GEOG*6100 – Geographical Scholarship and Research Part I

Fall 2019
Thursdays 2:30pm-5:30pm
Hutt Building Rm. 348

Instructor

Noella Gray
grayn@uoguelph.ca
Hutt Building Rm 121
(519) 824-4120 x 58155

**Please e-mail with any questions and to schedule in-person meetings.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Define the discipline of Geography in your own words, considering its diverse philosophical, theoretical, and conceptual perspectives.
2. Explain the assumptions and arguments underlying contemporary approaches to geographic concepts and theories.
3. Compare and evaluate these concepts and theories, in general and in relation to your particular area of research.
4. Critically reflect on the process of knowledge production within the discipline of geography broadly and your own sub-discipline specifically.
5. Participate in and facilitate collaborative, productive discussions of geographic thought, with a focus on discussion across sub-disciplines (human, physical, techniques).

These course objectives will be met through a combination of:

1. Reflection on the content of assigned readings
2. Class discussions – seminar facilitation and participation in weekly discussions
3. A variety of writing assignments

Course Communication

Courselink (online platform) will be used: to share all assigned readings (apart from those in the required Key Concepts text book – which is available online through the library); to submit assignments and receive feedback on these assignments; and to engage in online class discussions. Remember to check content on Courselink regularly. Please also check your UoGuelph.ca e-mail address regularly because that is how I will communicate with you when necessary.
Text Books and Required Readings

(assigned readings from these books will be posted on CourseLink but you may also wish to own these for future reading/research – or borrow them from past PhD students)


Course Requirements/Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date (Learning Objectives)</th>
<th>Percentage of overall grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation: Weekly Reading responses uploaded to Courselink by Wednesday</td>
<td>Weeks 2-11 (all objectives)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>at noon; weekly participation in class discussions and leading seminar</td>
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<td>(25% for Fall 2019;</td>
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<td>discussions</td>
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<td>25% for Winter 2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viewpoint paper: the Discipline of Geography and Knowledge</td>
<td>October 28 (Objectives 1, 2, 4)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>(*details to be distributed separately)</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Review Paper and Peer Review (*details to be distributed separately)</td>
<td>Topic Selection: Oct. 7</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Initial Bibliography: Nov. 11</td>
<td>(10% for Fall 2019;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Annotated Bibliography: Dec. 2</td>
<td>25% for Winter 2020)</td>
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<td>Polished Draft: Winter 2020</td>
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<td>Peer Review: Winter 2020</td>
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<td>Final Paper: Winter 2020</td>
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<td>(Objectives 3, 4, 5)</td>
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****NOTE about GEOG 6100 Grading – Because GEOG 6100 is a full year (1.0 credit) course you will not be assigned a grade until the end of the Winter 2019 semester. At the end of Fall 2018 you will receive a grade of in-progress (INP) on your transcript. Your grade for GEOG 6100 will be based on the work submitted this semester (you will be given an unofficial final grade for this in December) as well as in Winter 2020. If you have any questions about this please contact myself or Kirby Calvert, the Winter 2020 course instructor.
**Course Schedule**

**Readings are subject to change; at least one week’s notice will be given for any additions or changes to reading assignments.**

**Part I – Introduction and Overview**

**Week 1 (Sept 5): Introductions**

Topics: Introduction to one another and the goals of the course.

Readings:
- Aitken & Valentine. Chapter 1 of Approaches to HG. Pages 1-12.
- Inkpen. Introduction & Chapter 1 (portion) of Science, Philosophy and PG. Pages 1-10.

**Week 2 (Sept 12): The Discipline of Geography**

Topics: What is geography? What is the history of the discipline? What are some recent trends in human and physical geographies?

Readings:
- Chapters 1-3 from Key Concepts in Geography:
  - Histories of geography
  - Geography and the physical sciences tradition
  - Geography and the social sciences tradition

**Part II – Philosophy and Theory**

**Week 3 (Sept 19): Philosophy, theory and ways of understanding the world**

Topics: Different philosophies for how we understand the world (ontology and epistemology). What is reality, how can we know it? What is theory?

Readings:
- Chapters 1 (p. 11-24) and 2 from Science, Philosophy and Physical Geography
  - Ideas, change and stability in physical geography
  - The nature of reality
- Chapter 1 (review) and Part I Intro in Approaches to Human Geography
  - Ways of knowing and ways of doing geographic research
  - Philosophies
Week 4 (Sept 26): Theory and explanation in geography I

Topics: Introduction to some theoretical perspectives (e.g. positivism, humanism) and a consideration of how they each explain geographical phenomena.

Readings:
- Begin to fill in the ‘philosophy comparison chart’ from CourseLink. We will work together to finalize it in class.
- Review the specific theories (e.g. logical positivism) from Chapter 2 in Science, Philosophy and Physical Geography.
- Chapters 2, 3, 25 and 27 in Approaches to Human Geography:
  - Positivist Geography
  - Lived emplacement and the locality of being: A return to humanistic geography
  - Quantification, evidence and positivism
  - Humanism and people-centered methods

Week 5 (Oct 3): Theory and explanation in geography II

Topics: Introduction to some theoretical perspectives (TBA) and a consideration of how they each explain geographical phenomena.

Readings:
- TBA depending on class interests

Week 6 (Oct 10): Theory and explanation in geography III

Topics: Introduction to some theoretical perspectives (TBA) and a consideration of how they each explain geographical phenomena.

Readings:
- TBA depending on class interests

Week 7 (Oct 17): Diversity and confluence in physical and human geography

Topics: Consider how physical and human geography work together or are at odds with one another. Focus on the philosophical and theoretical aspects of this debate. How is knowledge production political?

Readings:
- Johnson, S. “Get rid of Geography Departments” (2012 – GEOLOG 41(1).
• Listserv discussion of the post: https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A2= crit-geog-forum:d9445cc.1204

Part III – Concepts in Geography

Week 8 (Oct 24): Seminar on two concepts (student 1 and 2)

Readings: To be assigned by students, after approval by instructor, by 9am on the Friday before the class

Week 9 (Oct 31): Seminar on two concepts (student 3 and 4)

Readings: To be assigned by students, after approval by instructor, by 9am on the Friday before the class

Week 10 (Nov 7): Seminar on two concepts (student 5 and 6)

Readings: To be assigned by students, after approval by instructor, by 9am on the Friday before the class

Week 11 (Nov 14): Seminar two concepts (student 7 and 8)

Readings: To be assigned by students, after approval by instructor, by 9am on the Friday before the class

Conclusion

Week 12 (Nov 21): Conclusions: Responsibility, ethics and academic practice

Readings: TBD based on student interest.
Potential topics include:
• Ethical challenges and controversies
• Citation politics
• Relevance and application – connecting theory to practice
• Academic culture
Additional Information

Copies of assignments: Please keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility: The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or refer to the SAS website.

Academic Misconduct: The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Regulations regarding Academic Misconduct are detailed in the Graduate Calendar.

Recording of Materials: Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the Instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources: The Academic Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to all graduate programs.