

Geographical Inquiry and Analysis: An Introduction

Geography 765

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This course is designed to introduce new graduate students to the research community within the Department of Geography. There are two goals for this course: 1. Introduce you to the faculty within the department; and 2. Provide a forum for you to start to develop your own research topic.

Each week, different faculty will visit to present and discuss their research areas. This will provide you the opportunity to get acquainted with the faculty; gain a better sense of how faculty research interests overlap with your own; and learn about major debates and cutting-edge issues within your own area of specialization. You are all expected to attend each class meeting.

SCHEDULE

Date	Faculty Visitor(s)	Topic
13-Sep	Mason	Physical Geography at UW
20-Sep	Burt, Williams	Faculty Research in Physical Geography
27-Sep	Zhu	Cart/GIS Research at UW
4-Oct	Burnicki, Harrower	Faculty Research in Cart/GIS
11-Oct		Science Hall Open House
18-Oct	Turner	“Choosing among possible research topics”
25-Oct	Naughton	People-Environment Geography at UW
1-Nov	Cronon, Harris	Faculty Research in People-Env
8-Nov	Turner, Zimmerer	Faculty Research in People-Env
15-Nov	Turner	“Working toward researchable topics”
22-Nov		Thanksgiving
29-Nov	Kaiser	Human Geography at UW
6-Dec	Ostergren, Wong	Faculty Research in Human Geography
13-Dec	Olds, Sack	Faculty Research in Human Geography

Please use these meetings with faculty to your benefit. Faculty are not only potential members of your thesis committee, but also valuable informants about geographical research (methods, theory, substantive areas of research). For those of you that are entering the M.S. program, you will be expected to develop a thesis proposal by the end of the Spring semester (graded product for Geography 766). Therefore, it is not too early

for you to start thinking about your area of research and possible research questions. To spur you on in this endeavor, you will be expected to submit an 8-10 page “pre-proposal” (due on December 15th) that presents a research topic and poses one or two research questions related to that topic followed by an initial and abbreviated review of literature relevant to the research questions posed. This assignment is intended to motivate you to begin thinking about possible research questions as soon as possible. I have found that the sooner that one forces oneself to consider the “researchability” of topics/questions, the more success you will have in developing a research program. It is for this reason that the assignment is treated as a pre-proposal rather than a thoughtful essay. This said, you will have the flexibility to decide on a different topic mid-way through the Spring Semester.

My office hours are listed above. Please come and see me during the semester to discuss your evolving research interests. I can point you to resources and other faculty that can help you in the often difficult process of narrowing down your interests to something that can be effectively studied in a timely fashion. Faculty and other graduate students will prove very helpful in this process so don't be shy – seek them out, ask questions, push them for the information you need to develop your research program!

Recommended Texts (all available in Geography Library)

Booth, Wayne C., Colomb, Gregory G., and Joseph M. Williams. 2003. *The Craft of Research*. U. Chicago.

Johnston, R.J., D. Gregory, G. Pratt, M. Watts, D.M. Smith, and R. Johnson, eds. 2000. *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. Fourth Edition ed. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Thomas, D.S.G. and A. Goudie, eds. 2000. *The Dictionary of Physical Geography*. 3rd Edition ed. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Geography 765/6 (Fall-Spring 2006/07)

Books and Materials in the Regular Collection of the Geography Library (unless otherwise noted)

- Abler, Ronald F., Marcus, Melvin G., and Judy M. Olson. 1992. Geography's inner worlds: Pervasive themes in contemporary American geography. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.
- Brewer, James G. 1978. The literature of geography: A guide to its organization and use. London: Clive Bailey.
- Browning, Clyde E. 1970. Bibliography of dissertations in geography; American and Canadian Universities. University of North Carolina, Department of Geography, 1901-1969. (Studies in geography; 1, 1970). 1969-1982. (Studies in geography; 18, 1983).
- Cloke, Paul, Chris Philo, and David Sadler. 1991. Approaching human geography: An introduction to contemporary theoretical debates. New York: Guilford Press.
- Cook, Ian, and Mike Crang. 1995. Doing ethnographies. Institute of British Geographers.
- Dahlberg, Kenneth A., and John W. Bennett, eds. 1986. Natural resources and people: Conceptual issues in interdisciplinary research. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Douglas, Ian, and Richard Huggett. 1996. Companion encyclopedia of geography: the environment and humankind. London: Routledge.
- DeLyster, Dydia, and Paul F. Starks. 2001. Doing Fieldwork. Special Issues of The Geographical Review (91:1-2).
- Earle, Carville, Kent Mathewson, and Martin S. Kenzer. 1996. Concepts in human geography. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Egan, Dave, and Evelyn Howell. 2001. The historical ecology handbook: A restorationists' guide to reference ecosystems. Washington: Island Press.
- Flowerdew, Robin, and David Martin, eds. 1997. Methods in human geography: a guide for students doing research projects. Longman: Harlow.
- Fotheringham, A. Stewart, Chris Brunsdon, and Martin Charlton. 2000. Quantitative geography: perspectives on spatial data analysis. Thousand Oaks, Calif. : Sage Publications,.
- Gaile, Gary L, and Cort J. Willmott. 1989. Geography in America. Columbus: Merrill Publishing.
- Geography Library (UW—Madison). 1999. Guide to geographical resources. Electronic database at the Web Site of the Geography Library.
- Johnston, R. J., Derek Gregory, and David M. Smith. 1994. Dictionary of human geography, 3rd. ed. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Reference.
- Harris, Chauncey D. 1985. Geographical bibliography for American libraries. Washington, D. C.: American Association of Geographers.
- Kenzer, Martin S., ed. 1989. On becoming a professional geographer. Columbus: Merrill.
- Lindsay, James M. 1997. Techniques in human geography. London: Routledge.
- Locke, Lawrence F., Waneen Wyrck Spirduso, and Stephen J. Silverman. 1999. Fourth Edition. Proposals that work. Newbury Park: Sage. (Grants Information in Reference, 262 Memorial Library)
- Martin, Geoffrey J., and Preston E. James. 1993. All possible worlds: a history of geographical ideas, 3rd ed. New York: Wiley, 1993.
- Massey, Doreen, and Richard Meegan, eds. 1985. Politics and Method. London: Methuen.
- Mayhew, Susan. 1997. Dictionary of geography, 2nd ed. Oxford; New York.
- National Research Council. 1997. Rediscovering geography: new relevance for science and society. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- Robinson, Guy M. 1998. Methods and techniques in human geography. New York: Wiley.
- Robson, Elisabeth, and Katie Wills, eds. 1994. Postgraduate fieldwork in developing areas: A rough guide. Monograph No. 8, Development Areas Research Group, Institute of British Geographers.
- Rodgers, Alisdair, Heather Vilas, and Andrew Goudie. 1992. The students' companion to geography. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
- Przeworski, Adam, and Frank Salomon. 1988. On the art of writing proposals: Some candid suggestions for applicants to Social Science Research Council competitions. New York: Social Science Research Council.
- Sayer, Andrew. 1992. Method in social science. Second Edition. London: Routledge.
- Strauss, Anselm, and Juliet Corbin. 1995. Basics of qualitative research. Newbury Park: Sage.
- Stuart, Merrill M. 1973. Bibliography of master's theses in geography: American and Canadian universities. Tualatin, OR: Geographic and Area Study Publications.
- University Microfilms. 1861-. Dissertation Abstracts Ondisc, 1861-. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1987. A manual for writers of term papers, theses, and dissertations. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.