

# GEOGRAPHY (GEOG)

Geography, as the study of place, space and environment, addresses the “why of where” by uniting social and biophysical sciences, humanities and technology to examine the factors that make a place or environment unique. Connecting academic inquiry to real-world problem solving, our courses teach critical thinking skills that prepare students to transfer classroom and field experience into a wide range of careers. With interests ranging from globalization to climate change and sustainability, urbanization to community development at home and abroad, geography majors gain the knowledge, techniques and perspectives needed to meet current and future challenges.

Geography at UNH is an undergraduate-focused department offering both major and minor degree programs. With small class sizes, personalized advising by department faculty, and opportunities for independent study, our students receive a high degree of individual attention. UNH geography graduates are prepared to enter a variety of careers or professional and graduate degree programs.

<https://cola.unh.edu/geography>

## Programs

- [Environmental Justice \(Minor\)](#)
- [Geography \(Minor\)](#)
- [Geography Major \(B.A.\)](#)

## Courses

### Geography (GEOG)

#### GEOG 401 - World Regions: Europe and the Americas

**Credits:** 4

Examines the rich diversity of human life in the following world regions: North America; Middle and South America; Europe; Russia and the post-Soviet states; and Oceania. We will examine the geography of these regions focusing on the following thematic concepts: Environment; Globalization and development; power and politics; urbanization; and population patterns. This course also serves as an introduction to geography.

**Attributes:** World Cultures(Discovery)

**Equivalent(s):** GEOG 401H

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### GEOG 402 - World Regions: Asia and Africa

**Credits:** 4

Examines the unique integration of human and physical phenomena that produces the distinctive character of the following world regions: the Middle East and North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; South Asia; Southeast and East Asia. The course also serves as an introduction to the discipline of geography, with its unique spatial perspective.

**Attributes:** World Cultures(Discovery)

**Equivalent(s):** GEOG 402H

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### GEOG 405 - There Is No Planet B

**Credits:** 4

Introduces human-environment relations as a central focus of geography, spanning social and environmental sciences. Considers mapping, natural resource use, commons and markets, hazards, political ecology, and land use change. Case studies link core concepts with examples from local to international scales.

**Attributes:** Environment,TechSociety(Disc)

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### GEOG 473 - Elements of Weather

**Credits:** 4

Basic principles of weather phenomena and the physical processes underlying these phenomena. Emphasis on weather patterns of New England. Lab.

**Attributes:** Discovery Lab Course; Physical Science(Discovery)

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### GEOG 500 - Making Change: Social and Environmental Justice in Practice

**Credits:** 4

Provides students with opportunities to consider a personal philosophy and professional action plan for social and/or environmental justice, bridging understandings of social equity and environmental conservation. Spanning theoretical and practical perspectives, students will learn basic community organizing and grantwriting skills that are useful in a range of careers, particularly in the non-profit and government sectors.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### GEOG 530 - China: People, Politics and Economy

**Credits:** 4

This course examines China's diverse physical environments, politics, economies, and cultures across the vast territory. Students learn to adopt a relational and spatial perspective to study the contemporary issues in China.

**Attributes:** World Cultures(Discovery)

**Equivalent(s):** GEOG 530W

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### GEOG 550 - Sub-Saharan Africa: Environmental Politics and Development

**Credits:** 4

Explores the political ecologies of development in sub-Saharan Africa. Provides a historical and spatial perspective on sub-Saharan Africa's environments and the politics that influence the region's conservation and development choices. Students will critique conventional knowledge, ideas, and explanations to develop a deeper understanding of environment-development linkages in sub-Saharan Africa over time.

**Attributes:** World Cultures(Discovery)

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### GEOG 560 - Natural Hazards and Human Disasters

**Credits:** 4

A survey of natural hazards, including earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, floods drought, hurricanes and severe weather, and the human disasters they cause. The geography of community vulnerability to natural hazards and the factors that influence risk and recovery are also examined.

**Attributes:** Environment,TechSociety(Disc)

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**GEOG 572 - Geography of the Natural Environment****Credits:** 4

Provides an introduction to geography of the natural environment, including landforms, weather and climate, water resources, and biogeography. Examines the processes that shape the different elements of the environment and the relationships between them.

