



GEOP6080

Theory and Methods in Geography and Planning

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Kate Lloyd

kate.lloyd@mq.edu.au

Contact via Kate.Lloyd@mq.edu.au

25WWB, 451

Monday 12-1 via zoom

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MPlan or MEnv

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Research skills are essential to understanding space and place, and for contributing to social change. This unit introduces students to the process of designing and undertaking research. It provides an overview of theoretical frameworks in human geography and planning and explores their importance in shaping how researchers and organisations identify and engage with contemporary issues. Students will develop knowledge about research methodologies and gain skills in research design, data collection and analysis through applying a variety of research methods in real life contexts. Through the unit, students will consider how research generates different types of geographical and planning knowledge, and gain an appreciation for the wider role of research in society.

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:

ULO1: Discuss the role of research in shaping knowledge about space and place.

ULO2: Explain how theoretical approaches in geography and planning are connected with research methodologies.

ULO3: Critically evaluate a range of research methods and forms of data analysis within geography and planning.

ULO4: Apply research skills in practice using diverse methods of data collection and analysis.

General Assessment Information

Assignment requirements and submission

Detailed requirements and marking rubrics for each assessment are available from the iLearn site. All written assignments should be submitted [online to Turnitin](#) via the relevant links provided in iLearn. You are **not** required to submit a hardcopy of any assignments or include a cover sheet.

Assessment extensions and late penalties

Circumstances that affect your ability to complete assignments by the deadline must be discussed with the convenor (Kate) prior to the due date. Extensions will be granted only in unforeseen or exceptional circumstances according to the University [Special Consideration policy](#). Students must apply online via [AskMQ](#) and provide appropriate supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate).

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – 10 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Assessment feedback

All feedback for assignments will be made available online. The grade will be in the form of a letter as consistent with University policy (HD, D, Cr, P, F) alongside written feedback.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Research skills exercises	30%	No	Weeks 3, 7, 9, 12
Research methods toolkit	40%	No	Monday 30th May Week 13
Quizzes	30%	No	Weeks 3, 7, 9, 12

Research skills exercises

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Weeks 3, 7, 9, 12**

Weighting: **30%**

Skills exercises focusing on a range of research activities and tasks, including research design, data collection and data analysis.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss the role of research in shaping knowledge about space and place.
- Explain how theoretical approaches in geography and planning are connected with research methodologies.
- Critically evaluate a range of research methods and forms of data analysis within geography and planning.
- Apply research skills in practice using diverse methods of data collection and analysis.

Research methods toolkit

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **Monday 30th May Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

A research methods toolkit based on detailed analysis and reflections of readings and practical exercises

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss the role of research in shaping knowledge about space and place.
- Explain how theoretical approaches in geography and planning are connected with research methodologies.
- Critically evaluate a range of research methods and forms of data analysis within geography and planning.
- Apply research skills in practice using diverse methods of data collection and analysis.

Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Weeks 3, 7, 9, 12**

Weighting: **30%**

Online quizzes drawing on unit content and readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss the role of research in shaping knowledge about space and place.
- Explain how theoretical approaches in geography and planning are connected with research methodologies.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

All lecture content will be delivered online. Most lecture content will be prerecorded and accessed via iLearn. There is a 2 hour timetabled lecture time each week (Monday 12-2pm) during which either live content will be delivered or academic staff will offer Zoom drop-in sessions. Please see iLearn for details.

There are 4 compulsory on-campus workshops, scheduled for weeks 3, 7, 19 and 12. Each workshop will be 3 hours. Tasks completed in the workshops will be assessed and will also generate the data needed for the final assessment task. There is no online alternative for these workshops. **Students need to attend all four workshops to successfully complete the unit.**

Reading

Required reading (journal articles and chapters) will be listed on iLearn and available via Leganto.

Technology used and required

The unit is co-taught with GEOP2010. All material for GEOP6080 will be delivered through the GEOP2010 iLearn website. iLearn will provide access to lectures (powerpoint presentations for download and recordings through the University's Echo360 lecture recording facility) as well as readings, links and forum discussions. All GEOP6080 assessments should be submitted via the GEOP2010 iLearn page. Regular access to iLearn is required in order to complete the unit.

Unit Schedule

w/ c	Topic	Workshop	Assessment
		MODULE 1: Introduction	
1	21st Feb	Introduction	
		MODULE 2: Research skills toolkit, ethics and positionality	
2	28th Feb		
3	7th March		Workshop 1 Quiz and research skills exercises (1)
		MODULE 3: Quantitative methods	
4	14th March		
5	21st March		
6	28th March		
7	4th April		Workshop 2 Quiz and research skills exercises (2)
		MODULE 4: Qualitative methods	
8	25th April		
9	2nd May		Workshop 3 Quiz and research skills exercises (3)
		MODULE 5: Data analysis and communication	
10	9th May		

11	16th May		
12	23rd May	Workshop 4	Quiz and research skills exercises (4)
13	30th May		Methods toolkit

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the

expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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