

Department of Geography

GEOG 291 - Independent Short Project in Geography

1 credit

Course Outline

Calendar Description

Project related to any geographical field, enabling independent study under the guidance of qualified Geography faculty. Students are responsible for identifying a supervisor for their project and acquiring approval for their project topic at the beginning of term.

Guidelines

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information). If you are unsure how to cite your research sources, please see your supervisor for guidance.

This course is intended to allow students the opportunity to undertake an independent research project under the supervision of a Geography Faculty member. Since this is a 1 credit course, you are expected to do approximately 39 hours of work, including work in the field, lab, and/or library, and writing.

Projects must have a gradable product at the end. There must be a written report that can be evaluated by the supervisor. This is in addition to any other requirements agreed upon by you and your supervisor.

Remember that Faculty members are busy people. Before you ask someone to supervise you, have a clear idea of your project, at least in principle. A one-page outline is recommended. If funding is required (e.g. for travel), be prepared to find your own source(s).

Instructions for the student

1. Identify a Geography Faculty member or Faculty Lecturer who is willing to supervise your project. Even if you are working with a non-McGill organization, you still need someone from McGill Geography as a supervisor.
2. Fill in and sign the Agreement below, and return it to the Department of Geography.
3. Attach any Ethical Review statements, if required (See the Guidelines below).
4. Ensure that your work is submitted to your supervisor by the agreed upon date, or your grade will not be submitted in time (particularly important if you are graduating!)

Responsibility of the Supervisor

The Department of Geography greatly appreciates the effort and time required to supervise a student in an independent project. The supervisor must be a Geography Faculty Member or Faculty Lecturer.

Supervisors are responsible for directing the progress of the project, commenting on first drafts of the project report and final evaluation of the completed project. All projects must conform to the McGill Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Subjects

(www.mcgill.ca/rgo/ethics/human/). Research projects and/or research instruments which directly involve the participation of **human subjects** must be reviewed by the McGill University Ethics Committee. This includes survey questionnaires. The project supervisor is responsible for submitting the grade before the deadline for that semester.

Supervisor-Student Agreement

To be submitted to the Geography Department at least two weeks prior to the beginning of term.

Instructor Name:

Instructor Signature:

Date:

Email:

Student Name:

ID number:

Program:

Email (McGill email address only):

Signature:

Term of Project (eg. Fall 2010):

Research Project Title:

Project description (approx. 50 - 100 words)

Please describe the research aims and the research methodology to be used, and the location where the project will take place. Attach any ethical review statements, if needed.

Method of Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of excellence with regard to these areas:

1. Knowledge of project topic
2. Literature regarding the specific topic
3. Organization and presentation of research
4. Critical reasoning skills.

Note that grades are due by the deadline set by the Faculty of **Science** for the semester this course is registered for.