

GEOG 621
Winter 2013
MW, 4:00 – 5:20 pm, 207 Condon Hall
Instructors: Alec Murphy and Mark Fonstad

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*

Gould, P., 1979, *Geography 1957-1977: The Augean Period*

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: Marcus, W.A. and Marcus, M.G., 1996. *Geographer, Explorer, Friend: The Worlds of Barry C. Bishop, 1932-1994*

Graf, W.L. et al., 2001. In memoriam: Melvin G. Marcus, 1929-1997

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
Coppock, J. T. and Rhind, D. W., 1991, The History of GIS
Perkins, C., 2003, Cartography: Mapping Theory

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

Reading: James, L.A. and Marcus, W.A., 2006, The Human Role in Changing Fluvial Systems: Retrospect, Inventory, Prospect

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

O'Brien, K. 2012. Responding to Environmental Change: A New Age for Human Geography?

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)

Reading: Goodchild, M., 1992. Geographical information science.

Schuurman, N. 2000. Trouble in the heartland: GIS and its critics in the 1990s.

Elwood, S. A., 2009. Geographic Information Science: new geovisualization technologies -- emerging questions and linkages with GIScience research.

Wright, D. 2012. Theory and application in a post-GISystems world.

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