

**Master Syllabus**  
***Department of Geography***

**GEOG 610: History of Geographic Thought**

**Course Description**

Focuses on the role of geography in the evolution of the social and physical sciences. Traces paradigms from the premodern period of geography through its emergence as an academic discipline to its present-day applications and theory. (3 credit hours).

**Course Objectives**

Traces the practice and paradigms of geography from its roots during the pre-modern period, addresses its practical application as an instrument of knowledge and power during the era of European colonial expansion, and the emergence of geography as a discipline in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The latter part of the course examines different theoretical debates/approaches and methodologies geographers have used to address problems in physical and human geography during the late twentieth century.

**Course Rationale**

As a course that examines the broad intellectual and social contexts of the evolution of geography, GEOG 610 functions as a critical slice of the education of a graduate student. While it is important for graduate students to develop specific interests in one or two systematic sub-fields, a better understanding of these narrowly defined interests is only possible by situating them in a wider disciplinary context.

**Course Content and Format:**

Conducted in a seminar format, students are required to read and participate in class discussions. Reading material is derived from numerous sources that include a textbook, book chapters, and scholarly journal articles.

**Textbook and Readings**

Textbook:

Holt-Jensen, A., *Geography: History and Concepts*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, London: Sage, 1999.

Readings:

- 1) Agnew, J., Livingstone, D.N. and Rogers, A. (eds.), *Human Geography: An Essential Anthology*, Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1996.
- 2) Martin, G.J. and James, P.E., *All Possible Worlds: A History of Geographical Ideas*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, New York: John Wiley, 1999.
- 3) Dickinson, R.E. *The Makers of Modern Geography*, New York: Praeger, 1969.

**Methods for Evaluating Student Performance**

The single form for evaluating student performance is on the basis of writing nine essays.

1. The Ancient, Middle Ages, and Renaissance Periods
2. The Classical Period
3. The Modern Period: Establishing a Discipline
4. Darwinism, Physiography, Environmental Determinism, and Possibilism
5. Landscapes and Regions
6. Questioning the Regional Concept
7. The Quantitative Revolution and Spatial Science
8. Critiques of Positivism-Humanism, Marxism, Structuralism, Structuration, and Post-Structuration
9. GIS

**Evaluation of the Course**

Student evaluation of the course using university and department course evaluation forms.