

Fall 2022



Geog 392: Research Methods in Geography

Prof. Lentz

MWF, 9:05-9:55 am, 220 Carolina Hall

How do we know what we know? On what basis do we distinguish true from false? By what means do we learn about the social and natural world around us? These questions are relevant to geographic inquiry, to professional development, and to enriching our lives as informed, thinking people.

This class introduces research methods in geography and equips students with skills to conduct independent research. We start by overviewing themes that will animate the course: knowledge production, spatial analysis, epistemology, theory and evidence, and constructing an informed argument. We then work through five research methods ranging from gathering secondary data and doing survey research; to formal and informal interviews; to ethnographic participation and historical inquiry. Students gain hands-on experience conducting quantitative and qualitative research and analyzing the resulting data spatially. We conclude with a mixed methods research project based on a written proposal. Along the way, we also develop skills in writing academically, speaking publicly, and collaborating intellectually.

Fulfills core requirement for Geography majors.