

Doing Geography

Geography 204 – Fall 2015

Illinois State University

Course Days and Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1:00 - 1:50 pm					Classroom: FHS 209	
Instructors:	RJ Rowley	Reecia Orzeck	John Kostelnick	Dagmar Budikova	Matt Himley	Jonathan Thayn
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Office:	FHS 207a	FSA 430	FHS 107	FHS 206C	FHS 207c	FHS 200a
Office Hours:	M, T, W, 1 – 2 pm; or by appt.	T, R, 11 am – 12:30 pm; or by appt.	M, W, 10 – 11 am; F 11 am – 12 pm; or by appt.	M, W, 2 – 2:50 pm; or by appt.	M, W, F, 9 – 10 am; or by appt.	M, W, 3 – 5 pm; or by appt.

COURSE PURPOSE AND GOALS: This course is a gateway course for geography majors and minors. As such it will introduce you to the fundamentals of geography from the various perspectives, methodologies, approaches with which you will engage in the major at ISU. Through the several units of study, taught in turn by geography faculty, students should be able to:

- understand the fundamentals of the major, its different emphases and requirements;
- get to know the professional background and experience of geography faculty;
- gain a broad understanding of the work of a geographer and how to go about that work; and
- exercise critical thinking and a spatial perspective in a variety of subdisciplines represented in our department; and
- appraise the consequences of environmental, cultural, ideological, and social forces that affect your life and others around the globe.

FORMAT: The course will be split into five sections, each taught by one of the instructors listed above. **Section one** (RJ Rowley) will consist of an exploration of what geography is, what you can expect in the geography major at ISU, and a short group project looking at cultural landscape analysis. **Section two** (Reecia Orzeck) will explore some of the primary and secondary sources geographers use to do research and will put such sources to work to produce social scientific knowledge. In **section three** (Dagmar Budikova/John Kostelnick) students will be introduced to climatology, GIScience, and various methods, including field work, used by geographers for collecting, mapping, and analyzing geographic data. **Section four** (Matt Himley) includes an exploration of nature-society geography and using the Internet to do geographic research. **Section five** (Jonathan Thayn) will include an overview of some additional activities for geography majors and an introduction to the environmental science side of the discipline. Each of the five sections will be evaluated individually by the faculty leading that three-week section. Each instructor will disseminate details on projects and grading at the appropriate time.

PREREQUISITES: Geography major/minor status or interest.

TEXTBOOK AND READINGS: No textbooks are required, but readings will be assigned by faculty for respective topics and sections.

LATE POLICY: Late assignments will be docked 10 percent for every school day they are late. After one week, late work will be given no credit.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Attendance during all scheduled classes is essential and expected. Each faculty will monitor your attendance and participation, which will figure into individual grade calculations (see individual faculty grading guidelines for particulars) at 2% for each section (that's 10% of your final grade). **Special circumstances** regarding your attendance and participation should be communicated to the faculty directing a particular section of the course before the class you miss, if possible.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE (DEVICE POLICY): During lecture time, and demo/lecture time in the lab, we follow a no-device policy. That means that, in general, laptops, tablets, cell phones, smart phones, etc., should not be used during class time. Of course, when technology is part of group work, lab exercises, fieldwork, or a class assignment, we will use the necessary devices and computer equipment.

GRADES: Your cumulative grade will be computed by combining, in equal weights, your grades from each of the five sections of the course, as detailed below. Note that individual grading criteria for each section will be explained by the respective faculty.

20% Section One (Rowley)

20% Section Two (Orzeck)

20% Section Three (Budikova/Kostelnick)

20% Section Four (Himley)

20% Section Five (Thayn)

The final grade will be based on a standard scale (90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, etc.).

INCOMPLETES AND WITHDRAWALS: No incomplete (I) grades will be issued for this course except in very extreme circumstances. If you choose to withdraw from the course, do so by **August 28** and a withdrawal grade will not be assigned. The last day to withdraw from a course and receive a withdrawal grade (WX) is **Oct. 9**.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is expected in all classroom endeavors. It is required of you, the student, and the instructor. Students are expected to be honest in their work, and placing his or her name on an academic exercise shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own thought, effort, and study. Students who have questions regarding academic integrity should refer to the Code of Student Conduct, B1 (Academic Integrity), which outlines unacceptable behaviors in such matters (<http://deanofstudents.illinoisstate.edu/students/get-help/crr/code-of-conduct.shtml>). In circumstances where cheating or plagiarism occurs, we may be required to refer a student(s) to Community Rights & Responsibilities for a violation of ISU's Code of Conduct. If you are uncertain about whether or not something is plagiarism or academically dishonest, please contact your professor. Penalties regarding academic dishonesty may include a required revision, a zero on that assignment/test, or a lowered grade for the course.

