

GEOG 2005/ENST 2005 – INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE RESEARCH



IMAGE: Marc-Olivier Jodoin (Unsplash)

DRAFT

{Updated August 2023}

Instructor: Dr. David Hugill, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, B448 Loeb Building,
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Class Meetings: Wednesdays 9:35-11:25

Teaching Assistants/Workshop Leaders: TBD

Professor Office Hours:

Course Brightspace Page:

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PRECLUSIONS

ENST/GEOG 2005 is designed to provide an elementary introduction to the research process and survey a variety of issues related to the production and consumption of knowledge. Participants will consider what is at stake in qualitative research endeavours by engaging with a range of substantive themes.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 credit in GEOG or ENST at the 1000-level and second year standing, or permission of the Department.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

GEOG 2005 is designed to provide opportunities for students to:

- Develop a greater understanding of the enterprise of qualitative research by surveying some of its big questions.
- Develop a greater understanding of key concepts in human geography and environmental studies.
- Challenge conventional thinking and received wisdom.
- Build analytic and research skills.

3. TEXTS

There is no required textbook for ENST/GEOG 2005. All readings are available through the MacOdrum library (either digitally, or in a few rare cases, at the reserve desk).

4. COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1: September 6, 2023	
Introduction and Course Policies	<i>No required readings.</i>
Workshop/Tutorial	No workshops/tutorials this week
Week 2: September 13, 2023	
What is Qualitative Research?	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RM Vaughan, "Lobster is King: Infantilizing Maritime Culture" ○ Geraldine Pratt, "Qualitative Methods," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 603-606.
Key Concept(s)	Qualitative Research; Quantitative Research
Workshop/Tutorial	Introductions
Week 3: September 20, 2023	
Situated Knowledges	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audrey Kobayashi, "Situated Knowledge, Reflexivity," <i>International Encyclopedia of Human Geography</i>, 138-143. ○ Trevor Barnes, "Situated Knowledge," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 683-684.
Key Concept(s)	Situated Knowledge; Reflexivity; Positionality; God-Trick
Workshop/Tutorial	Regular tutorial business
Week 4: September 27, 2023 *A1: Researcher Positionality Assignment due on Brightspace by midnight on September 29, 2023	
Situated Knowledges Positivism and its Discontents	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Max Liboiron, "Plastics in the Gut: A Search for Sand on a Rocky Shoreline Upends Colonial Science," <i>Orion Magazine</i>, https://orionmagazine.org/article/plastics-in-the-gut/ ○ Trevor Barnes, "Positivism," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 557-559.
Key Concept(s)	Positivism
Workshop/Tutorial	Regular tutorial business

Week 5: October 4, 2023	
Paradigm Shifts	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thomas Kuhn, "Introduction: A Role for History," in <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i>, 1-10 ○ David Smith, "Paradigm," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 518-519.
Key Concept(s)	Paradigm; Paradigm Shift
Workshop/Tutorial	Regular tutorial business
Week 6: October 11, 2023	
Fetishism + Capitalist Realism	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mark Fisher, "It's easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism," in <i>Capitalist Realism: Is There No Alternative?</i>, 1-11 ○ Karl Marx, "The Fetishism of the Commodity and its Secret," in <i>Capital Vol. 1</i>, 163-177. ○ Michael Watts, "Commodity," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 99-101.
Key Concepts	Commodity Fetishism; Capitalist Realism
Workshop/Tutorial	Regular tutorial business
Week 7: October 18, 2023 *A2: Key Concept Elaboration Paper due on Brightspace by midnight on October 30, 2023	
Dark Epistemologies	<i>Require Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eyal Weizman, "Open Verification," <i>e-flux Architecture</i>, https://www.e-flux.com/architecture/becoming-digital/248062/open-verification/ ○ Keith Woodward and Jean Paul Jones III, "Epistemology," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 206-208.
Key Concepts	Epistemology; Dark Epistemologies
Workshop/Tutorial	Regular tutorial business
<p style="text-align: center;">READING BREAK OCT 23-27</p>	

