

# *GEOG 490: Proseminar in Geography*

## Spring 2010 – Dr. LaDona Knigge

Class: T /Th 9:30 – 10:45 p.m.

Office Hours: M 1:00 – 2:00

T/Th 11:00 – 12:00

Email: [lknigge@csuchico.edu](mailto:lknigge@csuchico.edu)

Syllabus subject to change.

Location: 117 Tehema Hall

Office: 533 Butte Hall

Phone: 530 898-5881

Effective Date: **January 26, 2010**

**NOTE: Please put GEOG 490 in subject line of all email correspondence**

### **Course Description:**

This course focuses on enabling students to do scholarly research of geographic topics. Students will be expected to conduct research and write their senior thesis on a local, geographic topic. This project requires students to integrate research, writing and technical skills in geography and satisfies the [university writing proficiency requirements](#) for graduation.

The research topics for your senior thesis will focus geographically on a local food, resource or planning issue; a local economic topic, sustainable planning, or environmental/social justice or equity issues. Time, resource and physical constraints require that your research is conducted locally. Your individual research topics will be developed in the first part of the semester and are subject to instructor approval.

### **Course Objectives:**

- To promote critical student discussion of the field of geography
- To engage in rigorous study about a body of knowledge essential to the major
- To teach students the basic requirements of research design, execution and dissemination (writing and presentations)
- To provide an opportunity for students to effectively integrate acquired analytical and writing skills on geographic topics with applied research.
- To provide students an opportunity to develop and improve public presentation skills

### **Course Requirements:**

- This is a writing proficiency (WP) course, open only to students who have completed ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher, senior standing, and completion of GEOG 309.
- Attendance and participation are expected and not rewarded. The success of this seminar depends on regular attendance and participation. Please notify me in advance if you know you will not be in class or email if you cannot attend due to illness or hardship. Students who miss more than ten percent of the class meetings must meet with me in order to pass the class.

- You are required to complete a research project that will result in your senior thesis. The project will require several steps which will contribute to your final grade.
- All assignments will be completed on time. Late assignments will not be accepted unless accompanied by appropriate documentation. The demands of this course will be intense. Do not allow yourself to fall behind. Assignments and exercises that are completed in class cannot be made up.
- Bring your book and/or assigned readings to class with you.
- To pass this class, you must receive a C- or better. No incompletes will be given.

### **Required Materials:**

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*, **Third Edition**. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Additional materials, articles and readings will be put on electronic reserve (ERes) at Meriam Library, BlackboardVista, or handed out in class, including:

Style Sheet for the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*

<http://aag.org/Publications/Annals/Annals%20Style%20Sheet%2040105.pdf>

Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide (author-date system)

[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography:

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm>

Clifford, Nicolas J. & Gill Valentine. 2003. "Getting started in geographical research: How this book can help." In *Key methods in geography*, ed. Nicholas J. Clifford and Gill Valentine. London and Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, pg. 1-16.

Laurier, Eric. 2003. "Participant Observation." In *Key methods in geography*, ed. Nicholas J. Clifford and Gill Valentine. London and Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, pp. 133-148.

Reid, Ian. 2003. Making observations and measurements in the field: an overview. In *Key methods in geography*, ed. Nicholas J. Clifford and Gill Valentine. London and Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, pp. 209-222.

Creswell, John W. 2003. Chapter Two: Review of the Literature. In *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, Second Edition*. London and Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications, pp. 27-48.

Perkins, Chris. 2003. Cartography and Graphicacy. In *Key methods in geography*, ed. Nicholas J. Clifford and Gill Valentine. London and Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, pp. 344-368.

Hay, Iain. 2003. Ethical practice in geographical research. In *Key methods in geography*, ed. Nicholas J. Clifford and Gill Valentine. London and Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, pp. 37-53.

### **Other Information**

#### **The Writing Center**

The Writing Center is located in the Student Services Center, Room 340. Overall, the Writing Center is there to assist you in the various stages of writing papers for all of your

courses. Since this is a “writing proficiency” course, I strongly encourage you to utilize the Writing Center during this course.

### **Attendance**

An attendance sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class period to document your presence in class. You are responsible for making certain that you sign the attendance sheet at each class that you attend. If your name is not on the attendance sheet, then you have not attended for grading purposes.

### **Lateness**

Chronic lateness disrupts the class and is rude to your classmates and the instructor. If you arrive at class after the attendance sheet has been signed by your fellow students and returned to me, you must explain your lateness in writing in order to obtain credit for attending the class session. You may be denied attendance in the class if you are chronically late.

### **Classroom civility**

The classroom should be a safe place where all ideas, as long as they do not include bigotry, intolerance or hatred, can be expressed freely and openly. Please listen to me and to other students, and frame your commentaries in the spirit of supportive and constructive criticism. Use non-sexist language when speaking and writing.

