

Geography

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

Department Office: 507 McCone Hall, (510) 642-3903

Chair: Nathan Sayre, PhD

Department Website: Geography (<http://geography.berkeley.edu>)

Overview

The Department of Geography provides a broad-ranging perspective on humans as inhabitants of Earth, both as transformers of nature and as the creators of social spaces. Geography provides an environmental bridge between the natural and human sciences and an interdisciplinary link among the social sciences and humanities through its concern with space and spatial relations. As geographic theory and research have expanded their horizons over the past quarter century, three research focuses have emerged to define geography at UC Berkeley:

1. **Earth System Science** is concerned with understanding the interlocking subsystems of the natural environment (atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, and cryosphere) in which we live and how they may change with time. Departmental research and teaching in this area aim to provide a complex picture of a dynamic and changing Earth, including landforms, the atmosphere, oceans, ice sheets, and ecosystems. Area strengths lie in climate change and variability, glacial and riverine environments, terrestrial biogeochemistry, paleoecology, Quaternary stratigraphy, atmospheric physics and chemistry, and paleoenvironmental reconstruction. Our scholarship blends a rigorous understanding of process with curiosity about large-scale geographical phenomena.
2. **Development and Environment** is concerned with the social origins of natural resource use and abuse and the relation of economic growth to environmental quality around the world. Research and teaching in Development and Environment draw upon political ecology and social theory to explore the relations between natural and social systems, emphasizing patterns of access to and control over resources, property and management regimes, and systems of cultural meaning. Special emphasis is given to gendered practices, indigenous rights, religious signification, and the history of environmental thought.
3. **Urban and Cultural** is concerned with the intersection of global processes and locally situated systems of culture, politics, and economics at various spatial scales (urban, regional, national, international). Central concerns of Urban and cultural are shifting spatial patterns of industry, cities and modern life. Research and teaching address global economic forces, state politics, racial formations, social movements, labor organization, and consumer cultures.

Geography students are expected to have diverse interests and independent thought. We welcome students from a variety of backgrounds, including those with professional experience who wish to deepen their education. Students are encouraged to range freely through the curriculum and to follow their inspiration where it leads, working in tandem with faculty advisers. Graduate students often use two or three faculty in equal measure (including faculty affiliates and members from

other departments) and collaborate with faculty on research, writing, and teaching. We expect students to read extensively, develop their research, technical and teaching skills, and produce well-crafted papers, projects, and dissertations.

Extensive information on the department can be found on the website. (<http://geography.berkeley.edu>)

Minor Requirements

Students in the College of Letters and Science may complete one or more minors of their choice, normally in a field both academically and administratively distinct from their major.

A minimum of five upper division courses, all taken for a letter grade. Students must maintain an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for all courses taken for the minor. A minimum of three courses must be taken on the Berkeley campus. Students must take at least one course in the physical area (109, 134, C136, C139, 140A, 140B, C141, 142, 143, 144, C145, 148, 171, 173B, 175, 180) and one course in the human area from among the courses listed in the range of Geography 109-175. Students may select courses in the range of 175-188, but several of those courses have limited enrollment and require permission of the instructor. Geography 197, 198, and 199 cannot be used to satisfy a minor program requirement. Students should contact the student services assistant to obtain an update to the courses listed above.

Graduate Program

The graduate program is directed toward the PhD. Students are admitted to graduate studies only in the fall semester. The GRE general examination is required. For admissions information contact Marjorie Ensor at (510)642-3904 or consult the department's (<http://geography.berkeley.edu>) website. (<http://geography.berkeley.edu/grad>)

The Doctoral Program

All students take Geography 200A-200B in the first year and must take at least eight units every semester (primarily in the form of appropriate graduate seminars) before taking the qualifying exam and advancing to candidacy.

By the end of the third year, students entering with a BA or BS only must hand in a paper that would be suitable, in length and in quality, for submission to an academic or scientific journal. The paper must be handed in and approved by the main adviser no later than a month before the qualifying exam.*

Prior to taking the Qualifying Examination, all students must prepare a preliminary dissertation prospectus of between five and ten pages for their exam committee.

The qualifying exam (the "orals") *must* be taken by the end of the third year, although it is recommended that students entering with a master's degree take it by the end of their second year. The exam is based on a discussion of three broad geographic fields built around bibliographies produced in consultation with the examining committee.** Before starting dissertation research, each student must have a dissertation prospectus meeting—during which the student discusses a written research proposal—with at least two members of the Exam Committee. The PhD dissertation is written under the supervision of a committee of three University faculty members, one of whom must be from outside the Department of Geography and a member of the Berkeley Academic Senate. Upon final acceptance of the dissertation, the degree of PhD is

awarded. Students are expected to complete the PhD by the end of their sixth year in the program.

**Students who do not hand in satisfactory papers can be terminated from the program and awarded terminal MA degrees.*

***Students who do not pass the qualifying exam can be terminated from the program and awarded terminal MA degrees.*

GEOG 1 Global Environmental Change 4 Units

Department: Geography

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture and 2 hours of Laboratory per week for 15 weeks. 7.5 hours of Lecture and 5 hours of Laboratory per week for 6 weeks.

The global pattern of climate, landforms, vegetation, and soils. The relative importance of natural and human-induced change, global warming, forest clearance, accelerated soil erosion, glacial/postglacial climate change and its consequences.

Instructor: Byrne

GEOG 4 World Peoples and Cultural Environments 4 Units

Department: Geography

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Laboratory per week for 15 weeks. 6 hours of Lecture and 2 hours of Discussion per week for 8 weeks. 7.5 hours of Lecture and 2.5 hours of Discussion per week for 6 weeks.

Historical and contemporary cultural-environmental patterns. The development and spread of cultural adaptations, human use of resources, transformation and creation of human environments.

GEOG 10 World Regions, Peoples, and States 4 Units

Department: Geography

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Discussion per week for 15 weeks.

This course will provide a framework for recognizing and analyzing the major distinctive regions of the world in comparative context. The most important interrelations between environment, economy, ethnicity, and the national identity and viability of states will be explored.

Instructor: Sayre

GEOG 20 Globalization 4 Units

Department: Geography

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Discussion per week for 15 weeks.

How and why are geographical patterns of employment, production, and consumption unstable in the contemporary world? What are the consequences of NAFTA, an expanded European Community, and post-colonial migration flows? How is global restructuring culturally reworked locally and nationally?

GEOG N20 Globalization 3 Units

Department: Geography

Course level: Undergraduate

Term course may be offered: Summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 5.5 hours of Lecture per week for 8 weeks. 7.5 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

Global economics and politics are undergoing a revolution. Transnational enterprises, international trade, and digitized finance are merging its formerly separate national economies. New regional and transnational treaties and institutions, from the EU and NAFTA to the IMF, the WTO and the World Bank, are arising to regulate the new global economy.

Power is being transferred from national states to these institutions, not always smoothly or in predictable ways. This course is about this medley