GEOGRAPHY

One of the social and behavioral sciences disciplines in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the geography program investigates how people in different places interact with the environment and how the environment influences their lives. Geography majors understand society and environmental dynamics, the significance of scale, the uneven distribution of resources and levels of development, and the uses of geospatial techniques, including GIS (geographic information system) and remote sensing.

UNDERGRADUATE

Bachelor’s program
• Bachelor of Arts with a major in geography (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/geography/ba)

Minors
• Minor in geography (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/geography/minor)
• Minor in geographic information systems (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/geography/minor-geographic-information-systems)

GRADUATE

Master’s program
• Master of Arts in the field of geography (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/geography/ma)

CERTIFICATE
• Graduate certificate in geographical information systems (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/geography/certificate-geographical-information-systems)

FACULTY

Professor M.D. Price

Associate Professors L.M. Benton-Short (Chair), E. Chacko, R. Engstrom, D. Rain, N. Shiklomanov

Assistant Professors M. Keeley, M. Mann, D. Streletskiy

Teaching Assistant Professor J.P. Dymond

Professorial Lecturers I. Cheung, L. Marcus, W. Reisser

Lecturers N. Cowan, D. Gopalakrishna

COURSES

Explanation of Course Numbers
• Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
• Those in the 2000-4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work
• Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students
• The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

GEOG 1000. Dean’s Seminar. 3 Credits.

GEOG 1001. Introduction to Human Geography. 0-3 Credits.
A systematic survey of human geography; spatial perspectives on demographic, social, cultural, economic, and political changes around the world.

GEOG 1002. Introduction to Physical Geography. 4 Credits.
A systematic survey of environmental geography; perspectives on environments and human ecology, including ecosystems and their use, and resource geography. Laboratory fee.

GEOG 1003. Society and Environment. 0-3 Credits.
An introduction to the dynamic relationship between society and the physical environment, with focus on population, natural resources, environmental degradation, pollution, and conservation.

GEOG 2104. Introduction to Cartography and GIS. 3 Credits.
Fundamentals of cartography; geographic data structure and information systems. Laboratory fee.

GEOG 2105. Techniques of Spatial Analysis. 3 Credits.
Nature of geographical inquiry and analytical methods used in the study of spatial processes and patterns. Laboratory fee.

GEOG 2107. Introduction to Remote Sensing. 3 Credits.
Remote-sensing techniques using digital satellite imagery and aerial photography. Application to rural and urban settings, vegetation, and environmental monitoring. Laboratory fee. Prerequisite: GEOG 2105 or permission of instructor.

GEOG 2108. Weather and Climate. 3 Credits.
The elements and controls of weather and climate. Topics include energy and water balances, atmospheric general circulation, and severe weather events. Prerequisite: GEOG 1002.

GEOG 2110. Climate and Human Ecology. 3 Credits.
Interrelationships between human activities and the climatic environment. Emphasis on global climatic change. Prerequisite: GEOG 1002.

GEOG 2120. World Regions: Problem/Prospect. 3 Credits.
World cultural regions and the impacts of globalization; the environmental human conditions that undergird current problems and future prospects.

GEOG 2124. Urban Transportation. 3 Credits.
The relationship between freight and passenger transportation systems and urban land use patterns and structure. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001.
GEOG 2125. Transportation Systems and Networks. 3 Credits.
The structure and evolution of transportation networks and their impact on regional development.

GEOG 2127. Population Geography. 3 Credits.
Patterns of world population; factors contributing to population pressures, growth, and migrations.

GEOG 2128. Geomorphology. 3 Credits.
Understanding the nature, origin, and development of landforms in the field and through the use of maps and aerial photos. Prerequisite: GEOG 1002.

GEOG 2133. People, Land, and Food. 3 Credits.
Domestication and dispersal of plants and animals; development of agricultural systems; spatial disparities in world food production, demand, and distribution.

GEOG 2134. Energy Resources. 3 Credits.
Analysis of regional patterns and trends in consumption and production of energy resources. Examination of international energy linkages and energy policies of selected nations. Prerequisite: GEOG 1002.

GEOG 2134W. Energy Resources. 3 Credits.
Analysis of regional patterns and trends in consumption and production of energy resources. Examination of international energy linkages and energy policies of selected nations. Prerequisite: GEOG 1002.

GEOG 2136. Water Resources. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the global spatial patterns, development, use, and quality of water resources. Prerequisite: GEOG 1002.

GEOG 2137. Environmental Hazards. 3 Credits.
Examination of environmental hazards with emphasis on the use of geographic information systems.

GEOG 2140. Cities and Societies. 3 Credits.
The design and function of cities in the United States; contemporary, economic, political, and social change. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001.

GEOG 2140W. Urban Geography. 3 Credits.
The design and function of cities in the United States; contemporary, economic, political, and social change. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001.

GEOG 2141. Cities in the Developing World. 3 Credits.
Urbanization processes, problems, and management in the developing world. Focus on urban location, politics, housing, services, employment, and environmental issues. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001.

