



COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2012  
 COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: February 2018  
*(six years after UEC approval)* *(month, year)*

**OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION**

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.  
 Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department – see course syllabus available from instructor

<u>GEOG 493</u>	<u>Geography</u>	<u>4</u>
COURSE NAME/NUMBER	FACULTY/DEPARTMENT	UFV CREDITS
<u>Honours Research Project in Physical Geography/ GIS</u>		
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE		

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This course is devoted to the completion of a Physical Geography Honours project, building on a research completed in a previous semester as part of GEOG 491 or an equivalent third-year internship or fourth-year research-intensive course approved by the department. The results of research will be written as a thesis under the supervision of a faculty member. Students will be required to present their research at an appropriate student research forum or conference.

PREREQUISITES: Enrolment in the Physical Geography Honours program; GEOG 491 or one of GEOG 400G, GEOG 400J, GEOG 402, GEOG 410, GEOG 417, or GEOG 458; and instructor's permission.

COREQUISITES:  
 PRE or COREQUISITES:

**SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):**

- (a) Replaces: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Cross-listed with: \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Cannot take: GEOG 492 for further credit.

**SERVICE COURSE TO:** *(department/program)*

**TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:** 60

**STRUCTURE OF HOURS:**

Lectures:	_____	Hrs
Seminar:	_____	Hrs
Laboratory:	_____	Hrs
Field experience:	<u>20</u>	Hrs
Student directed learning:	<u>35</u>	Hrs
Other (specify): <i>consultation with supervisor</i>	<u>5</u>	Hrs

**TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:**

Length of course: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hours per day: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER:**

Maximum enrolment: 6  
 Expected frequency of course offerings: On demand  
*(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)*

**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)**

Yes  No

**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)**

Yes  No

**TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:**

Yes  No

Course designer(s): <u>Claire Beaney / Olav Lian</u>	Date approved: <u>April 8, 2011</u>
Department Head: <u>Michelle Rhodes</u>	Date of meeting: <u>December 2, 2011</u>
Supporting area consultation (pre-UEC)	Date approved: <u>December 16, 2011</u>
Curriculum Committee chair: <u>Norman Taylor</u>	Date approved: <u>January 13, 2012</u>
Dean/Associate VP: <u>Ora Steyn</u>	Date of meeting: <u>February 3, 2012</u>
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate, in a thesis project and related oral presentation, an advanced (fourth-year or graduate school equivalent) level of geographic interpretation and analysis of findings of research completed in GEOG 491 or equivalent course.
- Engage in sound and effective argumentation that supports the central research hypothesis.
- Clearly identify the limitations of their data, particularly issues of data collection, data error and the importance of appropriate analysis techniques.
- Situate their original research within the broader field of related research, and identify areas for further research.
- Confidently and legitimately present their research in written, oral and visual form appropriate to an academic setting.
- Identify and expand upon the issues and theories in a given geographic subject area, and skills in data collection, commensurate with graduate and/or professional work in geography or a related field.

**METHODS:** *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Independent study involving one-to-one consultation between Honours project supervisor and student; self-directed compilation, analysis, and presentation of research findings.

**METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):**

Examination(s)                       Portfolio assessment                       Interview(s)                       Other (specify):

PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s): The Honours project is an integrative, capstone project that takes place at the end of one's program, and which requires instructor supervision and evaluation of a research project over two terms.

**TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:** *[Textbook selection varies by instructor. Examples for this course might be:]*

None

**SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:**

Specific to research project; some travel and/or equipment fees (e.g. batteries) may be incurred by student

**STUDENT EVALUATION:** *[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]*

Each research project is tailored to the student's research interests. However, the final project evaluation will be based on the following components (weighting of elements is approximate only):

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Effective identification and utilization of secondary research materials, as part of a literature review  | 30% |
| 2. Effective data collection (if not completed in earlier course), compilation, and original analysis of research materials, as part of the findings section | 35% |
| 3. Overall quality (including proof-reading and formatting) of written and visual (e.g. maps and models) presentation within a thesis format                 | 10% |
| 4. Formal presentation of research findings before an academic audience  | 15% |
| 5. Visual presentation of research findings, as part of a research poster or alternative medium  | 10% |

Each student will work directly with a faculty supervisor to identify the timeline for completing any primary data collection, and the presentation of final research compilation. In most cases, data collection will need to be completed during the previous term or over two terms. When this is the case, then research design and evaluation of data collection will take place in both GEOG 491 and GEOG 493.

The final research project mark will be assessed primarily by the student's Honours supervisor in consultation with the second reader (who will be determined by the supervisor and the student).

**COURSE CONTENT:** *[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]*

Course content varies by research project. The requirements of the individual project will be devised in consultation with the student's Honours supervisor.