GEOGRAPHY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Department of Geography at Kent State University offers a four-year program in geography leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Graduate students can also pursue the Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees at Kent State.

The department's courses, as well as the faculty's interests and research activities, include aspects of physical and human geography and geographic information technology. Major focuses are on natural environment and its resources and urban and economic development. There is a strong emphasis on the learning and applications of modern techniques of quantitative methods and geographic information technology.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All students pursuing bachelor's degrees at Kent State complete a series of Kent Core requirements. Geography majors take courses in English composition, mathematics or logic, foreign language, humanities, fine arts, social sciences and basic sciences.

The following geography courses are required of each student in the major:

• World Geography
• Physical Geography
• Geography of the United States and Canada
• Statistical Methods in Geography
• Senior Seminar in Geography
• Cartography
• Cartography Laboratory
• One non-Kent Core Regional Course

Additionally, students are required to take at least 21 hours selected from one of the following concentrations: social geography, environmental geography or geographical information sciences. These concentrations are detailed on the major requirement sheet.

Geography courses cover most regions of the world and such topics as urban geography, historical geography, meteorology, climatology, soils, conservation of natural resources, resource geography, marketing, computer cartography, medical geography remote sensing, political geography, population and environment and geographic information systems.

Among the Faculty

The faculty members of the Department of Geography are listed below along with their primary specialties:

Dr. Surinder Bhardwaj, Emeritus Professor: cultural, medical, pilgrimage, India.

Dr. Ute Dymon, Emeritus Professor: cartography, geographic information systems, risk, emergency and evacuation mapping, geography of women.

Dr. Frank Erickson, Emeritus Professor: geography of wine, environmental.

Dr. Mary Ann Haley, Assistant Dean: economic development, industrialization, North America, Europe, the post-Soviet region.

Dr. Milton E. Harvey, Emeritus Professor: regional analysis, behavioral, methodology.

Dr. David Kaplan, professor: urban, economic, political, ethnicity, population.

Dr. Jay Lee, professor: geographic information systems and analysis, spatial analysis, Southeast Asia.

Dr. Keith Muller, associate professor (Kent State Trumbull): agriculture, population, rural settlement, Brazil, Latin America.

Dr. Mandy Munro-Stasiuk, chair and associate professor: ancient glacial environments, remote sensing, physical geography.

Rebecca Parylak, associate professor: climate change, severe weather, natural hazards, biogeography.

Christopher Post, associate professor (Kent State Stark): memorialization, exurbanization in the America West, ethnic homelands, company towns, sense of place.

Dr. Thomas W. Schmidlin, professor: meteorology, climatology, hazards.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Association of American Geographers has identified four basic areas of employment for geographers: business, planning, governmental services and education. Generally, this last area is open primarily to holders of advanced degrees. The first three areas have provided such varied positions as city planner, regional planner, draftsman, mapping scientist, meteorologist, emergency manager, soil scientist, conservationist, environmental/land-use manager, park ranger, intelligence agent, census worker, market analyst, site selector and travel agent.
Dr. Scott Sheridan, associate professor: climatology, meteorology, biogeography, quantitative methods.

Sarah Smiley, associate professor (Kent State Salem): contemporary legacies of colonial policies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Emariana Taylor, associate professor: biogeography, urbanization, ecological systems, environmental philosophy, conversation.

Dr. James Tyner, associate professor: population, social, urban, Southeast Asia.

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS

INTERNSHIP IN PLANNING
The Department of Geography provides qualified students an Internship in Planning program for academic credit.

INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR PROGRAMS
Geography students have the opportunity to earn a minor in urban studies and planning by taking appropriate courses in geography, economics, political science and sociology. The minor in cartography is also interdisciplinary and qualifies students for professional cartographic employment. The minor in climatology provides an overview of the atmospheric sciences along with detailed study of world climates and current issues in climatology. The Asian studies minor provides focused study in the cultures, histories and governments of Asia. The minor for Geographic Information Science provides opportunity for students to receive training in geospatial technology.

GAMMA THETA UPSILON
The department sponsors a chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the nationwide honorary geography association.

FACILITIES
The instructional and research needs of the department are served by five computer laboratories, a weather laboratory and a small reading library. The computer labs provide state-of-the-art support for spatial analysis, computer cartography, remote sensing, atmospheric research and geographic information systems. The atmospheric sciences laboratory has computers for online national weather monitoring, a local weather station, a national climate database and field instruments.

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For information on all of Kent State’s degrees and majors, go online to www.kent.edu/gps.