### **Students with Certified Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodations, please notify me within the first two weeks of class. I will make every reasonable effort to facilitate your success in this class. Note that I require documentation of your disability from the Disability Support Services. The DSS phone number is 898-5959 V/TTY or FAX 898-4411. Visit the DSS website at <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/>.

### **Add/Drop Information**

Students are responsible for handling the paperwork for adding or dropping this class. After **February 5, 2010**, you will need special permission of instructor to add or drop classes. After **February 19, 2010 census date**, you will need a compelling reason to add or drop any course.

### **Academic integrity & Honesty**

If there is evidence that you have been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, you may receive an “F” grade for the assignment or for the entire course, and a report will be provided to Student Judicial Affairs for further action. Please read the university’s guidelines on academic dishonesty below and see:

<http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/cat05/2StudentServices/01sjd.html>

<http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/cat09/08EndMaterials/02UniversityPolicies.pdf>

**GEOG 490: Proseminar in Geography**  
Spring 2010 – Dr. LaDona Knigge  
*Course Schedule – Schedule is subject to change!*

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**Week 1: Jan 26 & 28 Introduction to Course**

Review of geographic concepts, five themes of geography, what is geographic research?

- de Blij: Five Themes of Geography
- Clifford & Valentine (2003) “Getting started in Geographical Research”

In-class exercise

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**Week 2: Feb 2 & 4 Thinking about your research. What is research? What are your skills?**

- Booth et al – Part I, Ch 1 & 2

**Assignment:** Geography Journal article Assignment due Tuesday.

In-class discussion of prior 490 papers; example papers posted on VISTA; Followed by in-class brainstorming of potential research topics

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**Week 3: Feb 9 & 11**

- Booth et al – Pt II, Ch 3 & 4 From Topics to Questions to a Problem

**Assignment:** Census assignment #1 due Tues at 9:30 a.m.

**Assignment:** Write (type) at least two paragraphs about your (potential) research topic and **locate two sources** about your topic for in-class discussion. What kind of data will you collect? What methods will you use to best answer your question? Use the format on pages 46&47 to frame your question. Bring the articles to class with you and be prepared to turn assignment in at beginning of class on Thursday.

Section 3.4:

- Step 1: Name Your Topic
  - Step 2: Add an Indirect Question
  - Step 3: Answer *So What?*
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**Week 4: Feb 16 & 18**

- Booth et al – Part II, Ch 5 & 6 From Problems to Sources, Engaging Sources
- Laurier, Eric. 2003. “Participant Observation” (Vista)

**Assignment:** Field observation assignment due

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**Week 5: Feb 23 & 25**

- Booth et al – Part III Ch 7, 8 & 9 Making a Claim & Supporting it
- Booth et al – Finish Part III Ch 10 & 11

**Assignment:** Project research question & Outline due Tues via Vista assignment portal

**Assignment:** Annotated bibliography Pt 2 (4 new citations, with previous two properly cited).

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**Week 6: March 2 & 4**

- Creswell, John W. 2003. Chapter Two: Review of the Literature
- Booth et al – Part IV Ch 12 – 14 Planning , drafting and revising your report

**Assignment:** Project research plan due Tuesday in class

**Th: In-class field exercise:** Orientation & Measurements: Finding yourself outside field activity - Michael Commons (tentative date)

NOTE: Dr. Knigge is on furlough day on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Attendance of field activity is required.

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**Week 7: March 9 & 11**

T: Present research proposal: fourteen 3-5 minute presentations

Th: Present research proposal: remaining 3-5 minute presentations

**Assignment:** Annotated bibliography Assn #3 due Tues (4 new citations with previous six properly cited).

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**Week 8: Spring Break: March 15 – 19**

No Class – Have a great break!

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**Week 9: March 23 & 25**

**Assignment:** Project introduction, justification and literature review due on Tuesday. Submit through VISTA portal AND bring hard copy for peer review exchange in class.

**Thur In-class Assignment:** Discussion of peer-review of literature review. You must do both parts of this assignment to get the points (have your paper peer-reviewed and peer-review a classmates paper). **Attendance required.**

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**Week 10: March 30 & April 1**

- Booth et al – Part IV Ch 15 & 16 Communicating Evidence Visually & Introductions & Conclusions

No Class April 1 SBCD

NOTE: BSS Symposium abstracts due April 2, 2010

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**Week 11: April 6 & 8 Clumped Furlough**

**Assignment/Attendance TBD**

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**Week 12: April 13 & 15 AAG Washington, DC**

**Assignment:** Thur Draft paper due: Submit through VISTA assignment portal and bring in a copy to class to exchange for peer review in class on April 20<sup>th</sup>. You must do both parts of this assignment to get the points (have your paper peer-reviewed and peer-review a classmates paper). Attendance required.

