

# Geography

## College of Arts & Sciences

The Department of Geography offers both M.A. and Ph.D. programs. Emphasis is placed on theoretical and conceptual training in the student's chosen field of interest. A variety of philosophical and methodological approaches are encouraged. The primary objective of the graduate program is to prepare students for research-oriented careers in universities, government, and industry. Emphasis in graduate seminars is on developing the background and skills necessary for original contributions to geographic knowledge. The Department is known for high quality research and graduate education in human and physical geography. In accordance with our strategic plan, and funded in part through our RCTF designation, we have also recently focused, on building a research cluster in Earth Surface Systems as well as a program in critical cartography/GIS., Program strengths include close faculty/student interaction, flexibility in designing an appropriate plan of study, and research training in seminar environments. Emphasis at both the M.A. and Ph.D. levels is placed on theoretical and methodological training and is closely integrated with both breadth and depth in substantive literatures. Student research also is empirically rich, with data regularly acquired through off-campus fieldwork. Members of the faculty are committed to assisting students in disseminating their research through publications in professional journals and presentations at conferences, and in obtaining external funding. Graduate students also gain valuable experience as instructors in undergraduate courses. Rounding out graduate students' experiences is their active participation in departmental governance and service on departmental committees.

Faculty and student research in the Department focuses on interrelated thematic clusters. Research seminars are organized around topics relevant to these clusters. The thematic content of seminars varies in accordance with the current interests of graduate students and faculty. The research clusters we presently feature are:

- **Cultural and Social Geographies:** Interpretation and analysis of cultural landscapes and the built environment; space and representation; the political economy of landscape production; racialized landscapes; historical geographies of settlement; questions of space and power relating to race, class, gender and their intersection; historic preservation; US roadscapes; regional imagery; popular culture; community, identity and belonging; diasporic identities; Islamic/Muslim cultural practices in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States; health care, disease, and society; the geography of aging and the life course; poverty and social policy; human behavior in space and time; spatial structure of social networks.
- **Critical Mapping and GIS:** Social implications of geospatial technologies; critical GIS/cartography; histories of cartography and GIS; public participation GIS, and community-based GIS; volunteered geographic information and neogeographies; mapping 2.0 and the geoweb; spatialities of user-generated content; geographies of the Internet; digital/spatial humanities. Much research in this area is organized through the New Mappings Collaboratory.
- **Development Studies:** Policies and practices of development; political economy perspectives on development; anti-development and postcolonial theory; household survival strategies; environmental management and sustainable development.
- **Economic Geography:** The political economy of urban and regional economic change; globalization, and in particular global finance: information and telecommunications, especially the economic geography of the internet; resource extractive industries; uneven development and spatial inequalities; multinational corporations, foreign direct investment, global production and commodity chains; economic clusters; alternative economies (including Islamic banking); the geography of labor

and employment; labor migration and migrant labor; theorizing the social character of economic phenomena.

- Political Ecology: On the human geography side: critical theories of nature, complexity and resilience; sustainability, the politics of environmental management and conservation policy; mega-engineering projects; environment and resource extraction; human-nonhuman relations; trade, markets, and environment; fair trade networks. Physical geographic approaches address issues related to: human influences on fluvial and soil geomorphic processes, weathering, and biogeographic patterns; bioclimatology and human climate change; urban weather modification; hydrology; earth surface systems modeling; remote sensing and geospatial applications.
- Geomorphology: Fluvial geomorphology, surface hydrology, and river science; soil geomorphology and pedology; rock weathering; cultural geomorphology; fluvial-karst interactions; applied geomorphology; stone conservation and preservation; complexity and nonlinearity in geosciences; coastal geomorphology and ecology (particularly in dunes and salt marshes); spatial variability of soils and landforms; landscape evolution.
- Biogeomorphology: Reciprocal interactions between geomorphological and biological processes; coevolution of ecosystems, soils, and landforms; soils and landforms as extended composite phenotypes and products of ecological engineering; biological weathering; bioturbation; vegetation-landform interactions in salt marshes and coastal dunes; fluvial biogeomorphology; forest biogeomorphology.
- Biogeography and Landscape Ecology: Bioclimatology; ecosystem responses to climate and environmental change; evolutionary theory; landscape phenology; species distribution modeling; ecological engineering and niche construction; quantitative landscape ecology; biophysical remote sensing; disturbance; coastal and forest ecosystems; scale and scaling theory.
- Political Geography: Questions of states, territory, and law; citizenship, faith and belonging; migration and immigration; transnationalism; post-colonial and imperial geographies; Islamist politics; feminist geopolitics; political economy of environmental movements; political economy of globalization discourses and practices; the surveillant state; geographical intelligence; urban governance; the politics of urban and regional development.
- Social Theory: Theories of human spatiality; marxist, neo-marxist, and post-marxist theory; postmodernism and poststructuralism; social ontology; practice theory; continental philosophy, feminist theory; queer theory; identity theory; race theory; geographic thought and society; geography and psychoanalysis; science and technology studies; topology; posthumanism.
- Urban Geography: The local politics of urban development; urban social fragmentation; the politics of sprawl and urban planning; urban property markets; citizenship and public space; urban space and identities relating to 'race', gender, class, and migrants and immigrants; urban historical geography; urban landscapes; racialized landscapes; historical preservation labor migration; informal employment; urban economic development.

Faculty members have regional expertise in South and Southeast Asia, Japan, the Himalayas, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East (particularly Turkey), the Central Asian republics, Western Europe, Canada, East Africa (Tanzania), and the U.S. (particularly the Southeast).

In addition, students have access to faculty with expertise in a variety of methodological areas including field methods; qualitative research methodologies (such as interviews; focus groups; critical ethnography; experiential methods; textual and visual methods and deconstruction) quantitative methods (especially multivariate statistics, spatial statistics, and simulation modelling; as well as GIS and remote sensing methods (such as LIDAR, participatory GIS; digital image processing; and crowd-sourced data collection).

