



Course information 2011–12

GY1148 Methods of geographical analysis (half course)

This half course offers a basic introduction to some of the methods and philosophies which are used in geographical research. The approach is wide ranging, attempting to cover the many ways in which research can be undertaken in both physical geography (a natural science) and human geography (a social science).

Prerequisite

ST104a Statistics 1 must be taken before or at the same time as GY1148 Methods of geographical analysis.

Aims and objectives

The specific aims of the course are to:

- consider the nature, acquisition, presentation and mapping of geographical data
- describe qualitative as well as quantitative approaches
- consider descriptive and inductive statistics, as well as broader modelling themes and the interpretation of qualitative information in an operational geographical context using real world data and simple computer packages.

Essential reading

For full details please refer to the reading list

Johnston R.J., D. Gregory, G. Pratt and M. Watts (eds) *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. (Oxford: Blackwell)

Rodgerson, P.A. *Statistical Methods for Geography. A Student's Guide*. (London: Sage Publications)
or Wheeler D., G. Shaw and S. Barr *Statistical Techniques in Geographical Analysis*. (London: David Fulton Publishers).

Kitchin, R. and N.J. Tate *Conducting Research into Human Geography: Theory, Methodology and Practice*. (Harlow: Prentice Hall)

Learning outcomes

At the end of this half course and having completed the essential reading and activities students should have:

- ✓ a broad overview of the various philosophies and methodologies which have been used in both Human and Physical Geography and how these have evolved over time
- ✓ developed an understanding of the nature and limitations of data used in geographical analysis
- ✓ acquired skills in the presentation and mapping of geographical data
- ✓ gained experience in applying statistical and other quantitative methods, as well as qualitative methods, in real geographical contexts and in interpreting the results.

Assessment

This half course is assessed by a two hour unseen written examination.

Syllabus

This is a description of the material to be examined, as published in the *Regulations*. On registration, students will receive a detailed subject guide which provides a framework for covering the topics in the syllabus and directions to the essential reading.

- Evolution of the principal methodological and philosophical approaches to the study of human and physical geography.
- Quantitative and qualitative data collection in human and physical geography from primary and secondary sources.
- Data presentation and mapping geographical distributions and relationships.
- Descriptive statistics in geographical applications.
- Modelling systems and relationships in real geographical contexts.
- Interpreting qualitative data, case studies and ethical considerations in human geography.

Students should consult the *Programme Regulations for degrees and diplomas in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences* that are reviewed annually. The Prerequisites, Exclusions, and Syllabus are subject to confirmation in the *Regulations*. Notice is also given in the *Regulations* of any courses which are being phased out and students are advised to check course availability.