ASSISTANCE: We encourage you to contact us during our office hours (or other arranged time) to discuss any questions or problems that we can't solve or get through during class time. Before seeking information from for a class you missed, please see classmates for notes and then bring to us any further questions you have. **Seek help early and as often as you need.**

DISABILITIES: Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability should contact Disability Concerns at 350 Fell Hall, 309-438-5853, www.disabilityconcerns.ilstu.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS: (1) Please check your email regularly, as we will use that for any necessary communication. (2) Please be respectful when one of your classmates or your professor is talking during discussions. (3) Turn off cell phones and put away newspapers/non-related texts while in class. (4) Please see us with any concerns or problems. (5) We are more than willing to help with any questions over the material so see us during office hours or make an appointment at some other agreed upon time.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS: *This syllabus (especially the schedule below) is subject to change.*

	Week:	Date:	Topic:	Assignments:
Rowley, Introduction and Cultural Landscape	1	Aug. 17 (M)	Introduction/What is Geography?	(Fill in as assignments are made by faculty)
		Aug. 19 (W)	Who are the Geographers at ISU?/Note Taking	
		Aug. 21 (F)	Geography Concentrations at ISU/The Major	
	2	Aug. 24 (M)	RJ's Professional Background	
		Aug. 26 (W)	Planning your Geography Future at ISU	
		Aug. 28 (F)	Cultural Landscape Introduction	
	3	Aug. 31 (M)	Landscape Discussion, Practice, and Assignment	
		Sep. 2 (W)	Group work on Cultural Landscape	
		Sep. 4 (F)	Class Presentations and Paper Submission	
Orzeck, Sources, the Library, Discourse Analysis	4	Sep. 7 (M)	Labor Day--No Class	
		Sep. 9 (W)	Reecia's Professional Background, Research in Social Sciences	
		Sep. 11 (F)	Secondary Sources and Reference Management	
	5	Sep. 14 (M)	Gaps in the Literature and Discourse Analysis	
		Sep. 16 (W)	The Archives	
		Sep. 18 (F)	Group Projects	
	6	Sep. 21 (M)	Group Projects/Group Meetings with Professor	
		Sep. 23 (W)	Group Projects/Group Meetings with Professor	
		Sep. 25 (F)	Student Presentations and Project Submission	
Budikova/Kostelnick, Climatology, GIScience and Fieldwork	7	Sep. 28 (M)	Dagmar's Professional Background	
		Sep. 30 (W)	Climatology and Geography	
		Oct. 2 (F)	Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning and GIScience	
	8	Oct. 5 (M)	Mapping Assignment	
		Oct. 7 (W)	Mapping Assignment	
		Oct. 9 (F)	John's Prof. Background; Mapping in a Globalized World	
	9	Oct. 12 (M)	Fieldwork for Geographers; Field Mapping Project	
		Oct. 14 (W)	Field Mapping Project	
		Oct. 16 (F)	Student Opportunities; Project Submission	
Himley, Nature-Society Geography, Internet Research	10	Oct. 19 (M)	Matt's Professional Background	
		Oct. 21 (W)	Nature-Society Geography and Political Ecology	
		Oct. 23 (F)	Research in Political Ecology	
	11	Oct. 26 (M)	Engaged Political Ecology	
		Oct. 28 (W)	Internet-based Research	
		Oct. 30 (F)	Group Projects/Group Meetings with Professor	
	12	Nov. 2 (M)	Writing in Geography	
		Nov. 4 (W)	Group Project Peer Review	
		Nov. 6 (F)	Discussion and Submission of Group Projects	
Thayn, Other Geography Activities, Environmental Science	13	Nov. 9 (M)	Jonathan's Professional Background	
		Nov. 11 (W)	Other Activities for Geographers	
		Nov. 13 (F)	Environmental Science in ISU Geography	
	14	Nov. 16 (M)	Environmental Science in ISU Geography	
		Nov. 18 (W)	Remote Sensing	
		Nov. 20 (F)	Biogeography	
	15	Nov. 23-27	Thanksgiving Break--No Classes	
	16	Nov. 30 (M)	Basic Modeling	
		Dec. 2 (W)	Basic Probabilities	
		Dec. 4 (F)	Excel Basics	
		Dec. 7-11	Final Exam Week	