

BERKELEY: College of Letters & Science
Office of the Deans
101 Durant Hall
#2920

September 26, 2023

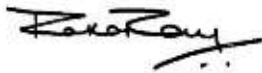
To the Members of the Executive Committee of Letters & Sciences:

I write to provide my support, as Dean of Social Sciences, for the Geography Department's proposal for ten additional courses students majoring in Geography will be able to use to fulfill options in the required Major. These courses align with the department's recently-updated changes to its Major requirements, changes which reflect the department's expertise and the current foci of the discipline.

The courses Geography proposes offer students more options within the five focus areas the department has identified for the Major. The addition of these courses, and their approval as options for students majoring in Geography, will provide students with more flexibility as well as more opportunities to study particular areas in depth.

The courses are aligned with the major, draw on faculty research expertise, and add substantial choice to students. The implementation plan is clear and reasonable. I hope and expect this change to better support Berkeley undergraduates majoring in Geography.

Sincerely,



Raka Ray
Dean, Social Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
508 MCCONE HALL 94720--4740

New Geography Courses as Options to Fulfill Major Requirements

September 8th, 2023

Summary

Our proposal shares a list of new Geography courses ([Appendix 1](#)) that we would like to add as **options** for students to use towards Geography major requirements (if not already recognized and approved by the L&S Executive Committee). Our current list of Geography courses that can fulfill major requirements is outlined in [Appendix 2](#). The additional new courses align to our current curriculum and five research areas, as outlined in [Appendix 3](#).

Proposal

We propose the addition of new Geography courses to our existing major requirements within our restructured curriculum that is centered on our five research areas: Earth Systems, Political Economies, Racial Geographies, Critical Environments, and Geospatial Representation. This change incorporates more course options that students can use towards upper-division major requirements and better reflects our department as a whole.

[Appendix 4](#) indicates the semester courses are traditionally taught, course units, and the faculty member(s) associated with each course. **The total number of courses students must complete in order to earn a major (11) and how students declare the major remain unchanged.** The new iteration gives students the flexibility to gain a foundational knowledge as well as pursue deeper understandings in specific research areas.

Implementation Plan for 2023 - 2024

If approved, we plan on adding the new courses to our curriculum in Fall 2023. Changes will be reflected in the Berkeley Academic Guide for the 2023 - 2024 academic year. This transition is rapid, but will work smoothly for our current majors and newly declared majors. Students declared before Fall 2023 will have the option of using the new Geography courses toward their major requirements. The Geography Undergraduate Advisor concurs that this time frame is feasible, as the new course offerings provide increased flexibility for students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jovan Scott Lewis".

Jovan Scott Lewis
Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Geography

Appendix 1: New Geography Courses as Options to Fulfill Major Requirements (if not already recognized and approved by the L&S Executive Committee)

- GEOG 126, Sonic Geographies
- GEOG 127, Geographic Film Production
- GEOG C146, Communicating Ocean Science
- GEOG C154, Post-Apocalyptic Botany
- GEOG 170 - Sonic Geographies
- GEOG 170 - Geographies of Race and Ethnicity in Latin America
- GEOG 170 - Post-Socialist Spaces
- GEOG 172, Sonic Geographies of Oakland: A Field Exploration
- GEOG 182, Field Study of Buildings and Cities
- GEOG 189, Visual Geography

Appendix 2: Current Courses Fulfilling Research Areas

- I. Students are required to take 1 course from 4 of the 5 following areas (A - E).
 - A. Earth System Science
Geography C136, C139, 140A, 140B, 142, 143, 144, 147, C148, 149A, 149B, 179A, 179B
 - B. Political Economies
Geography 110, C112, 124, 129, 130, 138, 145, 155, C160, 164, 167AC
 - C. Racial Geographies
Geography 124, 129, 155, 167AC
 - D. Critical Environments
Geography C100, 129, 130, 137, 138, 147, C148, C160, 175
 - E. Geospatial Representation
Geography 80, 85, 175, 180, 181, 183, 185, C188

- II. Students must complete an additional 4 upper-division courses.

Geography 80, 85, 110, C100, C112, 124, 129, 130, C136, 137, 138, C139, 140A, 140B, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, C148, 149A, 149B, 155, C160, 164, 167AC, 175, 179A, 179B, 180, 181, 183, 185, C188

Note: Geography 198, 199 can be applied to any upper-division area by petition, depending on the subject matter. A maximum of two upper-division courses from related fields may be applied to the major, if they are approved by the Undergraduate Major Advisor.

Appendix 3: Proposed Course Additions Fulfilling Research Areas

- III. Students are required to take 1 course from 4 of the 5 following areas (A - E).
- A. Earth System Science
Geography C136, C139, 140A, 140B, 142, 143, 144, C146, 147, C148, 149A, 149B, 179A, 179B
 - B. Political Economies
Geography 110, C112, 124, 129, 130, 138, 145, 155, C160, 164, 167AC, 170 [Feakins], 170 [Negrin], 181, 182
 - C. Racial Geographies
Geography 124, 126, 129, C154, 155, 167AC, 170 [Negrin], 170 [Sonic], 172, 181, 182, 189
 - D. Critical Environments
Geography C100, 126, 127, 129, 130, 137, 138, 147, C148, C154, C160, 170 [Sonic], 172, 175, 181, 182, 189
 - E. Geospatial Representation
Geography 80, 85, 126, 127, 170 [Sonic], 172, 175, 180, 183, 185, C188, 189
- IV. Students must complete an additional 4 upper-division courses.
Geography 80, 85, 110, C100, C112, 124, 126, 127, 129, 130, C136, 137, 138, C139, 140A, 140B, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, C148, 149A, 149B, C154, 155, C160, 164, 167AC, 170, 175, 179A, 179B, 180, 181, 182, 183, 185, C188, 189

Note: Geography 198, 199 can be applied to any upper-division area by petition, depending on the subject matter. A maximum of two upper-division courses from related fields may be applied to the major, if they are approved by the Undergraduate Major Advisor.

