

Environmental Studies Basic Graduate Course Outline

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN CHANGE YORK UNIVERSITY

ENVS 8103: PhD Research Design Workshop Winter 2025

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Tuesdays 11:30-14:30**

Official Course Description

The course is devoted specifically to research design for students preparing their dissertation proposals.

Expanded Course Description

Class activities and assignments are directed at students developing, writing (or refining in the case of those with a draft already written) and completing their dissertation proposals and preparing themselves for the dissertation research/writing process.

Course Objectives

- To support students in identifying and refining the key research questions they will address in their dissertation research.
- To identify appropriate research design strategies, methodologies and methods for the questions identified, and discuss pros and cons of various design options.
- To support the process of writing and securing approval for the PhD dissertation proposal, including the submission of ethics forms where applicable.
- While this is not a methods course per se, we will discuss, review or workshop particular methods based on the interests and needs of those enrolled.
- To discuss potential field work/research issues, ethical and practical dilemmas that may arise and possible solutions across the range of disciplinary approaches represented in EUC.

Anticipated Course Readings or Texts

Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Rose, G. (2001). *Visual methodologies: An introduction to the interpretation of visual materials*. London. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Smith, Linda Tuhiwai. (2004). Twenty-five Indigenous projects. In *Critical Strategies for Social Research*, ed. William K. Carroll. Toronto: Canadian Scholars.

Solórzano, DG, & TJ Yosso. (2002). Critical race methodology: Counter-storytelling as an analytical framework for education research. *Qualitative Inquiry*. 8(1):23-44.

Sandoval, Chela (2000). *Methodology of the Oppressed*. Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all sessions and complete their dissertation proposals.