GEOG 2144. Explorations in Historical Geography. 3 Credits.
Examination of selected themes in the cultural geography of the United States over the course of its history, in relation to an overview of the historical geography of the country. Same as AMST 2144.

GEOG 2145. The Cultural Landscape. 3 Credits.
The distribution and dynamics of cultural patterns around the world; analysis of culture as a process.

GEOG 2145W. Cultural Geography. 3 Credits.
The distribution and dynamics of cultural patterns around the world; analysis of culture as a process.

GEOG 2146. Political Geography. 3-4 Credits.
Interrelationships among the human and physical environment and political systems; the organization of political territories.

GEOG 2147. Military Geography. 3 Credits.
An examination of environmental and locational factors and their impact on military planning and operations.

GEOG 2148. Economic Geography. 3 Credits.
Locational influences on and spatial variation of the development of manufacturing, services, trade, and finance. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001.

GEOG 2196. Field Methods in Geography. 3 Credits.
For geography and environmental studies majors in their junior or senior year. Field research in human and physical geography. Students participate in several field exercises and develop their skills of observation, field mapping, repeat photography, and surveys. Laboratory fee.

GEOG 3106. Intermediate Geographic Information Systems. 3 Credits.
Principles of geographic information systems and their use in spatial analysis and information management. Laboratory fee. Prerequisite: GEOG 2104 and GEOG 2105.

GEOG 3120. World Regional Geography. 3 Credits.
World cultural regions and the impacts of globalization; the environmental human conditions that undergird current problems and future prospects.

GEOG 3132. Environmental Quality and Management. 3 Credits.
The evolution of environmental management philosophies and tools. The global distribution, utilization, and degradation of natural resources. Prerequisite: GEOG 1002.

GEOG 3143. Urban Sustainability. 3 Credits.
Relationship between urban spaces and the environment through the lens of sustainability. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001.

GEOG 3143W. Urban Sustainability. 3 Credits.
Relationship between urban spaces and the environment through the lens of sustainability. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001.

GEOG 3154. Geography of the Middle East and North Africa. 3 Credits.
Cultural and physical regional patterns of the Middle East and North Africa. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001 or GEOG 1002.

GEOG 3161. Geography of Latin America. 3 Credits.
Examination of spatial characteristics of physical and cultural phenomena in Latin America.

GEOG 3164. The Geography of Africa. 3 Credits.
Cultural and physical patterns of Africa. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001 or GEOG 1002.
GEOG 3165. Geography of South Asia. 3 Credits.
An examination of the complex interplay of environmental, economic, sociocultural, and political factors in South Asia and their effects at the local and regional levels.

GEOG 3189. Readings in Geography I. 1-12 Credits.
Prerequisite: 12 credit hours of geography and permission of instructor.

GEOG 3190. Readings in Geography II. 1-12 Credits.
Continuation of GEOG 3189. Prerequisite: 12 credit hours of geography and permission of instructor.

GEOG 3193. Environmental Law and Policy. 3 Credits.
An introduction to selected pieces of major environmental legislation. The role of the courts and bureaucracy in implementing and interpreting legislation and their impacts on decision making. Designed for students with no training in law. Prerequisites: None.

GEOG 3198. Special Topics. 3 Credits.
Consideration of geographic aspects of topical and future problems of society. May be repeated for credit provided that the topic differs. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001 or GEOG 1002.

GEOG 3810. Planning Cities. 3 Credits.
An examination of historical and contemporary trends and dynamics in urban planning in the United States and abroad. Same as AMST 3810. Prerequisite: GEOG 1001.

GEOG 4195. Proseminar in Geographic Thought. 3 Credits.
For students completing the major in geography. Development of geographic thought, theories, and methodologies; geographic curricula. Prerequisite: permission of the advisor.

GEOG 4195W. Proseminar in Geographic Thought. 3 Credits.
For students completing the major in geography. Development of geographic thought, theories, and methodologies; geographic curricula. Prerequisite: permission of the advisor.

GEOG 4199. Internship. 1-3 Credits.
Fieldwork, internship, or other controlled assignment with an agency or organization engaged in work in applied geography. Prerequisite: 12 credit hours of geography courses and permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 6 credits.

GEOG 4309. GIS for Emergency Management. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the theoretical principles of geographic information systems and examination of its history, current uses, and potential for emergency management through case studies, guest lectures, and hands-on training on various GIS products. Prerequisites: GEOG 3106.

GEOG 6201. Geographic Thought. 3 Credits.
For first-year master's students, a survey of geographic thought and theories. Emphasis on contemporary issues in geography and on the development of research.

GEOG 6207. Urban Planning and Development. 3 Credits.
Selected problems in urban and regional planning: applications of zoning, environmental controls, and other techniques for achieving sustainable urban development.

GEOG 6208. Land Use and Urban Transportation Planning. 3 Credits.
Relationships between land use and the movement of goods and people. Examination of land use and transportation planning principles, issues, and techniques. Roles of public and private interests in land use and transportation planning and management.

