

AU 2015 / GEOG 4101 (3 credits)

Undergraduate Research and Professionalization Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Kendra McSweeney
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Office hours: Mondays, 10-11:30 am, or by appointment
Class: T Th 12:45-2:05, Derby 1080
Section 10 #15768

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. 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 come to class with the readings *read*, thought about, and in-hand, and ready to contribute to class discussion.

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 will MINIMIZE their distraction by personal screens during class by keeping phones off and using laptops/tablets only for note-taking or review of readings.

Evaluation

	% of grade
Class attendance and participation	20
Comments on readings	25
Career guidance meeting report	5
LinkedIn accounts	5
Informational interview	15
Career analysis	30

Attendance and participation (20%) in class is essential to success in this course; attendance will be taken.

Comments on Readings (25%)

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 11:45 on T Th**), please record your **initial thoughts on, and questions about**, 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 demonstrating that you have engaged with the material are worth 25% of your grade.

On-campus Career Resource Exploration (5%)

By Oct. 6, you will have completed an appointment with **EITHER**:

- a. A Career Connection/OSL Career Counseling & Support Services counselor at the Younkin Success Center for a [Career Assessment](#) **OR**
- b. An [ASC Career Services](#) advisor in their office in Denney Hall

'Proof' that you have had this meeting will be a signed business card or email from the person you worked with, AND a brief (less than one page) summary of the experience. This is **due by Tues, Oct. 6**. BOOK THIS MEETING ASAP!

Linked-In Account (5%)

Networking is essential no matter what your post-graduate plans are. 5% of your grade is based on you setting up (or updating/maintaining) a LinkedIn account with photo and basic profile. Please 'Link' to my account by **Oct. 29**.

Informational Interview (20%)

We will be '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. 24**, in Carmen.

Career Analysis (25% total)

Comparable careers can look very similar, and very different, depending on the sector in which one works (e.g., government, private sector, etc.). Spring-boarding off your informational interview and using your LinkedIn contacts and other research, you will illustrate what your target career looks like in different sectors, and the pros and cons of working within each.

- Presentation (10%; may be a group presentation): In-class, **Dec. 1, 3, 8**.
- Report: Due in Carmen by 5 pm on **Monday, Dec. 14** (20%).

Extra Credit

A maximum of 5 points (5%) of extra credit is available to students who report to the class on their experience of one of the many Fal 2015 Career Fairs and Expos, or comparable professionalization event, hosted by entities on and off campus. For a list of campus events, see [here](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Date	Topic	Required reading for class	Guest/Assignment
Tues 8/25	Intro to Course	None	
Thurs 8/27	What is Geography again?	Solem et al. 2013. "Preface" Guardian, 2015. "It's the must-have A-level"	
Tues 9/1	What is Geography again? II	NRC, 1994. "Geography's perspectives."	
Thurs 9/3	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" PLUS ONE OF THESE: _____ A Solem et al. 2008. "Skills in professional geography" B Hennemann & Liefner. 2010. "Employability of German..." C Robinson, 2015. "Are geography students good environmental citizens?"	
Tues 9/8	Professional networking	CH. 5: Cary, 2013. "Professional networking" AAG career resources Future Link and LinkedIn websites	Guest: Brooke Raake, Geography UG advisor
Thurs 9/10	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
Tues 9/15	Internships & Apprenticeships	CH. 4: Blanchard et al. 2014. "The value of an internship..." Franta-Abdalla, 2014. "The 6 best arguments for why..." New York Times, 2015. "A new look at apprenticeships..."	Guest: Ola Ahlqvist, OSU
Thurs 9/17	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.
Tues 9/22	Post-graduate education II: How	Martin & Lehren, 2012. "A generation hobbled..." Solem et al. 2011. "Experiencing graduate school." International Student: Graduate Education	
Thurs 9/24	Alternative routes: TFA, Peace Corps,...	Review posted webpages (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, TFA, and others)	
Tues 9/29	Research & your career I: why do it	OSU's Undergrad Research Office website O*Net Online; Summary for "Geographer"	

Thurs 10/1	Instructor absent; no class meeting		
Tues 10/6	Research & your career II: primary vs secondary	Hope, 2009. "The importance of direct experience"	Career services report due
Thurs 10/8	The art of interviewing	Valentine, 1997. "Tell me about..." Matheson, J. 2001. "Stranger, trailer, fieldwork, girl."	
Tues 10/13	Writing & your career: varied audiences	Cloke et al. 2004. "Representing human geographies."	Kourtney Reynolds, Howard Hanna Realtors
Thurs 10/15	October break: No class		
Tues 10/20	Writing for money	Northey et al. 2012. "Writing with style" [Research proposals to be read in-class]	
Thurs 10/22	Careers communicating geography	Murphy, 2006. "Enhancing Geography's role..." Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) website	
Tues 10/27	Careers in state & local government	CH. 6: Bass & Quodomine, 2013.	
Thurs 10/29	Careers with federal government	CH. 7: Williams et al. 2013 Taylor, 2009. "Map quest"	LinkedIn account due
Tues 11/3	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 11/5	Careers in non- profit + advocacy sectors	CH. 9: Shimada & Tasch, 2013. "Geography and the non- profit sector." Chatterton, P. 2008. "Using geography to teach freedom..."	
Tues 11/10	Geography & ethics	CH. 15: Harvey, 2013. "Practical ethics for professional geographers" Wainwright, 2012. "Geography counterinsurgent"	
Thurs 11/12	Gender in the workplace	Slaughter, 2012. "Why women still can't have it all." Huffington Post, 2013. "Paid parental leave" [GRAPHIC]	
Tues 11/17	Work-life balance	CH. 14: Monk, J. 2013. "'Work' and 'life'..."	
Thurs 11/19	No class meeting		

Tues 11/24	Going global: international careers	CH. 11: Mitchell & Robertson, 2013. Watson, 2004. "What a dolt one is..." Bearman et al. 2015. "Teaching GIS outside of Geography..."	Informational Interview report due
Thurs 11/26	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
Tues 12/1	Presentations	No readings	
Thurs 12/3	Presentations	No readings	
Tues 12/8	Presentations & Course wrap-up	No readings	
Mon 12/14			Career Analysis Due in Carmen by 5 pm