### **Admission Requirements**

In addition to the basic graduate school requirements (see the Graduate School for application procedures), the following materials should be sent by e-mail to the Department of Geography (details of

the application procedure can be found on our Departmental website):

- Three letters of reference from persons who can evaluate your potential for success in our graduate program
- Statement of your goals and objectives in which you discuss your areas of scholarly interest, any research directions you may wish to pursue, and how your interests and goals fit with the University of Kentucky's graduate program in Geography (about two pages, double-spaced)
- A curriculum vitae (if available)
- 1 official or unofficial copy of all transcripts from prior universities or other institutions

Once all these materials have arrived in the Department of Geography, the application is reviewed by the faculty members on the Department's Graduate Committee. The committee's evaluation does not place emphasis on any one element of the application rather the combination of elements must convince the Graduate Committee members that the applicant has great potential for success in our program.

The Department welcomes students with undergraduate concentrations in related fields. In some cases students without an academic background in Geography may be required to complete additional course work so as to gain appropriate foundational knowledge.

There is no official deadline for applications. However, applicants are encouraged to submit all application material before January 15th to ensure consideration for admission for the following fall semester. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis, but decisions about financial aid usually take place in March and April.

### **Degree Requirements**

Applicants for the Ph.D. in geography must conform to the general requirements of the Graduate School as set forth in the first part of this Bulletin. Requirements in the Ph.D. program consist of 1) core courses (GEO 600, 705 or other advanced methods course, 702) in the theory and methodology of geography; 2) seminars, independent study and directed research in one of the research foci noted above or in cognate disciplines; 4) a written and oral qualifying examination in theory, methodology, and the student's selected topical focus; and 5) a dissertation based on original research. A program designed to meet the professional academic goals of each doctoral candidate is outlined in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and the candidate's Advisory Committee.

Applicants for the M.A. degree in geography follow a broadly based program which consists of: 1) required courses (GEO 600 and 702); 2) elective courses in geography and cognate disciplines according to the student's academic goals and career objectives; and 3) the completion of a master's thesis (Plan A). The non-thesis Ph.D.-preparatory program (Plan B) consists of: 1) required courses (GEO 600, 700 or other advanced methods course, 702); 2) elective courses in geography and cognate disciplines according to the student's academic goals and career objectives; 3) a written examination; 4) a publication-quality research paper; and 5) an oral examination. The Plan A option requires 24 credit hours, the Plan B, 30 credit hours.

## **Graduate Courses**

GEO 405G	Cartographic Production And Design	(3)
GEO 406G	Field Studies	(1-9)
GEO 409G	Geographic Information Systems And Science: Fundamentals	(3)
GEO 430G	Physical Geography For Teachers	(3)
GEO 442G	Political Geography	(3)
GEO 451G	Fluvial Forms And Processes	(3)
GEO 452G	World Geography For Teachers	(3)
GEO 470G	America's Cultural Geographies	(3)
GEO 475G	Medical Geography	(3)

GEO 485G	Urban Planning And Sustainability	(3)
GEO 490G	American Landscapes	(3)
GEO 491g	Japanese Landscapes	(3)
GEO 505	Practicum In Cartography	(3)
GEO 506	Introduction To Computer Cartography	(3)
GEO 509	Workshop In Geospatial Technologies	(3)
GEO 530	Biogeography And Conservation (Same As Bio 530)	(3)
GEO 542	Political Geography	(3)
GEO 544	Human Population Dynamics	(3)
GEO 545	Transportation Geography	(3)
GEO 546	Tourism And Recreation Geography	(3)
GEO 547	Geography Of Information And Communications	(3)
GEO 551	Japanese Multinational Corporations (Same As Jpn 551)	(3)
GEO 560	Independent Work In Geography	(3)
GEO 565	Topics In Geography	(3)
GEO 570	Landscape Ecology And Natural Resources	(3)
GEO 585	Aging And Environment (Same As Fam 585/Grn 585)	(3)
GEO 600	Introduction To Methods In Geography	(3)
GEO 609	Giscience Fundamentals	(3)
GEO 610	Analytical Methods In Geography	(3)
GEO 619	Remote Senseing Fundamentals	(3)
GEO 655	Special Study Of Systematic Geography	(3)
GEO 700	Advanced Analytical Methods In Geography	(3)
GEO 702	Concepts In Geography	(3)
GEO 705	Advanced Geographic Methods	(3)
GEO 706	Advanced Field Studies	(1-9)
GEO 707	Development Of Geographic Thought	(3)
GEO 708	Geographic Information Systems Research Methodologies	(3)
GEO 711	Cultural Studies And Geography	(3)
GEO 712	Development Studies And Geography	(3)
GEO 713	Economic Geography	(3)
GEO 714	Political Geography	(3)
GEO 715	Geography And Social Theory	(3)
GEO 717	Urban Geography	(3)
GEO 720	Regional Studies	(3)
GEO 721	Topical Seminar In Physical Geography	(3)
GEO 722	Social Geography	(3)
GEO 731	Earth Surface Systems	(3)
GEO 740	Research Internship	(1-6)
GEO 741	Teaching Practicum	(1)
GEO 742	Future Faculty In Geography	(1)
GEO 743	Research Proposals And Grant Writing	(1)
GEO 748	Master's Thesis Research	(0)
GEO 749	Dissertation Research	(0)
GEO 767	Dissertation Residency Credit	(2)
GEO 768	Residence Credit For The Master's Degree	(1-6)
GEO 769	Residence Credit For The Doctor's Degree	(0-12)
GEO 772	Special Research Problems In Geography	(1-6)