**Attributes:** Physical Science(Discovery)**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**GEOG 574 - Global Landscapes and Environmental Processes****Credits:** 4

A survey of earth's major landforms and the geographic factors that influence their development, distribution, and morphology. Topics include mountain building, river systems, desert migration and expansion, glacial and periglacial environments, and shoreline evolution. Discusses interactions with human activities and climate change. Emphasizes how these processes interact to form surface features that are unique to their geographic environment.

**Attributes:** Physical Science(Discovery)**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**GEOG 580 - Human Geography: People and Places****Credits:** 4

Why do people live, work, and play differently in different places?

How are our realities shaped by local to global influences, both social and environmental? What does this mean in terms of "place" and lived landscapes? This course provides an overview of human geography as a social science, including the "why of where" and human-environment relationships. Topics may include urban, rural, and suburban development, globalization and governance, borders and migration, conservation and development, and different understandings of knowledge, economy, technology, race, gender, and class.

**Attributes:** Social Science (Discovery)**Equivalent(s):** GEOG 5810**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**GEOG 581 - Society, Environment and Justice****Credits:** 4

Introduces human geography with an emphasis on social justice and environmental justice, integrating social and cultural aspects of space, place, and human-environment relations. Discusses urban, suburban, and rural examples in the US and internationally to illustrate basic geographic concepts.

**Attributes:** Social Science (Discovery); Inquiry (Discovery)**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**GEOG 582 - Global Trade and Local Development****Credits:** 4

This course examines the ways in which global trade interacts with local development across the world. It studies the special organization of economic activities through basic approaches in economic geography. It also studies the history and contemporary state of international competition and collaboration.

**Attributes:** Social Science (Discovery)**Equivalent(s):** GEOG 582W**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**GEOG 584 - Political Geography****Credits:** 4

Interactions between geographic and political phenomena at the sub-national, national, and international levels. Emphasis on geographical aspects of current political problems within and between states. (Not offered every year.)

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**GEOG 591 - Making Maps: GIS Fundamentals****Credits:** 4

Introduces Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to design digital maps, integrate diverse data sources, and conduct basic spatial analyses. Appropriate for students with or without computer technology background. Skills are highly employable in many careers where spatial data can be used, including social justice, public health, sustainability, town and urban planning, economic development, public safety, energy, transportation, construction, environmental hazards, political strategy, security and diplomacy, military intelligence, marketing, education, communications, real estate, and public humanities.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**GEOG 670 - Climate and Society****Credits:** 4

An introduction to climate science and the interaction between humans and climate. Examines the processes that control climate, the mechanisms that drive climate change, and the impact of climate change on society.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course**Equivalent(s):** GEOG 570**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**GEOG 673 - Political Ecology****Credits:** 4

Examines human-environment relations through the geographic subfield of political ecology, integrating social and biophysical sciences. Emphasizes cross-scalar relationships in resource decisions and community development, with substantial coverage of rural, non-US contexts. Seminar-style course with regular readings, writings and discussion.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course**Equivalent(s):** GEOG 573**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**GEOG 695 - Internship****Credits:** 1-4

Internships provide an opportunity for on-the-job skill development and practical experience in a closely supervised work setting. The student must provide a written proposal to a supervising faculty member before an internship program is approved. At the end of the semester, the student must make a presentation, provide work samples, or submit a detailed report, log, or portfolio describing the internship experience.

**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.**Grade Mode:** Credit/Fail Grading

**GEOG 701 - Environmental Justice****Credits:** 4

This is a seminar-style discussion course in Environmental Justice. It supports students as they develop facility in linking theory, case material, and personal scholarly-professional goals. Readings and writings cover a breadth of topics including origins and theory of environmental justice as social movement and field of scholarship; environmental toxins, hazards, and public health; race and indigeneity; climate change mitigation and adaptation; knowledge systems; urban planning, housing and transportation; water resources; food systems; conservation and recreation; participatory research; and cross-scalar analyses. The course assumes familiarity with basic social science perspectives on race, difference, and equity, and general awareness of environmental issues.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**GEOG 795 - Special Project****Credits:** 2 or 4

Readings, library, archival, and fieldwork. Primarily for geography seniors.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

## Faculty

[Geography Department Faculty](#)