

TRANSMITTAL

DATE: April 22, 2004

TO: Rebecca Scott
Senate Council

FROM: Lissa Holland
Graduate Council

The Graduate Council met on April 8, 2004 and approved the following:

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Geography

Geography – Change in Ph.D.

The requested course changes are in order to broaden our students' methodological preparation and to increase their level of professionalization prior to graduation. GEO 610 is a broad based intro to geographic methods that replaces GEO 600. GEO 710 is dropped in favor of individual student/advisor consultation and the introduction of GEO 743, grant writing. GEO 741, 742, 743 are one credit-hour professionalization courses in preparing future faculty, teaching practicum, and grant writing.

Geography – Change in M.A.

The requested course change (GEO 605 replaces 600) will broaden our students' methodological preparation. GEO 600 focused narrowly on spatial statistics. GEO 605 is a broader introduction to geographic methods. GEO 710 (Proposal Writing) has been dropped in favor of individual consultation. MA students considering academic careers will be encouraged to take a new, one-credit hour course in grant writing (GEO 743). Students in both Plan A and Plan B will be required to take GEO 707 (History of Geographic Thought), which serves as a theoretical and methodological introduction to the discipline in changing historical-geographical contexts.

REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM

Program: Geography

Department/Division: MA in Geography

College: Arts and Sciences Bulletin pp _____

Degree Title (Old): _____ Major (New): _____

CIP Code: _____ HEGIS Code: _____

Accrediting Agency (if applicable): _____

I. CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1. Number of transfer credits allowed (Graduate School limit: 9 hours or 25% of coursework)	_____	_____
2. Residence requirement (if applicable)	_____	_____
3. Language(s) and/or skill(s) required	_____	_____
4. Termination criteria	_____	_____
5. Plan A requirements*	GEO 600,702,710	GEO 605.702.707
6. Plan B requirements*	GEO 600.702.707.710. 700 (or other advanced methods)	GEO 605,702,707,700 (or other advanced methods)
7. Distribution of course levels required (At least one half must be at 600+ level & two thirds must be in organized courses)	_____	_____
8. Required courses (if applicable)	_____	_____
9. Required distribution of courses within program (if applicable)	_____	_____
10. Final examination requirements	_____	_____

* If there is only one plan for the degree, plans involving a thesis (or the equivalent in studio work, etc.) should be discussed under Plan A and those not involving a thesis should be discussed under Plan B.

NOTE: To the extent that proposed changes in 5, 6 or 8 above involve the addition of courses in other programs, please submit correspondence from the other program(s) pertaining to the availability of such courses to your students.




11. Any other requirements not covered above

II. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S)

If the rationale involves accreditation requirements, please include specific references to those requirements. Course change (GEO 605 replaces 600) will broaden our students' methodological preparation. GEO 600 focused narrowly on spatial statistics. GEO 605 is a broader introduction to geographic methods. GEO 710 (Proposal Writing) has been dropped in favor of individual consultation. MA students considering academic careers will be encouraged to take a new, one-credit hour course in grant writing (GEO 743). Students in both Plan A and Plan B will be required to take GEO 707 (History of Geographic Thought), which serves as a theoretical and methodological introduction to the discipline in changing historical-geographical contexts.

Signatures of Approval:


Department Chair
David Leep
Dean of the College

~~10-28-03~~
Date
FEB 06 2004

Date
NOV 21 2003

Date of Notice to the Faculty

*Undergraduate Council

Date

*University Studies

Date

*Graduate Council

Date

Academic Council for the Medical Center

Date

Senate Council

Date of Notice to University Senate

*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL

January 20, 2004

Dear Sung Hee Kim,

Thanks for meeting with me over questions regarding the proposed curriculum changes for the Geography graduate program.

Please allow me to address your committee's concerns. I will do so by: (A) briefly explicating the context of these changes, before; (B) addressing other, specific questions.

(A) There is a concern that the curriculum changes will mean that our students are not gaining sufficient methodological training. I note that the primary rationale listed in the 'Request for Change' core sheet is "to broaden our students' methodological preparation" and I hasten to add these changes will not, simultaneously, somehow make our students' methodological preparation 'shallower' or 'narrower' or will somehow leave students 'up in the air.' I suspect this might not be clear in the course change proposal for 2 reasons:

1. *The forms do not make clear the breadth of our students' methodological training, or the depth of their training through the advanced methods course required of them.* Our program is known for its unusual level of methodological training – four courses, more than our benchmarks. Through these four courses, students: are introduced to the ontological and epistemological development and foundations of geographic thought and methodologies since the enlightenment (GEO 707); explore by reading original research the evolution of a broad range of contemporary research methodologies (paradigms) in Geography (GEO 702); are given a broad introduction to the range of methods presently used in the discipline (GEO 610); and are required to focus their methodological training as relevant to their own research in an advanced methods course approved by the advisor and the DGS (GEO 700 or some other advanced methods course). The aim of this sequence is twofold: to provide a *critical perspective* on methodology over the *long duree* (since the Enlightenment) as well as leading students toward *proficiency in methods* for prosecuting their own research. In this context, GEO 610 simply replaces GEO 600, which was a rather narrower introduction to spatial statistics alone, and did not account for other, mainstream epistemologies and methods as practiced in Geography especially over the past twenty years.

