APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

1. Submitted by College of  Arts & Sciences  Date  11/27/05

Department/Division offering course  Geography

2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course

a. Prefix and Number  GEO 499  
b. Title  Senior Research Seminar

*NOTE: If the title is longer than 24 characters (including spaces), write
A sensible title (not exceeding 24 characters) for use on transcripts  Senior Research Seminar

c. Lecture/Discussion hours per week  3  
d. Laboratory hours per week

e. Studio hours per week

g. Credits  3

g. Course description

Course is intended to provide a capstone experience in geographical research and problem-solving through demonstrating students’ ability to identify appropriate research topic in geography; developing and implementing appropriate research strategy; and presenting research results.

h. Prerequisites (if any)

GEO 200; GEO 300

i. May be repeated to a maximum of

(if applicable)

4. To be cross-listed as

5. Effective Date  When Approved  (semester and year)

6. Course to be offered  ☑ Fall  ☑ Spring  ☐ Summer

7. Will the course be offered each year? (Explain if not annually)

☑ Yes  ☐ No

8. Why is this course needed?

The Department currently has no "capstone" course as do most other peer Geography Departments. This course has been designed and approved by the Department in response to suggestions by an external department review and the SACS accreditation procedure, which requires development and demonstration of research skills of geography majors. In the latter instance GEO 499 will serve as a benchmark course to measure the research and problem-solving capabilities of senior undergraduate geography majors.

9. a. By whom will the course be taught?  Appropriate full-time faculty

b. Are facilities for teaching the course now available?  ☑ Yes  ☐ No

If not, what plans have been made for providing them?
APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

10. What enrollment may be reasonably anticipated? 15-25 per semester

11. Will this course serve students in the Department primarily? ☒ Yes  ☐ No

Will it be of service to a significant number of students outside the Department?
☐ Yes  ☒ No

If so, explain.

The course is designed especially for geography majors (and minors) and will substantially enhance the core curriculum. However, space permitting, it will be open to other students who meet the prerequisites for the course.

Will the course serve as a University Studies Program course?
☐ Yes  ☒ No

If yes, under what Area?

12. Check the category most applicable to this course

☐ traditional; offered in corresponding departments elsewhere;

☒ relatively new, now being widely established

☐ not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities

13. Is this course applicable to the requirements for at least one degree or certificate at the University of Kentucky? ☒ Yes  ☐ No

14. Is this course part of a proposed new program: If yes, which?

☐ Yes  ☒ No

15. Will adding this course change the degree requirements in one or more programs?* ☒ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, explain the change(s) below

GEO 200 will be a new required course for undergraduate majors in Geography. To accommodate the additional hours for GEO 200 (and GEO 499) GEO 152 and GEO 156 will be dropped as required courses for majors.

16. Attach a list of the major teaching objectives of the proposed course and outline and/or reference list to be used.

17. If the course is a 100-200 level course, please submit evidence (e.g., correspondence) that the Community College System has been consulted. ☐ Check here if 100-200.

18. If the course is 400G or 500 level, include syllabi or course statement showing differentiation for undergraduate and graduate students in assignments, grading criteria, and grading scales. ☐ Check here if 400G-500.

19. Within the Department, who should be contacted for further information about the proposed course?

Name  Karl Raitz, Chair or Jonathan Phillips, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Phone Extension  257-2931
APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

Signatures of Approval:

[Signature]
Department Chair

[Signature]
Dean of the College

[Signature]
Date
Dec 05

Date
2/12/06

Date
12/12/05

Date of Notice to the Faculty

*Undergraduate Council
Date

*University Studies
Date

*Graduate Council
Date

*Academic Council for the Medical Center
Date

*Senate Council (Chair)
Date

Date of Notice to University Senate

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

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL

Rev 3/04
ARTS AND SCIENCES
EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE
INVESTIGATOR REPORT

INVESTIGATING AREA: Behav. & Soc. Sci.

COURSE, MAJOR, DEGREE or PROGRAM: GEO 499

DATE FOR EPC REVIEW: 7/10/06

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 Leonidas Bachas Associate Dean, 275 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.

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

4. Additional information as needed.

5. A&S Area Investigator Recommendation:

APPROVE, [APPROVE WITH RESERVATION] OR DISAPPROVE

6. A&S Education Policy Committee Recommendation:

APPROVE, [APPROVE WITH RESERVATION] OR DISAPPROVE

7. 

