GEOGRAPHY 471
Recent Trends in Geographic Thought
Instructors: Professors Bruce Rhoads and David Wilson

Course Outline
This class is an exploration into the evolution of geographic thought and current trends that characterize its content. Students will be exposed to the breadth of geographic thought as we examine both physical and human sides of the discipline. In the first half of the class, everyone will acquire a solid foundation of both physical and human geography. In the second half of the class, we split up into groups (human and physical) and discuss in detail key trends in topical areas.

Course Objectives:
1. Examine the roots and status of geographic thought across the twentieth century.
2. Analyze the philosophical underpinnings of contemporary geographic research.
3. Refine student abilities to critically examine geographic research.

Grading:
Mid-semester exam (50 percent)
Final Exam (50 percent)

OUTLINE

Week I- Introduction to Class and Department

Week II - The Discipline of Geography - A Field of Study
(Johnston, 38-61).

Week III - Early Historical Traditions in Geography
(Johnston, 38-61).

Week IV - Relativism and Process vs. Environmental Change
(Johnston, 102-208).

Week V - Structural Marxism and Mechanistic Materialism in Physical Geography
(Johnston, 209-267).

Week VI - Relevance Studies (Johnston, 318-354).

Week VII - Poststructuralism and Postmodernism

Week VIII - Forum I – Human-Physical Interface: Barriers, Possibilities, Opportunities.

Week IX - MIDTERM
Human Geographers

Weeks X & XI - The New Spatial Turn (Jones and Popke and O’Reilly articles)

Weeks XII & XIII – The Politics of Representation (Muzaini and Wilson articles)

Week XIV- Neoliberal Realities? (Kern, Anderson, and Fair and Astroff articles)

GIS and Physical Geographers

Weeks X – XIV  Readings to be determined based on student interests

Readings:

**Human Geography**

*Texts*


*Articles*


