

GEOG 611: Theory and Practice of Geography I
Fall 2014
MW, 4:00 – 5:20 pm, 207 Condon Hall
Instructors: Xiaobo Su and Mark Fonstad

GEOG 620 is the first course in a three-course sequence that is designed for geography graduate students entering our program. The goals of the sequence are: (1) to introduce you to professional life and expectations as a graduate student; (2) to provide you with an overview of the development of geography as a discipline, (3) to launch you into the process of conceiving, planning, and conducting thesis research, and (4) to examine issues of relevance to your professional development as a geographer. The overall structure of the course sequence is as follows:

Geog 611, Theory and Practice of Geography I (*fall quarter*)
Geog 612, Theory and Practice of Geography II (*winter quarter*)
Geog 613, Research Design (*spring quarter*)

There will be regular readings and occasional written assignments for all three classes. In addition, for GEOG 611 and 612 you will work on developing a set of preliminary research questions. The process will begin in GEOG 611, when you will propose some preliminary research questions that will be discussed collectively during the last class of the term. In GEOG 612 you will develop an annotated bibliography related to areas of developing research interest and draft second-round research questions. For GEOG 613 you will draft a full research proposal based on one of your research questions.

GEOG 611 begins with a few weeks of classes designed to introduce you to the program and the process of undertaking graduate work in geography. Attention then turns to the first part of a broad intellectual history of the discipline. Historical and contemporary readings, lectures, and discussions will serve to introduce you to the broad scope of geographic theory and practice as it developed in the United States over the past century. GEOG 612 will pick up where GEOG 611 leaves off, taking the story up to the present day.

GEOGRAPHY 611/612 SCHEDULE -- Schedule subject to change

Class	General Topics	Readings	Assignment Stuff
09/29/14	Introductions, How a university functions	None	Introduce: Report on article/book -- what geography means to you
10/01/14	Navigating our program, Professional expectations & strategies	1, 2, 3	
10/06/14	The scope and content of geography	None	Report on article/book -- what geography means to you
10/08/14	Developing research questions/ideas	4, 5, 6	Introduce: Report on geographical journal
10/13/14	Introduction to research design	7, 8, 9	
10/15/14	Journals and the publication process	None	Report on journal
10/20/14	Ethical issues in the practice of geography	10, 11	Introduce: Report on selected professional organization
10/22/14	Geography education	12, 13, 14	
10/27/14	Presentations & other forms of professional communication	15, 16, 17	
10/29/14	Jobs in geography	18, 19, 20, 21	
11/03/14	Professional societies and their roles	None	Report on professional society
11/05/14	Research writing	22, 23, 24, 25	Introduce: Research questions assignment
11/10/14	Geography's historical roots	26	
11/12/14	The modern discipline of geography's European roots	27	
11/17/14	Geography in the US at the beginning of the 20th century	28, 29, 30	
11/19/14	The turn towards environmentalism & reactions thereto	31, 32, 33	
11/24/14	Geography in the 1930s - 1940s: regions, patterns, & "man-land" interactions	34, 35, 36	Round-one research questions due in class
11/26/14	No class (eve before Thanksgiving)	None	
12/01/14	Roots of the quantitative revolution	37, 38, 39	
12/03/14	Discussion of first-round research questions	None	Discussion on first-round research questions
01/05/15	Introductions, the wake of the quantitative revolution	40, 41, 42	Introduce: Annotated bibliographies
01/07/15	Cartography and the birth of GIS	43, 44, 45	
01/12/15	Physical geography's embrace of systems, process, and environmental change	46, 47, 48	
01/14/15	Challenges to positivism in the 1970's: humanistic & structuralist approaches	49, 50, 51, 52	
01/19/15	No class -- MLK Day	None	
01/21/15	Confronting the structure-agency polarity in human geography	53, 54	
01/26/15	Physical geography in the 1970s and 1980s	55, 56, 57	
01/28/15	Feminism and its impacts	58, 59, 60	
02/02/15	Paradigms and paradigm shifts in physical geography in the late 20th century	61, 62, 63, 64	
02/04/15	The post-modern turn in human geography	65, 66, 67	

02/09/15	The resurgence of physical geography	68, 69, 70	
02/11/15	Shifting themes in human geography at the turn of the 21st century	71, 72, 73	
02/16/15	Shifting themes in physical geography at the turn of the 21st century	74, 75, 76	
02/18/15	Crossing theoretical and methodological divides	77, 78, 79	
02/23/14	Shifting concerns in cartography, GIScience, and geographic visualization	80, 81, 82	
02/25/15	Challenges to bridging the human-environment divide	83, 84, 85	Annotated Bibliographies Due
03/02/15	Approaches to working across different topical specialties	86, 87, 88	Introduce: NRC strategic directions
03/04/15	Where geography is headed as a field of inquiry	89, 90, 91	Students present a specific NRC strategic direction
03/09/15	Where geography is headed institutionally	92, 93, 94	
03/11/15	Discussion of second-round research questions	None	Discussion of second-round research questions