

GEOG 600: Introduction to Graduate Research: *A critical survey of contemporary directions and research in the major themes of geography and planning.*

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Mondays 6:00-8:50 p.m. in Butte 503

Office Hours: Monday 4:45-6 p.m. and by appointment

This graduate seminar introduces students to geographic and planning research and the culture of graduate education through:

1. Exposure to research by the department faculty through guest lectures, readings and discussions. This aspect of the course will help students choose a mentor. By the end of the semester the expectation is that each student will have put together their graduate committee.
2. Weekly readings and annotations by students of articles and book chapters of their choice, with the goals of choosing a research topic, producing a substantial annotated bibliography for use in their research proposal and thesis/project, and practicing appropriate citation formats and use them in your written work. Students will also choose to read one academically-oriented book in geography and/or planning throughout the semester. You will learn strategies to find appropriate material through library, Internet searches and content alerts.
3. Common readings of *review articles* on key areas of contemporary research in geography and planning as represented in journals such as *Progress in Human Geography*, *Progress in Physical Geography*, *Professional Geographer*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Geographical Review*, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. Students will have a role in coming up with this common set of readings.
4. Exploring the meaning of “geography,” and practicing “spatial thinking.” Geographers and planners are concerned with the interaction of humans in their environments at various scales, with place, and with the relations between places. We will look at how the readings reflect spatial and geographical thought.
5. Collegial interactions in a seminar format in which students lead discussions of geographic and planning topics based on their readings and interests.
6. Reflections on professional ethics and applications of graduate work in geography and planning.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance: ten points will be taken off for more than two absences
2. Weekly Annotations on 2 Readings of your Choice (12@ 4 points each) 48 points
3. Final Annotated Bibliography with Introduction 20 points
4. Book review 15 points
5. Participation 10 points
 - a. Lead discussions
 - b. Provide readings
 - c. Come prepared
6. Put together a thesis/project committee 7 points

Course Readings

There is no text book for this course. Our focus will be on journal articles and scholarly books. Readings will be posted on our course Vista site. Because of the iterative and participatory nature of this seminar, course readings will be identified throughout the course by visiting faculty, students, and your instructor. Readings will be posted at least one week before the seminar in which they will be discussed. We will kick off discussions by posting comments *before* class on our Vista site.