

GEOG-301 Geographic Thought

Course Brief:

This course surveys the major traditions of geographic thought from the early 20th century to the present. Attending to both 'human' and 'physical' perspectives in the discipline - as well as those that blur the lines between the social and natural sciences - we will explore the changing, contested nature of geographic knowledge in terms of its situated, historical contexts and its numerous reformulations in contemporary practice.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course provides students with the background for understanding their research in terms of the philosophies and methods, and the convergences and departures that constitute the intellectual history of the discipline in general, and Geography at Madison in particular.

Course Contents:

I. Development of Geographic Thought through the History.

- i. A general survey of the geographical work of Greeks and Romans.
- ii. Muslim contribution to Geographic Thought.
- iii. European Renaissance.
- iv. Geographic Thought in the Humboldt and Ritter era.
- v. Ideas of Ratzel and Vidal de la Blache and their influence on European and American Geographic Thought.

II. Development of a Scientific Geography

- i. Scientific geographic approach as suggested by W.M. Davis, E.C. Semple, H.H. Barrows, and Carl O. Sauer.
- ii. The establishment of geographic paradigms, concepts, ideas, theories, laws, and methodology.
- iii. The development and use of quantitative techniques.

III. The Environmental Challenge

- i. Nature of Eco-Systems
- ii. The Global Environment
- iii. Environmental risks and uncertainties

IV. Human Ecological Response

- i. The Human Population
- ii. Resources and Conservation
- iii. Our role in changing the face of the earth
- iv. Cultural fission: towards regional divergence

V. Regional Mosaics

- i. Cultural Fission: Toward Regional Divergence
- ii. World Cultural Regions: The Emerging Mosaic
- iii. Spatial diffusion: Toward regional convergence

VI. The Area-analysis Tradition in Geography

- i. Urbanization: Origin Pattern and Factors of Urbanization
- ii. City Chains and hierarchies
- iii. Territories and boundaries
- iv. Rich countries and poor
- v. Inequalities within countries

VII. New Directions in Geography

- i. Computers in Geography
 - a. Automated Cartography
 - b. GIS
 - c. Remote Sensing
 - d. GPS
- ii. Geography of Tourism and Recreation

Books Recommended:

- Dikshit R. K. (1998) Geographical Thought Prentice Hall, India.
- Brown, E.H. (1980) Geography, Yesterday and Tomorrow, Oxford University Press London.
- Hagett, P., (1978) Geography a Modern Synthesis, Third edition. New York.
- Chorley, R. J. (1973) Directions in Geography, Methuen and Co. Ltd. London.
- Blif, Harm, J. ed., (1971) Geography, Regions and Concepts, John Wiley and Sons, Inc. US.A.
- Dickinson, R.E. (1969) The Makers of Modern Geography, Frederick A. Praegar Inc. New York.
- Board, C. et. al., (ed.), (1969) Progress in Geography, Vol. 1, Edward Arnold Publishers Ltd. London.
- Freeman, T.W., (1961) Hundred Years of Geography, London.
- Hartshorne, R., (1949) The Nature of Geography, N.T. Association of American Geographers New York.
- Ahmad, Nafis, (1947) Muslim Contribution to Geography, Lahore.
- Dickinson, R.E., and Howardth, C.J.R., (1933) The making of Geography, Clarendon Press Oxford.
- Ahmad, K.S., (1964) "Geography through the Ages", PGR 1964.