

GEOG 3770 – Winter 2010
Food Geographies
Instructions for Research Outline and Paper

Research Paper

This paper is your opportunity to investigate a theme or topic of personal interest in more depth than is possible in the seminar format. This is a formal paper in the social science tradition. This means that it must follow a particular pattern of organization, which is outlined here.

The research outline is worth 5% and the paper is worth 35% of your final grade.

The 1-2 page outline is a description of the intended paper topic. It must include a clear research question that will be answered, or position that will be effectively argued, in the paper. At least 5 scholarly references should also be noted. It is in your best interest to discuss the topic with Dr. Hallman prior to submission. Outlines are due IN CLASS no later than February 11, 2010 (last class before the winter break).

Your paper must be organized in this format:

1. Clear statement of your thesis (purpose, hypothesis or position to be argued)
2. Reasoned argument that includes reference to the work of others, including any text, data, figures, graphics etc., in support of the position you argue, the objectives that address your purpose, or the data that advances your hypothesis.
3. Organization into the following major sections:
 - a. Abstract / Introduction (1-2 page)
 - b. Background / Context for the Specific Thesis (4-6 pages)
 - c. Evidence in Support of Your Thesis (6-8 pages)
 - d. Summary / Conclusions (2 pages)
 - e. Appendices (as needed)
 - f. References

Page lengths indicated above are suggestions ONLY. You may wish to include appropriately titled subsections within the larger sections if they are complex / deal with several ideas or themes. Section and subsection titles should be explanatory – and a bit of creativity is never amiss!

- The research paper is to be approximately 20 pages in length, with title pages, appendices, figures, and references in addition to that page limit.
- It should be formatted with *standard* margins, double-spaced, and printed in 12 pitch font.
- You must have at least 15-20 references, 10 of which must be from peer-reviewed academic journals. The others can be books, chapters in books, newsletters, reputable web-pages etc.,
- The paper must be written in a formal, learned ‘voice’ with a level of language appropriate to the course level. The writing should be clear and accessible

however, and not be laden with jargon. If terms not in common usage must be used, include definitions in footnotes or endnotes.

- REFERENCING. Follow the social science model for citing sources. Ask the instructor for help with this if you are unsure of the modified APA style used in Geography.
- **The research paper is due IN CLASS no later than the last class meeting (April 8 2010)**

