

Geog404 Urban Field Survey

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Course Goals and Outcomes

Goals

This course introduces the concepts and techniques related to field survey in human geography, particularly in an urban setting. Students are expected to learn how to collect data through field observations, questionnaire surveys, and interviews. Topics covered also include hypothesis developing, sampling, questionnaire design, and data analysis. The class will be organized through a series of mini-projects where the students can apply the techniques learned from the classroom to their own analyses.

Outcomes

It is expected that students can conduct surveys and interviews independently and do basic analyses of their surveys after taking the class.

This is a course with only one unit, and students are expected to spend extra time to conduct the surveys and complete some assignments after class.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week	Lecture topics	Exercise
1 (Aug. 25)	Course introduction to	Ex1. Hypothesis
2 (Sep.1)	No class: labor day	
3 (Sep. 8)	Sampling I	Ex2. Neighborhood comparison
4 (Sep. 15)	No meeting: Field survey (Ex2)	
5 (Sep. 22)	Sampling II	Ex3. Sampling
6 (Sep. 29)	Questionnaire design	Ex4. Questionnaire
7 (Oct. 6)	Discussion of questionnaire	
8 (Oct. 13)	No meeting: Conduct survey in Ex4.	
9 (Oct. 20)	Data analysis and Introduction to SPSS	
10(Oct. 27)	Ex5. Working in SPSS	
11(Nov. 3)	Ex6. Survey analysis using SPSS	
12(Nov.10)	GIS Geocoding	Ex7: Collecting addresses
13(Nov. 17)	Ex6 Create a map using the addresses	
14(Nov. 24)	GPS usage	Ex.8: GPS: Stop signs
15(Dec. 1)	Create a map using GPS data	

Grading Policies and Requirements

1) Grading items

Exercises	80%
Attendance	20%

Students need to turn in their assignments before the deadline. No late submission will be accepted.

Students need to come to class on a regular basis. Two points will be deducted for each unapproved absence from the final grade and the total 20 points allocated for attendance will be deducted after five absences from the class. Approval absences are only granted when the instructor is notified and agrees in advance.

2) The grading system:

A	≥ 93
A-	88 – 92
B+	85 – 87
B	82 – 84
B-	78 – 81
C+	75 – 77
C	72 – 74
C-	68 – 71
D+	65 – 67
D	62 – 64
D-	60 – 61
F	0 – 59

Final grades will depend on the students' absolute performance. In other words, the students' scores will not be curved. Therefore, there are no limits of "A"s.

Note: this syllabus is tentative and it is subject to change. It is the students' responsibility to be aware of all the changes that are announced in class.