GEOG 6219. Seminar: Climatology. 3 Credits.
Inadvertent climate modification due to urbanization and impacts on environmental and human health.

GEOG 6220. Seminar: Climatic Change. 3 Credits.
Examination of natural and human-induced climatic change, at global, regional, and local scales.

GEOG 6222. Seminar: Resources and the Environment. 3 Credits.
Topics related to the spatial variations and interrelationships of resources and the environment; applications of geographic information systems and remote sensing. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

GEOG 6223. Seminar: Population and Health. 3 Credits.
Interrelationships between population characteristics and dynamics and impacts on human health.

GEOG 6224. Seminar: Political Geography. 3 Credits.
Examination of political factors in location theory and analysis of the nature of political territories and conflict.

GEOG 6225. Seminar: Transportation and Development. 3 Credits.
Transportation and communication in the organization of space.

GEOG 6230. Seminar: Environmental Issues in Development. 3 Credits.
A consideration of the geographical dimensions of the links between development and the environment.

GEOG 6232. Migration and Development. 3 Credits.
GEOG 6243. Seminar: Urban Geography. 3 Credits.
Topics concerning social, political, economic, and environmental issues in U.S. cities.

GEOG 6244. Urban Sustainability. 3 Credits.
Urban sustainability and environmental issues in developed and developing cities.
GEOG 6245. Water Resources Policy and Management. 3 Credits.
In this course, we will examine the history and practice of water resources policy and management in the context of integrated water resource management. Thus, we will address management issues and policy responses to such topics as the impacts of urban and agricultural runoff on water quality; provision of wastewater and water quality services; water supply, water allocation and scarcity; and modification of water bodies for the purposes of flood control, hydropower, navigation, and recreation. In addition, non-human water requirements: e.g. for fish and wildlife, as well as the need to preserve the natural ecosystems that provide and sustain water resources will be central to each discussion. We will examine management and policy issues in the United States and worldwide at a range of scales: local, state, federal and international. In the course of these examinations, students will gain an understanding of how current issues such as growing populations, increasing affluence, and climate change may impact water resource policy and management.

GEOG 6250. Geographical Perspectives on Development. 3 Credits.
Theory and debates surrounding economic development in a globalizing world, with case studies.

GEOG 6261. Geographical Perspectives on Latin America. 3 Credits.
Natural resources, the environment, and population dynamics through time.

GEOG 6262. Geographical Perspectives on the Middle East. 3 Credits.
Examination of selected topics related to political, economic, social, cultural, and geographic patterns and processes in the region.

GEOG 6265. Geography of Russia and Its Neighbors. 3 Credits.
A deeper understanding of Post-Soviet geography with a focus on the physical and environmental characteristics of the region, geography of natural and human resources, ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, characteristics of economic and political regions, and recent geopolitical developments.

GEOG 6290. Principles of Demography. 3 Credits.
Introduction to basic demographic perspectives and data; methods for analysis of population size, distribution, and composition; determinants and consequences of population trends. Departmental prerequisite waived. Same as ECON 6290/ SOC 6290/ STAT 6290.

GEOG 6291. Methods of Demographic Analysis. 3 Credits.
Basic methods for analysis of mortality, natality, and migration; population estimates and projections; estimation of demographic measures from incomplete data. Departmental prerequisite waived. Same as ECON 6291/ SOC 6291/ STAT 6291.

GEOG 6293. Special Topics. 3 Credits.
Consideration of geographic aspects of topical social or environmental problems. May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs.

GEOG 6295. Research. 1-12 Credits.
May be repeated for credit.

GEOG 6299. Internship. 1-3 Credits.

GEOG 6300. Geography Capstone Internship. 3 Credits.
This course will provide hands-on experiential learning in a local government agency, NGO, or corporation while allowing the candidate to use his/her geographical skills in a real world setting. Restricted to Geography graduate students only. Prerequisites: GEOG 6201.

GEOG 6304. Geographical Information Systems I. 3 Credits.
Fundamentals of cartography, geographic data structure and geographic information systems.

GEOG 6305. Geospatial Statistics. 3 Credits.
Nature of geographical inquiry and the analytical and statistical methods used in the study of spatial processes and patterns.

GEOG 6306. Geographical Information Systems II. 3 Credits.

GEOG 6307. Digital Image Processing. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the theoretical, technical and applied aspects of remote sensing as a tool for monitoring and managing earth resources. This course will provide students with the knowledge for analyzing and applying remotely sensed data for problem solving as it applies to land cover.

GEOG 6309. GIS for Emergency Management. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the theoretical principles of geographic information systems and will examine its history, current uses and potential for emergency management through case studies, guest lectures and hands-on training on various GIS products. Prerequisites: GEOG 6304.

GEOG 6998. Thesis Research. 3 Credits.

GEOG 6999. Thesis Research. 3 Credits.