

Undergraduate Research and Professionalization Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Kendra McSweeney
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Office hours: Tuesdays 1 - 2:30, or by appointment
Class: T Th 11:10-12:30, Derby 1116
Section 10 #19454

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Overview

This course has two complementary foci: first, to allow students to reflect on their undergraduate experience, particularly in terms of content and skills developed. Second, the course will help students marshal that experience as they embark on the process of developing a career. The course meets twice a week. In the classroom, the focus will be on reviewing and understanding the required readings, and on engaging with the varied guests who will visit the class. Outside the classroom, the course asks students to explore the career resources in and around Ohio State. Built into the course throughout are multiple moments to think about research and writing as life-long skills.

Course Format

This seminar meets twice a week. Success in the course is based on engaging with the required readings. This means submitting thoughtful responses to the day's readings at least **one hour** prior to each class, and showing up in class to discuss. As in most seminars, the instructor is facilitator more than lecturer, and students are expected to come to class with the readings *read*, thought about, and in-hand, and ready to contribute to class discussion. Students are also expected to take advantage of guests to the class by being attentive and participating during their visits.

Readings

Readings are available on the course website in CARMEN. Students are expected to print out the readings, and bring the relevant ones **to class**. Students who anticipate problems printing out materials (lack of access to a printer, etc.) should bring this to the instructor's attention a week in advance.

The course text is:

Solem, M., K. Foote, and J. Monk, 2013. *Practicing Geography (The Pearson AAG Series in Geography)*. Washington DC: Association of American Geographers and Pearson.

Prices vary depending on whether you buy an e-textbook (rent from \$18.85), a new paperback (\$23-\$44.79), or a used copy (from \$23).

Policies

Due dates for assigned work are noted in the Course Schedule. Opportunity for reading comments close one hour prior to the beginning of class, and Dropboxes close at 5 pm on the day an assignment is due. If you require more time for an assignment, please see me **at least a week in advance of the due date** to organize an alternative schedule. Any academic misconduct, such as plagiarizing, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. Students are expected to refrain from texting or other cell phone use during class.

Evaluation

	% of grade
Class attendance and participation	15
Comments on readings	30
Career guidance meeting*	5
FutureLink & LinkedIn accounts*	5
Attend/report on career fair/expo	5
Informational interview	20
Take-home exam**	20

*Students who begin the class having done this within the past 6 months should see the instructor for grade weight adjustment.

** Students keen to do a research proposal can substitute for a take-home exam with permission and guidelines from the instructor. The instructor must be informed of this plan by Oct. 15 **at the latest**.

Attendance and participation (15%) in class is essential to success in this course; attendance will be taken.

Comments on Readings (30%)

Readings are assigned for most classes; they include a mix of academic and non-academic articles, blogs, and other materials. At least **ONE HOUR** prior to class (i.e., by 10:10 on T Th), please record your thoughts on the reading(s) in the appropriate Discussion section in Carmen: either as a stand-alone comment or a respectful response to someone else's comment. It will not be possible to post comments on a reading after the deadline. Thoughtful responses to the readings, demonstrating that you have engaged with the material, are worth 30% of your grade.

On- and off-campus Career Resource Exploration (Total: 15%)

OSU and Columbus offer innumerable resources for exploring careers in every conceivable sector of the labor market. Several assignments are designed to take advantage of these resources, and lay the foundation for career planning whether you plan to stay in Central Ohio after graduation or not.

1. By Sept 30, you will have had an appointment **EITHER** with
 - a. A Career Connection/OSL Career Counseling & Support Services councilor at the Younkin Success Center for a [Career Assessment](#) **OR**
 - b. An [ASC Career Services](#) advisor in their new offices in Denney HallWhich you choose will depend on you. Regardless, 5% of your grade is based on evidence of this meeting.
2. Networking is essential no matter your post-graduate plans. 5% of your grade is based on you setting up (or updating/maintaining) both a OSU-based Future Link account and a LinkedIn account. For the latter, please 'Link' to my account. Due Oct. 21.
3. Autumn is a busy time for career planning, and there are several Career Fairs and Expos on campus (most are noted in the syllabus, but see also [here](#)). Please attend at least one of those indicated and report to the class on your experience (5%); due in class within a week of event.

Informational Interview (20%)

We will 'interviewing' various guests during class time. Through your networks and in discussion with the Instructor, you will also identify a senior person in a field that you are interested in somewhere in Central Ohio, and set up a face-to-face meeting with that person. You will record and transcribe the interview (or take detailed notes during or after) and write up your experience in a maximum of 5 pages. Due by Nov. 25, in Carmen. You will report on your experience to the class on Dec 4 and 9th.