A&S Council Investigator, Steve Voss

Date: 10 FEB 2006

File: InvestigatorRpt
GEO 499  
Senior Research Seminar  
Syllabus and Schedule: Spring 2005 (sample)

Who’s the Man?: Dr. Jonathan D. Phillips, 1453 Patterson Office Tower  
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1050 - 1200  
Mondays, 0900 - 1030  
Telephone:  257-6950  
E-mail:  jdp@uky.edu

Course Description

Catalog description: Student will build upon previous courses in Geography and especially GEO 200 and 300 to: (a) identify a geographic research project; (b) conduct an appropriate literature review; (c) identify an suitable research approach and methodology; (d) develop an appropriate research design/proposal; (e) collect relevant data; (f) conduct a preliminary data analysis; and (g) present a written research paper/pilot project at the conclusion of the final semester.

Senior Research Seminar is a required course for geography majors, and is intended to provide a capstone experience in geographical research and problem-solving in which you bring to bear the knowledge, skills, and abilities you have learned thus far. The quality of your project will serve as an indicator both of your achievements and of the education and training you’ve received in the geography program.

GEO 499 has five major objectives. These are to:

1. Provide practical experience in conducting a semester-long research project.

2. Facilitate the synthesis of what you have learned in geography (and other) courses at U.K. in the context of addressing a substantive scholarly or practical problem.

3. Hone the research skills developed in GEO 300 and other courses.

4. Help you develop a showcase research project to cap your undergraduate career, and which may be helpful in gaining employment or graduate school admission. In other words, this is your opportunity to show the best of what you can do.

5. Produce a product useful in helping both you and the department assess the quality of your experience in the Kentucky geography program.

Because no single geographer has research-level expertise in all subfields of our discipline, some students may want or need to consult with geography faculty other than the GEO 499 professor. You are in fact encouraged to discuss your work with other faculty!

Required Text: none.

Grading and Evaluation

Your grade will be based entirely on the quality of your semester-long research project. However, to provide feedback during the semester, and so your entire grade is not riding on a single product at the end, individual products (which will eventually be part of your final project) will figure into your grade, along with class participation.
3. Items one and two apply to excused and unexcused absences. Excused absences are only an issue where tests or assignments are missed, and acceptable excuses are limited to: Injury or illness serious enough to physically present class attendance, death in the family, or university approved and sponsored travel, with advance notification. Written documentation must be provided in every case. Issues involving alarm clocks, transportation, forgetfulness, work schedules, other classes, or failure to receive or act upon information and announcements in class will not be considered.

**Decorum:** Students should at all times be respectful of fellow students, the professor or teaching assistant, and the University of Kentucky. Some basic reminders:

1. Talking and whispering during class is disrespectful to the professor and fellow students, and makes it more difficult for those who want to learn to do so.

2. Put away your reading material (other than perhaps the textbook).

3. Turn off cell phones, pagers, and other annoying devices.

4. Clean up after yourself. It is OK to bring drinks and food to class, if it is consumed quietly and unobtrusively, and if you clean up when you leave.

5. Show up on time. Late arrivals are rude and disruptive.

6. Be attentive to and respectful of other students' contributions to class discussions and presentations.

**The Project**

This will be discussed extensively in class, and in separate handouts, but the crux of it is that you will produce a substantive research project addressing a significant scholarly issue or applied problem in geography. You will be expected to collect original data, or to perform original analyses of secondary data sources (for example census data, USGS streamflow data, digital elevation models, historical archives, etc.). The project can be a continuation of your research project in GEO 300 or another previous geography course, and can be conducted in conjunction with another course, with permission of the instructor of the other course.

Normally the product will be a paper (manuscript), but other products are possible (for example, maps and charts, software, curriculum materials).

