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## **GEOG 8100 Geographic Thought**

**Spring 2018**

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The central aim of the course is to learn what it means to be a geographer, and more specifically what it means to be an OSU-trained geographer, while at the same time recognizing the diverse interests and backgrounds of this semester's course participants. The course is also an opportunity for professional development.

To this end, students are centrally involved in planning the course. The course started the previous semester, with two meetings and additional email conversation about participants' ideas about the direction of the course and specific topics and approaches. The rest of this syllabus reflects the collaborative decisions of this group.

The goals of the course are:

- To develop better understanding of both the history and breadth of the discipline, including knowledge of major approaches and how they have changed over time.
- To move beyond the silos of our subdisciplines to identify things that have united and divided these different approaches—and how that might change in the future as we continue to shape the trajectory of the discipline.
- To read the work of OSU faculty (past and present) and to talk with current faculty about their research and professional experience.

A set of keywords—one per week—provides the backbone for staging intradisciplinary conversations. These are keywords that are used across the discipline, though often in different ways (sometimes complementary, sometimes not).

A group of students will work together to identify a set of readings for each week (generally 3-6 readings per week). The set of readings should provide history and breadth. As a guideline, the set should include: something old and something new, diversity across subdisciplines, at least one overview, something OSU (i.e. written by faculty or grad students past or present), a current topic or event, and should not be entirely North American.

When we read something by a current OSU faculty member, we will invite them to join the class for about 30 minutes, to discuss the work and its conditions of production. That is, we can learn about the intellectual contributions and about the research and publishing process, including interesting (maybe challenging!) aspects of funding, data collection, analysis, collaboration, the writing process, and the review process.

The following is a list of sources that might be helpful for finding readings. That is, we can read something from these sources (e.g. as overviews), or the week's organizers can use these sources to lead them to other readings to assign.

- Geographic thought texts (the SAGE Handbook of Geographical Knowledge is on reserve at Thompson library)
- Oxford Bibliographies- Geography
- Encyclopedia of Geography
- Dictionary of Human Geography
- The journals Progress in Human Geography and Progress in Physical Geography

### **AAG preparation**

Given the goals of intellectual and professional development, we will also use course time for preparation for the AAG meeting in April. The week before the meeting, we will have practice talks for those attending the meeting. While course students will have priority for practice talks, we will also invite other students as presenters. Both faculty and students will be invited as audience members.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Three times during the semester, work in a group of 2-3 students to identify readings. That is, each student will help choose readings for three different keywords. Just before class, the organizers of each week will also look over the questions posed by the group to identify themes for discussion (see below).
2. For each of those three weeks, do a write-up that reflects on the readings (and maybe what you learned in the process of choosing the readings). These should be about one page (single-spaced) and are due to the associated Carmen discussion one hour prior to class.
3. Every week, pose 2-3 questions/topics for discussion, thinking across the readings. These are due to the associated Carmen discussion one hour prior to class.
4. For the two weeks in which there are job talks during our class: Attend the talk and participate in a Carmen discussion afterward. For example, which of our keywords are reflected in the candidate's talk and work?
5. Participate in classroom discussion every week.
6. If you miss a class, do a 3-page response (single-spaced). Arrange the due date with Becky.

Date	Topic
11 Jan	Finalize syllabus/ Organization of groups/ Work
18 Jan	History of Geographic Thought from both “human” and “physical” perspectives (readings chosen in advance, not by a work group) Attend job talk (3:30-5)
25 Jan	Geo/World Attend job talk (3:30-5)
1 Feb	Space
8 Feb	Climate change <i>Michael Mann colloquium 9 Feb</i>
15-Feb	Scale
22 Feb	Change
1 Mar	System
8 Mar	Visualization
15 Mar	SPRING BREAK: <b>NO CLASS</b>
22 Mar	Time
29 Mar	Sustainability/ Human-Environment <i>Rinku Roy Chowdhury colloquium 30 March</i>
5 Apr	AAG PREPARATION: PRACTICE TALKS
12 Apr	AAG MEETING: <b>NO CLASS</b>
19 Apr	Race and Gender in Geography