

GEOG4002 Directed Project in Geography (6 credits)

This is an optional capstone experience course for Geography majors only, and to be registered in the fourth year of study.

Objectives

A major objective of the course is to give students an opportunity to propose, plan, implement, and then finish a geographical project. Students are also required to write a report to document the research process and results and to participate in an oral presentation.

Course Synopsis

The objective of this course is to offer Geography majors an opportunity to engage themselves in empirical/applied research projects under a teacher's supervision in the Department, and gain hands-on experience in research work. The directed project should normally comprise study of a well-defined and well-bound research topic/project through fieldwork. Students are required to propose, plan, implement, and complete the projects; and to demonstrate a mastery of geographical field and practical techniques. Teachers may specify topics/projects considered suitable for small-scale investigation. After completing the projects, students are required to submit a written report, typed with double-line spacing on A4 sheets and with a minimum of 6,000 words in length (excluding tables, figures and references). An oral presentation of the completed work is required.

Assessment

Written report 80%; Oral presentation 20%.



Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Concentrated study on a geographic subject
- An understanding in the process of developing and implementing research proposal
- Data collection and analysis

Skills:

- Independent research skills
- Report writing skills
- Analytical and oral presentation skills



**Department of Geography
Directed Project**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why should I do a Directed Project?

- Small-scale independent research that is tailor-made for you (unlike other courses)
- Suitable for those who do not wish to undertake a full-scale dissertation
- Introduction to basic research, presentation and writing skills
- An opportunity to learn more about a topic by enquiry or experiential learning
- Employers value these skills
- Offer some preparation for further studies that require some basic research skills

2. What if I'm interested in a Directed Project?

- Obtain a 'Directed Project' Form from the departmental general office
- You have until the end of March in Year 3 of study to find a full-time teacher who is willing to supervise you
- Both supervisor and you must complete and sign the form
- You then submit the form to the departmental general office for record keeping
- You may start work on your research topic immediately thereafter

3. How do I find a supervisor?

- Know your area(s) of interest, i.e. topics that you have background in or have taken a few courses
- Select from the full-time teachers whose courses you have attended
- Find out the full-time teachers' research specialties from the department website
- Seek advice only after you have several possible topics in mind
- Make a formal appointment by email or phone; do not just drop in

4. How should I choose a topic?

- Go through the readings provided by the full-time teachers for their courses that you have attended
- Develop general ideas or broad topics
- Write down topics on a piece of paper
- Narrow down to 3-5 topics that interest you the most

5. What is the time frame for undertaking the Directed Project?

- As the directed project is a small scale independent research, you are expected to (i) complete your research and submit a written report by mid-February in Year 4 of study, and (ii) give an oral presentation of your research findings by the end of semester 2 in Year 4 of study. Listed below is the time line for the students to follow to accomplish the Directed Project:

Find a supervisor			Work on small scale independent research					Work on small scale independent research				Submit written report	
Submit the form			Register Directed Project course in early Aug									Oral presentation	
↓			↓					↓				↓	
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mid-Feb	Mar – early May
Yr 3, Sem 2			Yr 3 Sem 2 & Summer					Yr 4, Sem 1				Yr 4, Sem 2	

6. What are the assessment components of Directed Project?

- The Directed Project is assessed on the basis of 80% written report and 20% oral presentation.
- The written report should be submitted in mid-February, and be typed with double-line spacing on A4 sheets and a minimum of 6,000 words in length for the text (excluding tables, figures and references). It is suggested that Times New Roman font 12 should be used.
- Pending on the number of students who will be doing Directed Project in each academic year and the time availability of both the supervisors and students, the oral presentation would be scheduled sometimes between end-of-March and the revision week before the May examination period begins. The presentation would be around 20-25 minutes per student.

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