develops students' practical, analytical and interpretative skills in ways directly relevant to employment as a professional geographer. Students are guided through research processes including: problem formulation; research design; data collection; selection and use of appropriate analytical, interpretative and conceptual tools; and production of oral and written reports presenting research findings and evaluating their research process. The unit addresses quantitative and qualitative methods, team building skills, specific aspects of research practice such as professional ethics, and relevant areas of social science theory in applied contexts. This unit allows students to draw on previous work in human geography to strengthen their portfolio of demonstrated skills relevant to the wide range of employment destinations available to human geographers.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.

Design a research project based on original research findings and an understanding of the existing literature and debates in the topic area.

Understand the importance of ethics and issues of cultural diversity when developing appropriate research practice in social science.

Undertake field-based, applied research.

Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.

Rigorously analyse and interpret data.

Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

General Assessment Information

All students must submit assignments 2 and 3 through the appropriate Turnitin link provided on iLearn. Instructions for assignment 1 submission will be given in class.

Late penalties

Late assignments will be accepted up to 7 days after the submission deadline. Please note that the penalty for late submission of assignments is 1 mark per day out of the total possible marks that assignment is worth (i.e. if the assignment is worth 25% you will lose 1 mark per day out of a possible 25 marks; if the assignment is worth 60% you will lose 1 mark per day out of a possible 60 marks). The late penalty will be calculated from the due date and time listed. This penalty will be applied unless you are granted an extension by Sandie and provide appropriate supporting documentation. Please talk to (or email) Sandie about any circumstances that affect your assignments before the due date.

Grading and appeal

Each assignment will be marked and commented upon before return to you. The mark will be in the form of a graded letter as shown on the table below and as consistent with University policy. If you are uncertain or unhappy with any aspect of your comments or results please contact myself or your tutor as soon as possible to discuss it. You may appeal your result in any assignment.

% equivalent	Graded letter	Meaning
	F	Fail
	<49	
	P	Pass
	50-64	
	Cr	Credit

	65-74	
D		Distinction
	75-84	
HD		High Distinction
85-100		

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Workshop engagement	20%	Weeks 2-6
Research proposal	15%	Monday August 24
Research portfolio	65%	Monday November 2

Workshop engagement

Due: **Weeks 2-6**

Weighting: **20%**

See iLearn for detailed description of assessment task.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Design a research project based on original research findings and an understanding of the existing literature and debates in the topic area.
- Understand the importance of ethics and issues of cultural diversity when developing appropriate research practice in social science.
- Undertake field-based, applied research.
- Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.
- Rigorously analyse and interpret data.
- Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

Research proposal

Due: **Monday August 24**

Weighting: **15%**

See iLearn for detailed description of assessment task.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Design a research project based on original research findings and an understanding of the existing literature and debates in the topic area.
- Understand the importance of ethics and issues of cultural diversity when developing appropriate research practice in social science.
- Undertake field-based, applied research.
- Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.
- Rigorously analyse and interpret data.
- Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

Research portfolio

Due: **Monday November 2**

Weighting: **65%**

See iLearn for detailed description of assessment task.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Understand the importance of ethics and issues of cultural diversity when developing appropriate research practice in social science.
- Undertake field-based, applied research.
- Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.
- Rigorously analyse and interpret data.
- Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

ENVG380 is available only in internal mode. It is dependent upon **compulsory** attendance and participation in weekly 3 hour workshops which will be delivered in two blocks on a Monday:

Monday 1-3pm W5A205

Monday 4-5pm E5A170

ENVG380 meets from weeks 1-6 and from weeks 10-13. There are no classes in weeks 7 and 8 (while students are either in Sabah or conducting fieldwork in Sydney) and there is no workshop in week 9 due to a public holiday. It is expected that students will use unassigned class time productively for fieldwork and other research-related activities. The 3 hour workshops will be mixed sessions with a combination of mini-lectures and hands-on learning activities.

Attendance at these workshops is **required** and will be recorded on an attendance sheet. Preparation and engagement with the workshops will contribute to your grade for assignment

1. The workshops are designed to teach you the necessary research skills for designing research and for undertaking your assigned research projects.

ENVG380 is a 6 credit point unit. On average 18 hours per week should be devoted to this unit (270 hour for the semester). The unit is designed based on the following breakdown (these are estimations and hours devoted to tasks will vary depending on specific projects):

- Workshops: 3 hrs per week for 10 weeks = 30 hours
- RATS preparation (reading and writing): 6 hrs per week for 6 weeks = 36 hours
- Research proposal: research and writing = 34 hours
- Data collection: 80 hours
- Research portfolio preparation: 90 hours

Resources

There is a required text for ENVG380 available at the Co-op Bookshop:

Hay I. (ed.) 2010 *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*, 3rd ed., Oxford University Press, Oxford. (Earlier editions of this book purchased second hand are also fine).

It is strongly recommended that you purchase this text as many of the unit readings are from this book. There is one copy of Hay on closed reserve in the library. Additional required readings are available through the Library e-reserve.

Unit Schedule

See iLearn for unit schedule.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Design a research project based on original research findings and an understanding of the existing literature and debates in the topic area.
- Undertake field-based, applied research.
- Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

Assessment tasks

- Workshop engagement
- Research proposal
- Research portfolio

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Design a research project based on original research findings and an understanding of the existing literature and debates in the topic area.
- Understand the importance of ethics and issues of cultural diversity when developing appropriate research practice in social science.
- Undertake field-based, applied research.
- Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.
- Rigorously analyse and interpret data.
- Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

Assessment tasks

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Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Understand the importance of ethics and issues of cultural diversity when developing appropriate research practice in social science.

Assessment tasks

- Workshop engagement
- Research proposal
- Research portfolio

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Design a research project based on original research findings and an understanding of the existing literature and debates in the topic area.
- Understand the importance of ethics and issues of cultural diversity when developing appropriate research practice in social science.
- Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.
- Rigorously analyse and interpret data.
- Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

Assessment tasks

- Workshop engagement
- Research proposal
- Research portfolio

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Design a research project based on original research findings and an understanding of the existing literature and debates in the topic area.
- Undertake field-based, applied research.
- Rigorously analyse and interpret data.

Assessment tasks

- Workshop engagement
- Research proposal
- Research portfolio

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Undertake field-based, applied research.
- Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.
- Rigorously analyse and interpret data.

Assessment tasks

- Workshop engagement
- Research proposal
- Research portfolio

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Design a research project based on original research findings and an understanding of the existing literature and debates in the topic area.
- Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.
- Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

Assessment tasks

- Workshop engagement
- Research proposal
- Research portfolio

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply research methodologies and methods used in human geography.
- Design a research project based on original research findings and an understanding of the existing literature and debates in the topic area.
- Understand the importance of ethics and issues of cultural diversity when developing appropriate research practice in social science.

- Undertake field-based, applied research.
- Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.
- Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

Assessment tasks

- Workshop engagement
- Research proposal
- Research portfolio

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the importance of ethics and issues of cultural diversity when developing appropriate research practice in social science.
- Collaboratively and ethically collect appropriate data.
- Effectively communicate and reflect on research results through relevant media.

Assessment tasks

- Workshop engagement
- Research proposal
- Research portfolio