

## RESEARCH DESIGN AND GEOGRAPHIC APPLICATIONS

Geography 5800, ENV 345, W 6:30 to 9:20 pm

Steve Wolverton

### Office Hours:

Dr. Wolverton – Wednesday 4 to 5 pm, or by appointment

Email: [steven.wolverton@unt.edu](mailto:steven.wolverton@unt.edu)

### Course Objective:

This course is designed for students seeking to become better researchers; the course focuses on independent research by academic scholars and professionals. The class is writing and reading intensive. Students develop an area of research interest, choose a specific topic, and formulate research questions from which proposals are developed. The course culminates in the development of significant progress toward a research proposal for a topical research question. The goal of this course is to provide a transitional window between undergraduate classes to independent research necessary for success in the UNT Master's in Geography program. A key way to achieve this goal is through rigorous immersion in writing and reading.

### Required Text:

There are weekly articles that will be shared via Canvas.

Booth et al. (2016). *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. BCW

Silvia (2018) *How to Write a Lot*. 2nd Edition. American Psychological Association. PS

Wolverton (2018) *Becoming a Researcher: Making the Transition to Graduate School*. Society of Ethnobiology. SW

### GRADING STRUCTURE

Assignment 1 Interest Essay	25 pts
Assignment 2 Time Management	25 pts
Assignment 3 Topic Essay	25 pts
Assignment 4 Question Essay	25 pts
Assignment 5 Degree Plan	25 pts
10 In-class Reflexive Exercises @ 5 pts each	50 pts
Annotated Bibliography – section 1	25 pts
Annotated Bibliography – section 2	25 pts
Annotated Bibliography – section 3	25 pts
Proposal storyboard presentation	100 pts
Proposal storyboard	100 pts
Attendance	50 pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

<b>Class Grades</b>	450 to 500 pts = A	400 to 449 pts = B
	350 to 399 pts = C	300 to 349 pts = D
	Below 300 pts = F	

### Grading Subjectivity:

Note—grading of written material is a subjective activity; I will try to be as objective as possible, but final judgment calls rest with me. Point totals may change during the semester.

*Participation* is graded subjectively. Types of participation include: peer review of other student's work; making points during class discussion; raising questions during office hours; asking questions of guest speakers; listening attentively when others are speaking; and showing other forms of interest in the course and its goals.

### COVID

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

### Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so that we can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform me if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

### DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### EXTRA CREDIT

The Department of Geography does not allow extra credit assignments (work not specified on a course syllabus).

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident may be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity for further review. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; (d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s) (*you cannot dual submit in this class from previous semesters or this semester*); or (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Altering a returned test and claiming a grader or scanning machine made an error is also considered cheating. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

### **ATTENDANCE**

As a night class, each meeting constitutes one full week. Students will lose 5 attendance points per absence unless caused by COVID (see above).

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

The class is organized into 4 blocks, which are described below. The due dates of assignments are targets that may shift because each group of students who take this class is different. Any shifts in due dates are announced in advance over Canvas. There will be a detailed outline circulated for each block as we proceed through the semester.

#### **Block 1 (Weeks 1 – 4): Beginning the transition to independent, inquiry-based research**

##### *Topics:*

- 1) Entering the realm of graduate research
- 2) Time management and motivation
- 3) Why write and writing for whom?
- 4) Basics of constructive criticism and peer review.

##### *Assignments:*

Annotated Bibliography Section 1  
Time awareness/management exercise  
Interest Essay  
Interest Essay Revision

##### *Readings:*

Early chapters of Wolverton 2018, Silvia 2018, and Booth et al. 2016; various external readings (announced via Canvas).

#### **Block 2 (Weeks 5 – 8): Research Topics & Questions**

##### *Topics:*

- 1) Triangulating your research
- 2) Moving toward research questions
- 3) Building your cohort: getting efficient
- 4) The hard work of research questions

##### *Assignments:*

- 1) Annotated Bibliography Section 2
- 2) Topic Essay
- 3) Topic Essay Revision

*Readings:*

Middle chapters of Wolverton 2018, Silvia 2018, and Booth et al. 2016; various external readings (announced via Canvas).

**Block 3 (Weeks 9 – 11): Moving Fluidly from Questions to Problems to Objectives**

*Topics:*

- 1) Reviewing topic identification
- 2) Question and problem identification
- 3) Thoughts on the literature review

*Assignments:*

- 1) Question Essay
- 2) Question Essay Revision
- 3) Annotated Bibliography Section 3

*Readings:*

Middle chapters of Wolverton 2018 and Booth et al 2016; various external readings (announced via Canvas).

**Block 4 (Weeks 12 – 16): Elements of Proposals**

*Topics:*

- 1) Versions of proposals; proposal panel
- 2) Editing and revising
- 3) Constructing the proposal storyboard

*Assignments:*

- 1) Any final revisions of Interest, Topic, and Question Essay
- 2) Proposal Storyboard
- 3) Proposal Plan Presentation

*Readings:*

Late chapters of Wolverton 2018; various external readings (announced via Canvas).