2. *There is some misunderstanding of the role GEO 710 previously played in our program.* The Bulletin notes that GEO 710 is a "... review of methodological issues in geographic research, including theoretical foundations, data structures, research design, analysis, and writing geographic reports." We have come to see this course as largely redundant. All of these topics are already covered in depth through (required) GEO 702, 707, 610, and 700/advanced methods requirement. What is left are *some* elements of

research design and geographic reports. We feel that these are best covered (and our students best served) by leaving *specific* research design questions to the thesis/dissertation proposal (which is required of our PhD students before qualifying exams may be taken; and requires a full-committee defense), and by requiring a new course, GEO 743, which will introduce students to the increasingly important world of proposal design in the context of (external) grant writing and submission.

(B) Specific questions as communicated to me:

1. Regarding the concern that GEO 610 does not provide our students “any recognizable fluency in the methods they will expound...” with an example drawn from the King debate (from the *Annals, AAG*) that is part of the syllabus: I note that the aim of GEO 610 is not to make our student *proficient* in spatial statistics or statistical analysis or, in this case, ecological inference. Rather, the aim is to provide students with a broad introduction to the *kinds of methods* utilized in the (increasingly methodologically catholic) discipline of Geography and to allow them access to the *kinds of questions and debates* that might lend themselves to a particular method. GEO 610 is not a course in gaining *fluency* toward methodological practice; but is intended to explore the range and epistemological foundations of particular methods by reading essays employing those methods, by reading debates in which those methods are interrogated, and, when possible, to give students the opportunity to work through hypothetical situations in which they *might* employ those methods in their own work. GEO 610, then, is a course in ‘methodological literacy,’ which prepares students to choose their next required methods class in our sequence (the next course providing a more in-depth ‘how to’ focus).

2. I note that these changes have earned consensus in our department. They (continue to) place us at the forefront of methodological training in the discipline and will not harm, but rather will help our students to compete for jobs and can only enhance our reputation.

3. I apologize for the confusion over the actual course rubric of the new 600-level course. Multiple drafts and my own lack of proofreading are to blame. The new course should be labeled GEO 610, and all references to GEO 605/610 should be changed to refer to GEO 610.

4. Questions regarding GEO 743:

(a) Course proposal question #13 ‘no response.’ There is a response for #13. However, there is no response for #12, which should be checked in the box labeled ‘not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities.’

(b) More detailed descriptions of course requirements: it seems clear to me course requirements are (i) regular attendance and discussion and; (ii) completion of a grant proposal and participation in an in-class review of that proposal.

(c) Grading policy: and so each of these two components are worth 50% of the final grade. We are happy to amend the line “grant proposal/in class proposal review” to “grant proposal *and* in class proposal review (which will constitute a review and inclass discussion of each class members’ proposal by a panel made up of other class members and the professor’ (as in keeping with the description 2 paragraphs preceding).

5. Questions regarding GEO 610:

(a) Learning outcomes: I don't understand the query, unless we are splitting hairs over the heading 'learning objectives' as opposed to 'learning outcomes'; in which case we are happy to amend the syllabus.

(b) Grading Policy: I don't understand the nature of the inquiry. Perhaps the committee member raising the question could contact me.

Please feel free to have individual committee members contact me with specific questions.

Sincerely Yours,

Rich Schein

ARTS AND SCIENCES COLLEGE COUNCIL/CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
INVESTIGATOR REPORT

INVESTIGATING BODY Behavioral & Social Science
(Area)

PROGRAM: Geography: MA Program
(department or college)

DATE FOR COUNCIL REVIEW Feb. 6, 2004

CATEGORY: NEW, CHANGE, DROP

INSTRUCTIONS: This completed form will accompany the course application to the Graduate/Undergraduate Council(s) in order to avoid needless repetition of investigation. The following questions are included as an outline only. Be as specific and as brief as possible. If the investigation was routine, please indicate this. The term "course" is used to indicate one course, a series of courses or a program, whichever is in order. Return the form to David Leep Associate Dean, 231 Patterson Office Tower for forwarding to the Council(s). ATTACH SUPPLEMENT IF NEEDED.

1. List any modifications made in the course proposal as submitted originally and why.
2. If no modifications were made, review considerations that arose during the investigation and the resolutions.

Please see the attachments.

3. List contacts with program units on the proposal and the considerations discussed therein.

Please see the attachments.

4. Additional information as needed.
5. A&S Area B Curriculum Committee Recommendation:

APPROVE, APPROVE WITH RESERVATION, OR DISAPPROVE

6. A&S Council Recommendation:

APPROVE, APPROVE WITH RESERVATION, OR DISAPPROVE

The following modifications/corrections should be made:

A. On the line, I-5: GEO 605 should be changed to GEO 610.

B. On the line, I-6: GEO 605 should be changed to GEO 610.

7. 
A&S Council Investigator, Sung Hee Kim

Date: 2/11/2004

File: InvestigatorRpt