GEOG 620
Fall 2012
MW, 4:00 – 5:20 pm, 207 Condon Hall
Instructors: Alec Murphy 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 620, Theory and Practice of Geography (*fall quarter*)
- Geog 621, Geographic Research and Practice (*winter quarter*)
- Geog 622, Research Design (*spring quarter*)

There will be regular readings and occasional written assignments for all three classes. In addition, for GEOG 620 and 621 you will work on developing a set of preliminary research questions. The process will begin in GEOG 620, when you will propose some preliminary research questions that will be discussed collectively during the last class of the term. In GEOG 621 you will develop an annotated bibliography related to areas of developing research interest and draft second-round research questions. For GEOG 622 you will draft a full research proposal based on one of your research questions.

GEOG 620 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 621 will pick up where GEOG 620 leaves off, taking the story up to the present day.

**Schedule of Classes**

**Sept. 24**  
Introductions of each other and the course sequence  
How a university functions

**Sept. 26**  
Navigating the UO geography program  
Professional expectations and strategies for success

Reading: Fonstad, M., vers. 1.3, Fifteen Pillars Towards becoming a Successful Graduate Student

University of Washington Guidelines for Good Practice in Graduate Education

Foote, K.E., 2009, Time Management, chapter 1 in *Aspiring Academics*
Oct. 1  The scope and content of geography
    Assignment: Report on article or book representing what geography means to you

Oct. 3  Introduction to the process of developing research ideas/questions
    Reading:  Booth et al., 2003, The Craft of Research, chapter 5
              Bordens & Abbott, Chapter 2, Developing Ideas for Research and Evaluating
              Theories of Behavior" from Research Design and Methods
              Gould, G. 1999. Trying to be Honest, Expose Yourself to Geographic Research,
              & Thinking like a Geographer. In Becoming a Geographer, 205-234

Oct. 8  Thinking ahead: Introduction to research design
    Reading:  Abler, R.F., 1989, How to Win Extramural Funds, in On Becoming a Professional
              Geographer
              Solis, P., 2009. Preparing Competitive Research Grant Proposals, chapter 11 in
              Aspiring Academics
              Atha, J. H. 2010, Doctoral Dissertation Research: Fluvial Wood Presence and
              Dynamics over a Thirty Year Interval in Forested Watersheds,
              unpublished DDRI proposal to the NSF Geography program.

Oct. 10 Ethical issues in the practice of geography (Shaul Cohen)
    Reading:  Community, Justice, and the Ethics of Research, T. Herman and D. Mattingly,
              1999
              AAG Statement on Professional Ethics

Oct. 15 Journals and the publication process
    Assignment: Presentation based on previously distributed assignment

Oct. 17 Research writing
    Reading:  Orwell, George, 1956, Politics and the English Language
              Gregory, D., 2005. Geographies, Publics, and Politics. Note: only required to read
              Gregory portion of the forum (starts on page 182)
Oct. 22  Presentations and other forms of professional communication
Reading:  Tuft, E. 2003. The Cognitive Style of Powerpoint
          Fonstad, M. 2011. Tips on giving a short geography presentation

Oct. 24  Professional societies and their roles
Assignment: Report on previously selected professional organization

Oct. 29  Jobs in geography
Reading:  Look at AAG Careers in Geography Website
          Monk, J. and Jocoy, C.L., 2009, Career Planning: Personal Goals and Professional Contexts, in Aspiring Academics
          Wyckoff, W., 1989, Entering Academe: The Search for Jobs, in On Becoming a Professional Geographer
          Foote et al., 2012, Rethinking Postgraduate Geography Education in the USA

Oct. 31  Geography education (Susan Hardwick)
Reading:  Murphy, A. B., 2007, Geography’s Place in Higher Education in the United States
          Boyd, W. E., 2008, ‘None of Us Sets Out to Hurt People’: The Ethical Geographer and Geography Curricula in Higher Education
          Hardwick, S., 2005, Mentoring Early Career Faculty in Geography: Issues and Strategies

Nov. 5   Geography’s historical roots (Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern)
Reading:  Martin, G.J. & James, P.E., 1993, chapters 2, 3, and 5

Nov. 7   The modern discipline of geography’s European roots
Reading:  Martin, G.J. & James, P.E., 1993, chapters 6, 7 & 8
Nov. 12  Geography in the U.S. at the beginning of the 20th century
       Reading:  Martin, G.J. & James, P.E., 1993, chapter 15
                Davis, W. M., 1899, The Geographical Cycle
                Ecology, and Other Composite Sciences

Nov. 14  The turn toward environmentalism and reactions thereto
       Reading:  Semple, E. C., Influences of Geographic Environment on the Basis of Ratzel’s
                System of Anthropogeographie, 1911
                Barrows, H. H., 1923, Geography as Human Ecology
                Sauer, C. O., 1925, The Morphology of Landscape

Nov. 19  Geography in the 1930-s-1940s: Regions, patterns, and “man-land” interactions
       Reading:  Hartshorne, R., 1939, The Character of Regional Geography
                White, G.W., 1945, Human Adjustment to Floods

       Round-one research questions due in class on Nov. 19

Nov. 21  No class (happy Thanksgiving)

Nov. 26  Roots of the Quantitative Revolution
       Reading:  Kimble, G. H. T. 1951, The Inadequacy of the Regional Concept
                Schaefer, F. K., 1953. Exceptionalism in Geography
                Leighley, J. 1955. What has Happened to Physical Geography?

Nov. 28  Discussion of first-round research questions