**Course Schedule** *(subject to modifications as announced in class)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics, activities, assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to GEO 499: expectations, ground rules, schedules, Overview of research project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geographic research: a quick review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Research topic brainstorming: Come to class with a proposed topic (or perhaps several). These will be discussed and critiqued in class, by the professor and the class as a whole.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Course Schedule (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics, activities, assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><em>Research topics:</em> Based on feedback from week 3, proposed research topics will be discussed in class, with an emphasis on providing suggestions for how to proceed. <em>Research Proposals Due</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><em>Conceptual frameworks:</em> Acknowledging previous work, avoiding wheel reinvention, situating yourself and your work, methodological road maps. Discussed with respect to student projects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><em>Sampling:</em> Discussion of sampling issues in the context of student research projects, including selection of study sites, subjects or data sets, statistical sampling, intensive vs. extensive focus, constraints of physical or data access. <em>Literature Review Due</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><em>Consultation:</em> during scheduled class period or office hours, all students are required to meet with the professor to discuss your research project. Students must present a proposed timeline for project completion. Students may request, where appropriate, to consult with other geography faculty instead or in addition to the GEO 499 professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Organization and presentation: general issues of organizing and communicating information, data, and results will be discussed, and then applied to student projects. <em>Outline Due</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><em>Scale:</em> the role of scale in geography, and of geography in addressing scale issues in other fields. Discussion of scale issues in student projects.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 10   | *Presenting results:* tips on making oral presentations  
*Professional cultures:* some key differences in standards and expectations for conducting, writing up, and presenting research results  
  Academic vs. government agency vs. private sector  
  Geosciences vs. social sciences vs. humanities  
*Exemplars:* Based on literature reviews and work so far, students are to choose an exemplar—a published example which exemplifies the type of work you would like to do and the standards you aspire to. |
| 11, 12 | *Student presentations:* students will present near-final results to class, with the opportunity to revise final projects before submission. |
| 13   | *Consultation:* during scheduled class period or office hours, all students are required to meet with the professor to discuss the completion of your research project. Students may request, where appropriate, to consult with other geography faculty instead or in addition to the GEO 499 professor. |
| 14   | *Final projects due:* No exceptions, exemptions, or excuses. *Debriefing:* be prepared to discuss (1) what you would do next to take your project further; (2) what you would have done if time, money, or other factors were not limiting; and (3) what you did wrong or would do differently. |
Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written assignments</th>
<th>Percent of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exemplar</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>see attendance policy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Class participation will be graded on a 0-10 scale, with 10 points awarded to students exhibiting regular on-time attendance; meeting all deadlines; and making regular, thoughtful contributions to class discussions. Fewer than 10 points will be awarded to the extent these criteria are not met. Class participation points may be deducted for chronic tardiness, disruptive or disrespectful classroom behavior, failure to contribute to discussions, and evidence of poor (or non-) preparation.

Many of the class sessions are based wholly or primarily on group discussions of general issues of relevance to all projects. This requires not only that you be prepared to discuss the week’s topic (sampling, conceptual frameworks, etc.), but that you be able to discuss it with respect to your project. Success in this course thus requires that you begin working on your project at the beginning of the semester and make steady progress throughout.

All written assignments must be typed and submitted in hardcopy (no e-mail submissions!)

NOTE: There is no such thing as a make-up. Of course, if you are subject to serious illness, injury, or other documentable factors that physically prevent you from completing an assignment, arrangements can be made. Otherwise, do not ask. Forgetfulness, faulty alarm clocks, demands of jobs or other classes, and the like will not be considered. If you want to request a makeup or deadline extension, you must provide proper documentation, and notify your instructor as soon as possible.

ANOTHER NOTE: No incompletes will be assigned in this course, except in the case of serious illness, injury, or other documentable factors that physically prevent you from completing the class.

Other Points and Policies

Honor Code: University of Kentucky geography students do not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do. You may be asked or required to sign an honor pledge on tests or other assignments. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated.

Keeping Up: You must attend class faithfully, do the readings according to schedule, and otherwise keep up. The professor is not responsible for communicating material to students who miss class, even when the absences are for legitimate reasons.

Class materials are copyrighted. You do not have the right to copy them unless I expressly grant such permission.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken in class. The attendance policy is as follows.

1. You are allowed one “free” absences to allow for illness, family commitments, etc.

2. The second and all subsequent absences will result in two points subtracted from your final average.
Teaching Objectives

1. Provide practical experience in conducting a substantial geographic research project.

2. Synthesis of basic concepts in geography, in the context of addressing specific substantive scholarly or practical problems.

3. Further develop and refine research skills developed in previous courses.

4. Provide additional first-hand experience in conducting original research.

5. Prepare students for demands of graduate research and professional applied geography.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will:

1. Have practical experience in original, problem-solving research.

2. Be able to apply geographic knowledge, skills, and techniques to substantive scholarly or practical problems.

3. Possess a specific set of research skills (associated with their capstone project).

4. Have a showcase research product.

5. Have confidence in their ability to address questions, solve problems, and produce useful analyses and/or recommendations.