GEOG 621 is the second course in the three-course sequence (GEOG 620, 621 & 622—this year called GEOG 610) that is designed for geography graduate students entering our program. GEOG 621 picks up where GEOG 620 left off, focusing on issues and ideas that have shaped the development of the discipline of geography in the United States over the past sixty years. The course is also designed to further your efforts to think about and develop a workable thesis topic.

There will be regular readings for most classes. In addition, for GEOG 621 you will put together an annotated bibliography related to areas of developing research interest and you will draft second-round research questions.

Schedule of Classes

**Jan. 7**  
Introduction to the class
The wake of the Quantitative Revolution

Reading:  
Morrill, R.L., 1984, Recollections of the Quantitative Revolution’s Early Years: The University of Washington 1955-65
Pattison, W.D., 1964 (1990), The Four Traditions of Geography

**Jan. 9**  
Physical geography’s initial embrace of systems, process approaches, and environmental change

Reading:  
Thornthwaite, C.W., 1961. The task ahead
Gavin, D., 2012, Biogeography (chapter in Geography for the 21st Century)
Rhoads, B. L., 2004, Whither Physical Geography

**Jan. 14**  
The resurgence of physical geography: A personal perspective (Andrew Marcus)

Reading:  
Sack, D. 2004. Experiences and Viewpoints of Selected Women Geomorphologists from the Mid-20th Century
Jan. 16  Cartography and the birth of GIS  
Reading:  Edney, M. H., 2005, Putting “Cartography” into the History of Cartography  

Jan. 21  No Class – MLK Day

Jan. 23  Challenges to positivism in the 1970s: Humanistic and structuralist approaches  
Reading:  Harris, R. 1971, Theory and Synthesis in Historical Geography  
          Tuan, Yi-Fu, 1974 (1979), Space and Place: Humanistic Perspective  
          Harvey, D., 1984, On the History and Present Condition of Geography  
          Jackson, P. and Smith, S. J., 1984, Exploring Social Geography, introduction

Jan. 28  Confronting the structure-agency polarity in human geography  
Reading:  Gregson, N., 1986, Duality and Dualism: The Case of Structuration and Time  
          Geography  
          Sayer, A., 1985, Realism and Geography, in Johnston, The Future of Geography

Jan. 30  Physical geography in the 1970s and 1980s  
Reading:  Gregory, K. J., 2000, Environmental Processes, in The Changing Nature of  
          Physical Geography.  
          Strahler, A. N., 1980, Systems Theory in Physical Geography  
          Kennedy, B. A., 1992, Hutton to Horton: Views of Sequence, Progression and  
          Equilibrium in Geomorphology

Feb. 4   The post-modern turn in human geography  
Reading:  Gregory, D., 1989, Areal Differentiation and Post-Modern Human Geography  
          Duncan, N., 1996, Postmodernism in Human Geography, N. Duncan  
          Sayer, A., 1993, Postmodernist Thought in Geography: A Realist View

Feb. 6   Feminism and its impacts (Lise Nelson)  
Reading:  McDowell, L. and Massey, D., 1984., A Woman’s Place?  
          Bondi, L. and Davidson, J., 2005, Situating Gender
Hanson, S., 2004, Who are We? An Important Question for Geography’s Future

**Feb. 11**  Shifting themes in human geography at the turn of the 21st century  
Reading:  Watts, M., 1983, Hazards and Crisis  
Jones, M., 2008, Phase Space: Geography, Relational Thinking, and Beyond  
Cox, K. R. 2005, From Marxist Geography to Critical Geography and Back Again

**Feb. 13**  Paradigms and paradigm shifts in physical geography in the late 20th century  
Hirschboeck, K. K., 1999, A Room With a View: Some Geographic Perspectives on Dilettantism, Cross-Training, and Scale in Hydrology  
Malanson, G., 1999, Considering Complexity  
Phillips, J. D., 1999, Methodology, Scale, and the Field of Dreams

**Feb. 18**  Shifting themes in physical geography at the turn of the 21st century  
Reading:  McDowell, P., 2012, Geomorphology in the Late Twentieth Century  
Phillips, J. D., 2007. The Perfect Landscape  
Fonstad, M. & Marcus, W. A., 2003, Self-Organized Criticality in Riverbank Systems

**Feb. 20**  Challenges to bridging the human-environment divide (Peter Walker)  
Reading:  Thinking Across the Divide: Perspectives on the Conversations between Physical and Human Geography, S. Harrison et al., 2004  
Wainwright, J., 2010, Climate Change, Capitalism, and the Challenge of Transdisciplinarity  
Demeritt, D., 2009, Geography and the Promise of Integrative Environmental Research

**Feb. 25**  Crossing theoretical and methodological divides  
Reading:  Carbonneau, et al., 2012, Making Riverscapes Real  
Kwan, M-P., 2004, Beyond Difference: From Canonical Geography to Hybrid Geographies

Annotated bibliographies due on Feb. 25

Feb. 27 Approaches to working across different topical specialties
Reading: Marston, R. A., 2008, Land, Life, and Environmental Change in Mountains
         Harden, C. P., 2012, Framing and Reframing Questions of Human-Environment Interactions
         Swyngedouw, E., 2004, Scaled Geographies: Nature, Place, and the Politics of Scale

Mar. 4 Where geography is headed as a field of inquiry
Reading: Sheppard, E., 2004, Practicing Geography
         NRC, 2010, Understanding the Changing Planet, Preface, Summary & Part I
         Each student to select one strategic directions question from NRC, 2010, Understanding the Changing Planet, Part II

Mar. 6 Shifting concerns in cartography, GIScience, and geographic visualization (Chris Bone)

Second-round research questions due on Mar. 6

Mar. 11 Where geography is headed institutionally
Reading: Making the Case for Geography, V. Lawson and A. Murphy, 2007
         Enhancing Geography’s Role in Public Debate, A. Murphy, 2006
         NRC, 2010, Understanding the Changing Planet, Part III

Mar. 13 Discussion of second-round research questions