

**Geography 609**  
**Geographical Research**  
**Spring 2007 – 3 credits**  
**4:00-6:20 Monday, room HH 235**

**Josh Hagen**

**HH 207**

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**Office hours - Mon: 11-12:00, 1:-4:00; Wed: 11-12:00; Thurs: 3-4:00; Fri: 11-12:00;  
and by appointment**

**Course Objectives:** To introduce students to the key methods of research in geography by guiding students through the process of developing a research proposal. This course prepares students to meet the Thesis requirement for completing the geography department's Master's program.

**Textbook:** Leedy and Ormrod. 2005. *Practical Research*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed, Prentice Hall.

**Evaluation:** Your final course grade will be based on a total of 150 points comprised of the following:

Research Question:	5
Literature Review	20
Draft Proposal:	20
Peer Review:	10
Faculty Review:	5
Attendance and Class Participation	10
Presentation Discussion	5
Presentation:	25
Final Proposal:	50

Each assignment will be discussed in greater detail in class. Final grades are determined by the following percentage scale: A=100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59 or less

**Late Policy and Attendance:** The grade on all assignments will be automatically reduced by 10% per day late. If unavoidable circumstances arise such as illness or family emergency, you are expected to contact me before the test. You are also expected to attend class and participate actively. If you have to miss a class, you are still responsible for the material covered during your absence.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is completely unacceptable in this course. Plagiarism involves taking the work of others and presenting it as your own. Any assignment containing plagiarism (whether the whole paper, a paragraph, or even sentences and phrases) will automatically receive a zero. This topic will be discussed in detail in class.

Students with disabilities should contact me within the first two weeks of class.

There may be changes in the syllabus, but any changes will be announced in class.

## Tentative Schedule

		Assignments
Jan 8	Intro to course; Grad College thesis specifications; Geog Dept Graduate Deadlines	
Jan 22	Developing a research question	Chap 1, 2, 3
Jan 29	Collecting data	<b>Research Question</b> Chap 4
Feb 5	Writing a literature review and research proposal	Chap 5, 6
Feb 12	Student-professor conferences	
Feb 19	Collect data and write literature reviews	Chap 7, 8
Feb 26	Quantitative vs. qualitative methods	<b>Literature Review</b> Chap 9, 10, 11
Mar 5	Student-professor conferences / write draft proposal	
Mar 12	Student-professor conferences	
Mar 19	No Class (Spring Break)	
Mar 26	Presenting research; Plagiarism and citations	<b>Draft Proposal</b> Chap 12
Apr 2	Student-professor conferences / write final proposal	
Apr 9	No Class (Assessment Day)	
Apr 16	No Class (AAG Conference)	
Apr 23	Student presentations	<b>Final Proposal</b> <b>Peer Review</b>
Apr 30	Student-professor conferences	<b>Faculty Review</b>