Take-home Exam (20%; due Dec. 15)

This exam will be an opportunity for you to reflect on, and consolidate, what you've learned in the class and how to make it work for you as you move towards graduation.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Date	Topic	Required reading for class	Guest/Assignment
Thurs 8/28	NO CLASS		ATTEND 2014 Buckeye Careers Campus Job Fair 11-3 pm , Archie Griffin Ballroom, Ohio Union
Tues 9/2	What is Geography again?	Solem et al. 2013. "Preface"	
Thurs 9/4	What is Geography again? II	NRC, 1994. "Geography's perspectives."	
<i>Geography Department Welcome Kickoff</i> Sept 5 4:30 – 6:30 pm, Derby Hall courtyard			
Tues 9/9	What have I learned as an undergrad?	ALL: CH. 1: Greiner and Wikle. 2013. "Part strategy and serendipity..." Snowdon. 2010. "What to do with a degree in human geography" A Solem et al. 2008. "Skills in professional geography" B Hennemann & Liefner. 2010. "Employability of German..."	
<i>OSU Career and Internship Fair</i> September 10-12, 11 am – 4 pm			
Thurs 9/11	Professional networking	CH. 5: Cary, 2013. "Professional networking" AAG career resources Future Link and LinkedIn websites	Guest: Brooke Raake, Geography UG advisor
<i>Undergraduate Research Week</i> Sept 15 – 19 (various locations)			
Tues 9/16	Job vs career	CH. 16: Kneale & Maxey, 2013. "Creating the life you want" Gelber, 2009. " Ben Franklin on Global Warming ".	Guest: Ben Gelber, NBC4 Weather
Thurs 9/18	Internships	CH. 4: Blanchard et al. 2014. "The value of an internship..."	Guest: Ola Ahlqvist, OSU
Tues 9/23	Post-graduate education I: Why	Solem et al. 2013. "Career goals, pathways and competencies..." Saltmarsh, 2001. "A journey into autobiography." Bridges, 2012. "Why you shouldn't go to graduate school."	Guest: Brynne Presser, graduate student in Public Health, OSU.
Thurs 9/25	Post-graduate education II: How	Martin & Lehren, 2012. "A generation hobbled..." Solem et al. 2011. "Experiencing graduate school." International Student: Graduate Education	

Tues 9/30	Alternative routes: TFA, Peace Corps, and more	Readings TBA	Career advisor appointments complete by 5 pm
Thurs 10/2	Research & your career I: why do it	OSU's Undergrad Research Office website O*Net Online; Summary for "Geographer"	
Food, Ag & Environmental Sciences Career Expo October 2, 11 am – 3 pm			
Tues 10/7	Instructor absent; no class meeting		
Thurs 10/9	Research & your career II: primary vs secondary research	Hope, 2009. "The importance of direct experience"	
Tues 10/14	The art of interviewing	Valentine, 1997. "Tell me about..." Matheson, J. 2001. "Stranger, trailer, fieldwork, girl."	
Thurs 10/16	Writing & your career: varied audiences	Cloke et al. 2004. "Representing human geographies."	
Tues 10/21	Writing for money	Northey et al. 2012. "Writing with style" Research proposals to be read in-class	Future Link and LinkedIn accounts up and running
Graduate & Professional School Expo October 21, 11 am - 2:30 pm, Ohio Union Grand Ballroom			
Thurs 10/23	Careers communicating geography	CH. 12: Heffron, 2013. "Teaching geography..." Murphy, 2006. "Enhancing Geography's role..." Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) website	
Tues 10/28	Careers in state & local government	CH. 6: Bass & Quodomine, 2013.	
Thurs 10/30	Careers with federal government	CH. 7: Williams et al. 2013 Taylor, 2009. "Map quest"	
Tues 11/4	Careers in the private sector + self- employment	CH. 8: Blatt & Ziolkowski, 2013. "...Large businesses & corporations" Findlay, 2011. "Double identity"	Guest: Ron McChesney, CEO Three Scale Strategy
Thurs 11/6	Careers in non-profit + advocacy sectors	CH. 9: Shimada & Tasch, 2013. Chatterton, P. 2008. "Using geography to teach freedom..."	
Tues 11/11	Veterans' Day; no class	No readings	
Thurs 11/13	Geography & ethics	CH. 15: Harvey, 2013. "Practical ethics for professional geographers" Wainwright, 2012. "Geography counterinsurgent"	

National Geography Awareness Week Nov. 16 - 27			
Tues 11/18	Gender in the workplace	Slaughter, 2012. "Why women still can't have it all." Huffington Post, 2013. "Paid parental leave" [GRAPHIC]	
Thurs 11/20	Work-life balance	CH. 14: Monk, J. 2013. "'Work' and 'life'..."	
Tues 11/25	No class meeting		Interview assignment due in Carmen by 5 pm
Thurs 11/27	THANKSGIVING; no class		
Tues 12/2	Going global: international careers	CH. 11: Mitchell & Robertson, 2013. Watson, 2004. "What a dolt one is..."	
Thurs 12/4	Presentations	No readings	
Tues 12/9	Course wrap-up	No readings	
Mon 12/15			Take-home exam DUE in Carmen by 5 pm