Week 8: November 1, 2023	
False Choices	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Slater, "Gentrification Beyond False Choice Urbanism," in <i>Shaking up the City: Ignorance, Inequality, and the Urban Question</i>, 52-83. David Ley, "Gentrification," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 273-274.
Key Concepts	False Choices; Gentrification
Workshop/Tutorial	Regular tutorial business
Week 9: November 8, 2023	
Imaginative Geographies	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Gregory, "Architecture of Enmity," in <i>The Colonial Present</i>, 17-29. David Gregory, "Imaginative Geographies," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 369-371.
Key Concepts	Imaginative Geographies
Workshop/Tutorial	Regular tutorial business
Week 10: November 15, 2023 *No workshop/tutorial meetings this week	
Ideology and Discourse	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terry Eagleton, "What is Ideology?," in <i>Ideology: An Introduction</i>, 2007 Edition, 1-31 Clive Barnett, "Ideology," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 366-368. David Campbell, "Discourse," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 196-197.
Key Concepts	Ideology; Discourse; Commonsense
Workshop/Tutorial	Regular tutorial business
Week 11: November 22, 2023 *A3: Imaginative Geographies Assignment due on Brightspace by midnight on November 27, 2023	
Determinism	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Correia, "F**K Jared Diamond," in <i>Capitalism, Nature, Socialism</i> 24:4, 1-6.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Author Unlisted, "Environmental Determinism," <i>The Dictionary of Human Geography</i>, 5th Edition, 166-167
Key Concepts	Environmental Determinism
Workshop/Tutorial	Regular tutorial business
Week 12: November 29, 2023	
What's at stake in qualitative research?	<i>Required Readings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sarah Schulman, "The Dynamics of Death and Replacement," in <i>The Gentrification of the Mind</i>, 23-35.
Workshop/Tutorial	Final tutorial, discussion of exam and regular tutorial business
Week 13: December 6, 2023	
Exam Preparation Session	<i>No Required Readings</i>
Workshop/Tutorial	No tutorials this week.

WORKSHOP/TUTORIAL GROUPS

Group	Time	Location	Tutorial Leader
A1	Thurs 8:35-10:25	Loeb A410	TBD
A2	Wed 11:35-13:25	Loeb A410	TBD
A3	Mon 15:35-17:25	Loeb A410	TBD

5. EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

Assessment	Weight	Description
Workshop/Tutorial Participation	10%	Based on tutorial/Workshop attendance and active tutorial participation
Lecture Attendance	10%	Based on attendance at weekly lectures.
A1: Researcher Positionality Assignment	10%	A short reflection on the researcher's positionality
A2: Key Concept Elaboration Paper	20%	An analytical elaboration of one of the course's key concepts
A3: Imaginative Geographies Analysis Paper	25%	A medium-length essay.
Final Exam	30%	Based on course readings and lectures.
Total	100%	

Please note:

- Late assignments will be penalized by 3% per calendar day (to a maximum of 25% total); no assignments will be accepted after two weeks beyond the original deadline (unless an alternative arrangement has been made)
- All assignments must follow the style guidelines outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style (16th edition or later); citations can be formatted in either the "notes and bibliography" or "author-date" style, so long as one of these options is used consistently throughout the document; there is a quick Chicago-style citation guide available here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
- All assignments will be assessed on the overall quality of presentation, including citation formatting, spelling, grammar, coherence of argument, etc.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

- In case of illness or extraordinary circumstances, students can request an assignment extension of up to 7 days by completing the form at the following link and submit it to their tutorial leader prior to the assignment due date. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>
- The teaching team will do their best to return all assignments within two weeks of submission. All grades will be posted on the course Brightspace page.
- Extensions for longer than 7 days will normally not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions lasting longer than 7 days are granted, the student will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension.

6. PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

7. STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH

As a university student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

8. STATEMENT ON PANDEMIC MEASURES

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are **a number of actions you can take** to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's **[symptom reporting protocols](#)**.

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in **[cuScreen](#)** as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

9. REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form [click here](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

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