

**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*

Limerick, P., 1993. *Dancing With Professors: The Trouble with Academic Prose*.

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: Tufte, E. 2003. The Cognitive Style of Powerpoint

Fonstad, M. 2011. Tips on giving a short geography presentation

Ford, L. 2000. Presenting with Pizazz: Oral Traditions in Geography, in *On Becoming a Professional Geographer*

**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 20<sup>th</sup> century

Reading: Martin, G.J. & James, P.E., 1993, chapter 15

Davis, W. M., 1899, The Geographical Cycle

Osterkamp, W.R. & Hupp, C.R., 1996, The Evolution of Geomorphology,  
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 Anthrpogeographie, 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

Barnes, T.R. and Farish, M., 2006, Between Regions.

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