

## **Geography 8109: Graduate Student Professionalization**

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### **Rationale**

This required graduate course provides an introduction to professional development within a learning community complementary to the rest of the Geography graduate curriculum.

### **Course goals**

This class will orient students to the department, to the academic discipline of geography, and to the expectations of the Geography graduate program. Students will learn strategies to seek professionalization opportunities on an ongoing basis.

### **Course objectives**

By the end of the semester, students will:

- Get to know the department, the university and key policies that affect them;
- Have explored a variety of components of academic success (e.g., publishing, external funding, peer networks, tenure) and success in teaching (e.g., course design and course feedback);
- Have had some exposure to the range of professional environments within which geographers work; and
- Learn how to document their academic accomplishments in a format most suitable for their goals.

### **Course evaluation**

Successful completion of this course yields three (3) graduate pass/fail credits (S or U).

There are three components to course evaluation:

- Class attendance and attendance of all departmental colloquia;
- Facilitation and participation in class discussion; and
- Turning in a portfolio that is compliant with the format required for Spring Review.

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

## Readings

The main course text is:

Kelsky, Karen, 2015. The Professor Is In. New York, NY: Three Rivers Press.

This book is available for purchase at Barnes & Noble. Two copies are available for one-day check out at the 18<sup>th</sup> St. Library.

PhD students should read the entire book.

EVERYONE must read the following chapters: 3, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 36, 43, 44, 51, 52, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 and 63.

## Leading discussion

Students will be broken up into groups on the first day of class. Students will take a turn leading class discussion for the first hour of class (9-10 a.m.). Please plan some in-class activity and plan to facilitate discussion for one topic (students may tag team within their discussion groups to do this).

## In-class activities

We will work on the following activities in class:

1. **Research statement.** We will be revising the research statement you wrote to join this program. Please bring your current research statement and a laptop if you have one. **September 15.**
2. **Writing workshop.** One entire class will be devoted to cultivating good writing practices (NO GROUP PRESENTATION that day). Bring notebook and laptop. **October 20.**
3. **Bring in exemplary CVs** from someone outside of OSU. Each student should locate a CV from an academic they admire, and read/analyze carefully before class. If you are considering a range of professional options, obtain CVs from multiple sources (research institution, teaching institution, private sector / industry, government / research) *This should be someone you do not know yet!* **November 3.**
4. **Teaching philosophy.** We will be writing and workshopping teaching philosophies on **November 17.**

## Colloquium

Colloquium attendance is required. For the up-to-date schedule, see:

<http://geography.osu.edu/events>

## Recommended optional readings

These books cover a wide variety of topics: general strategies for success, negotiating, developing and communicating ideas, teaching strategies, academic writing and publishing, time management, work-life balance, understanding the academy, etc.

### *College Teaching*

Bain, K. (2004). *What the Best College Teachers Do*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard.

Gross Davis, B. (2009). *Tools for Teaching, 2nd ed.*: Jossey-Bass.

McKeachie, W., & Svinicki, M. (2013). *McKeachie's Teaching Tips, 14 ed.*: Cengage.

### ***Writing, Writing, Writing!***

- Belcher, W. L. (2009). *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*: Sage.
- Boice, R. (2000). *Advice for New Faculty Members*: Pearson.
- Bolker, J. (1998). *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day: A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis*: Owl Books.
- Silvia, P. J. (2007). *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing*: American Psychological Association.

### ***Work-Life Balance***

- Connelly, R., & Ghodsee, K. (2011). *Professor Mommy: Finding Work-Family Balance in Academia*: Rowan & Littlefield.
- Covey, S. R. (2004). *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change*. London, UK: Simon & Schuster.
- Diamond, S. (2010). *Getting More: How You Can Negotiate to Succeed in Work and Life*: Crown Business / Random House.

### ***Ideas and Inspiration***

- Heath, C., & Heath, D. (2007). *Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die*: Random House.
- Wilson, E. O. (2013). *Letters to a Young Scientist*: Liveright.

### ***Understanding the Academy and Your Place In It***

- Kennedy, D. (1997). *Academic Duty*: Harvard.
- Toth, E. (2008). *Ms. Mentor's New and Ever More Impeccable Advice for Women and Men in Academia*: University of Pennsylvania.

**Course schedule** (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Group
1	25-Aug	Introduction to class		
2	1-Sep	Setting up for success	Graduate manual	A
3	8-Sep	Time management	3,5,6,7	B
4	15-Sep	Developing a professional identity	27,28,43,44	C
5	22-Sep	Research networks	18,20,36	A
6	29-Sep	Grants, fellowships, conferences	17,19,51, 52	B
7	6-Oct	Versatile PhD	58-63	C
8	<b>13-Oct</b>	<b>Fall Break, no class</b>		
9	<b>20-Oct</b>	<b><i>Writing workshop</i></b>	16	
10	<b>27-Oct</b>	<b>No class</b>		
11	3-Nov	CV Analysis	14,22,24	A
12	<b>10-Nov</b>	<b>Veteran's Day, no class</b>		
13	17-Nov	Course design and pedagogy	15,25,26,35	B
14	<b>24-Nov</b>	<b>Thanksgiving, no class</b>		
15	1-Dec	Debrief		C
	8-Dec	Final portfolio due		