Appendix 4: Detailed Report of Major Course Offerings

Orange = Fall offering, Green = Spring offering, Purple = Fall and Spring offering

Students are required to take one course from four of the five research areas. Further, students must complete an additional 4 upper-division courses.

Earth System Science

C136	Terrestrial Hydrology	4 units	Larsen, Laurel
C139	Atmospheric Physics and Dynamics	3 units	Boos, William
140A	Physical Landscapes: Process and Forms	4 units	Cuffey, Kurt
140B	Physiography and Geomorphologic Extremes	4 units	Cuffey, Kurt
142	Climate Dynamics	3 units	Chiang, John
143	Global Change Biogeochemistry	3 units	Rhew, Robert
144	Principles of Meteorology	3 units	Chiang, John
C146	Communicating Ocean Science	4 units	Rhew, Robert
147	Communicating Climate Science	3 units	Chiang, John Rhew, Robert
C148	Biogeography	4 units	Chambers, Jeffrey
149A	Climates World	3 units	Miller, Norman
149B	Climate Impacts and Risk Analysis	3 units	Miller, Norman
C179A	GC-Maker Lab I: Skills and Theory	2 units	Rhew, Robert
C179B	GC-Maker Lab II: Instrument Development	4 units	Rhew, Robert

Political Economies

110	Critical Economic Geographies	4 units	Lough, Joseph Fields, Desiree
C112	Global Development: Theory, History, Geography	4 units	Hart, Gillian
124	Urban Sites and City Life	3 units	Summers, Brandi
129	Ocean Worlds	3 units	Chari, Sharad
130	Food and the Environment	4 units	Sayre, Nathan
138	Global Environmental Politics	4 units	Laudati, Ann
145	Platform Geographies	4 units	Fields, Desiree

155	Race, Space & Inequality	4 units	Lewis, Jovan Scott
C160	American Landscapes: History, Culture, and the Built Environment	4 units	Ekman, Peter
164	Global China	3 units	Hsing, You-Tien Cohen, Crystal Chang
167AC	Border Geographies, Migration and Decolonial Movements of Latin America	4 units	Negrin, Diana
170	Post-Socialist Spaces	3 units	Feakins, Melanie
170	Geographies of Race and Ethnicity in Latin America	3 units	Negrin, Diana
181	Urban Field Study	4 units	Lunine, Seth
182	Field Study of Buildings and Cities	4 units	Lunine, Seth

Racial Geographies

124	Urban Sites and City Life	3 units	Summers, Brandi
126	Sonic Geographies	4 units	Wanek, Joel
129	Ocean Worlds	3 units	Chari, Sharad
C154	Post-Apocalyptic Botany	4 units	Kosek, Jake
155	Race, Space & Inequality	4 units	Lewis, Jovan Scott
167AC	Border Geographies, Migration and Decolonial Movements of Latin America	4 units	Negrin, Diana
170	Geographies of Race and Ethnicity in Latin America	3 units	Negrin, Diana
172	Sonic Geographies of Oakland: A Field Exploration	4 units	Wanek, Joel
181	Urban Field Study	4 units	Lunine, Seth
182	Field Study of Buildings and Cities	4 units	Lunine, Seth
189	Visual Geography	4 units	Wanek, Joel

Critical Environments

C100	Art and Ecology	4 units	Chari, Sharad
126	Sonic Geographies	4 units	Wanek, Joel

127	Geographic Film Production	4 units	Wanek, Joel
129	Ocean Worlds	3 units	Chari, Sharad
130	Food and the Environment	4 units	Sayre, Nathan
137	Top Ten Global Environmental Problems	4 units	Rhew, Robert
138	Global Environmental Politics	4 units	Laudati, Ann
147	Communicating Climate Science	3 units	Chiang, John Rhew, Robert
C154	Post-Apocalyptic Botany	4 units	Kosek, Jake
160	American Landscapes: History, Culture, and the Built Environment	4 units	Ekman, Peter
172	Sonic Geographies of Oakland: A Field Exploration	4 units	Wanek, Joel
175	Earth-Writing: Spatial and Environmental Narrative	4 units	Chari, Sharad
181	Urban Field Study	4 units	Lunine, Seth
182	Field Study of Buildings and Cities	4 units	Lunine, Seth
189	Visual Geography	4 units	Wanek, Joel

Geospatial Representation

80	An Introduction to Geospatial Technologies: Mapping, Space and Power	4 units	Wilmott, Clancy Isom, John
85	Mapping: Space, Cartography and Power	4 units	Wilmott, Clancy
126	Sonic Geographies	4 units	Wanek, Joel
127	Geographic Film Production	4 units	Wanek, Joel
175	Earth-Writing: Spatial and Environmental Narrative	4 units	Chari, Sharad
172	Sonic Geographies of Oakland: A Field Exploration	4 units	Wanek, Joel
180	Field Methods for Physical Geography	5 units	Wahl, David
183	Cartographic Representation	5 units	Isom, John
185	Earth System Remote Sensing	3 units	Chambers Jeffrey
C188	Geographic Information Systems	4 units	Radke, John Beach, Tessa Roth, Johanna

189	Visual Geography	4 units	Wanek, Joel
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Sample