

■ Geography

Program Advisor: Dr. Richard Bordner

A major is not offered in Geography, which is integrated with programs both in Humanities and the Social Sciences.

Geography provides a synthesizing perspective towards the interrelationship of the human population and the planet. The goals of the geography courses are oriented towards emphasizing the relationship of people with the various landscapes they operate in: physical, perceptual, cultural and ritual. All the courses emphasize the following key aspects of the geographical way of thought:

1. the complex dialog between human cultures and nature;
2. how human-environment relationships are reflected on the physical landscape; and
3. the complex ways in which the physical landscape shapes and modifies human behavior.

Specialty courses are offered that place these concepts within a regional framework. Students in behavioral sciences, business administration, communication, education, history, international studies and political science should consider courses in geography to complement their major field of study.

Course Descriptions

Geography (GE)

GE 102 World Regional Geography (3)

The purpose of this course is to provide a spatial approach to understanding the complexities of the contemporary human experience around the world. The course examines how social and physical factors that have led to contemporary regional patterns. This course meets the Behavioral Science student learning outcomes: 1) the scientific method and its application; 2) human and cultural diversity; 3) social and individual dynamics; 4) the relationship between the self and the group. Course offered annually in the Spring semester.

GE 103 Human Geography (3)

This course is designed to provide a basic background in the study of human geography, or the relationship between people and the physical landscape. Geography is the study of space, while human geography is the study of people in physical space. Topics include: changing patterns of land use, migration and interaction; and the cultural logic in environmental degradation. This course meets the Behavioral Science student learning outcomes: 1) the scientific method and its application; 2) human and cultural diversity; 3) social and individual dynamics; 4) the relationship between the self and the group. Course offered annually in the Fall semester.

GE 204: Landscapes of Hawai'i (3)

This course is designed to provide a basic introduction into the human and physical environments found in Hawai'i. We will examine both past, present and future landscapes in Hawai'i with a major emphasis on the interaction between the human and physical conditions. Topics will include: the unique nature of the ecosystems in Hawai'i, their fragility and the implications for planning and social change here in Hawai'i; spatial aspects of development, tourism and urbanization; and the environmental implications of development. This course meets the Behavioral Science student learning outcomes: 1) the scientific method and its application; 2) human and cultural diversity; 3) social and individual dynamics; 4) the relationship between the self and the group. Offered annually.

English 102 and COM 101 are prerequisites for all upper division courses

GE 335 Sociocultural Aspects of Design (3)

This course is designed to provide students with a background in cross-cultural aspects of both exterior and interior design. The main emphasis is on the use of space and symbolism as both conscious and subliminal forms of communication within a cultural and ritual context. Topics include: symbolic and cultural templates on the image of the home; geomantic/feng shui logic in exterior and interior layout in different cultures; analysis of how pervasive cultural aspects of design, especially spatial and symbolic, are in all societies; the power and significance of symbols and icons in human habitation. The major areas from which course material is drawn include the Americas (both pre-contact and Euroamerican), East Asia and the Pacific. This course meets the Behavioral Science student learning outcomes: 2) human and cultural Diversity; 3) social and individual dynamics; 4) the relationship between the self and the group. Fulfills interdisciplinary course requirement. Cross-listed as ID 335. Course offered annually in the Spring semester.