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**Week 13: April 20 & 22**

- Booth et al Part IV Ch 17 & Some last considerations

**Assignment:** In-class Discussion of Peer Review of draft paper

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**BSS Symposium April 21, 2010**

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**Week 14: April 27 & 29 Attendance required – points will be deducted for absence**

**12 min presentation + 3 min for questions =15 minutes total**

- T 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_
- Th 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
10. \_\_\_\_\_

**Final digital version of papers due May 2nd through VISTA portal. Bring hard copy to class on Tuesday May 4th**

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**Week 15: May 4 & 6 Attendance required - points will be deducted for absence**

- T 11. \_\_\_\_\_  
12. \_\_\_\_\_  
13. \_\_\_\_\_  
14. \_\_\_\_\_  
15. \_\_\_\_\_
- Th 16. \_\_\_\_\_  
17. \_\_\_\_\_  
18. \_\_\_\_\_  
19. \_\_\_\_\_  
20. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Week 16: May 11 & 13 Attendance required - points will be deducted for absence**

- T 21. \_\_\_\_\_  
22. \_\_\_\_\_  
23. \_\_\_\_\_  
24. \_\_\_\_\_  
25. \_\_\_\_\_
- Th No Class – May 13<sup>th</sup> Furlough Day

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**Finals Week Final Meeting Tuesday May 18, 2010 12:00 – 1:50 p.m.**

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## *Assignments:*

### **Annotated Bibliography Assignment (40 points)**

In this assignment, you will read, analyze and write a detailed annotation about a total of ten scholarly research articles or chapters pertaining to your research topic. Further instructions will be provided.

- Feb 11<sup>th</sup>            Two annotations with draft of research topic
- Feb 25<sup>th</sup>            Six annotations total - consisting of four new annotations, plus original two (corrected as necessary)
- March 9<sup>th</sup>:        Ten annotations total – consisting of four new annotations plus original six annotations (corrected as necessary)

### **Research Proposal Presentation (10 points)**

You will present a **very brief** description of your research proposal. This must be **NO MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES** in length. If you chose you use PowerPoint, you are allowed no more than two slides for your presentation and slides must be submitted through VISTA by 5:00 the night before your presentation.

NOTE: You are not required to use PowerPoint).

### **Grades:**

In-class exercises	18
Journal entries	10
Exercises	
• Field orientation	10
• Geography Journal Article	15
• Census assignment	15
• Field Observation	15
Research Plan	15
Daily Participation/Attendance	40
Research topic & two sources	15
Project research question and outline	15
Project proposal presentation	10
Annotated Bibliography	40
Literature review (including intro & justification)	20
Peer-review of Lit Review	16
Draft paper	20
Peer-review of Draft Paper	16
Presentation	30
Final Paper	180
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

Letter Grade	% Grade		Point Spread 500 Possible Points	
A	95	100.0	473	500
A-	90	94.4	456	472
B+	87	89.4	448	455
B	84	86.5	418	432
B-	80	83.4	398	417
C+	77	79.4	388	397
C	74	76.4	368	387
C-	70	73.4	348	367
D+	67	69.4	333	347
D	60	66.4	303	332
F	Less than	60	Less than	302

## BSS Student Symposium

Extra credit will be given to students whose research projects are of sufficient quality to present at the BSS Student Symposium on Wed April 21<sup>st</sup>. This is an excellent achievement to have on your resume or application for graduate school.

### Mandated Furlough Days:

As you should be aware, California is in the midst of a budget crisis, which may not be solved for quite some time. Due to extraordinary budget cuts to CSU, fees to students have been increased 32%, many sections have been cut and faculty are required to take nine (9) unpaid furlough days each semester for the 2009-2010 academic year.

On our furlough days, we are not allowed to do any university-related work. We cannot teach on these days, we cannot correspond with students, and we are not to come to campus. We have signed an agreement with the University that we will not do any university-related work on these days and we can be disciplined if we do. These mandated furlough days have necessitated the revision of the course to eliminate some elements that have been included in the past.

### Furlough calendar:

State Budget Closure Days	Dr. Knigge's Furlough Days
Fri Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Thur March 4 <sup>th</sup>
Mon Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mon March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Thur April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Wed – Fri March 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>
	Wed May 12 <sup>th</sup>

**NOTE: Furlough Schedules are subject to approval by Dept. Chair and Deans of College of Behavioral & Social Sciences and may be subject to change.**

For more information on furloughs see: <http://www.csuchico.edu/hr/furlough.php>