The Geography Department offers theoretical and applied work in human geography, environment and society geography, physical geography, and geographic information science. Each subfield covers a broad range of topics. Human geography includes political, cultural, development, feminist, population, and urban geography. Environment and society geography includes political ecology, natural hazards, and conservation practice. Physical geography includes climatology, geomorphology, hydrology, and biogeography. Geographic information science includes spatial analysis using GIS, remote sensing, and cartography. The Department also offers regionally focused courses on mountain geography and geographies of China, Latin America, Africa, Middle East and South Asia. To complement its curriculum, the Department also offers internship opportunities for geography majors.

Students wishing to pursue graduate work in geography leading to candidacy for advanced degrees should read carefully the requirements for advanced degrees in the Graduate School section. Additional information should be obtained from the Department of Geography.

The course code for this program is GEOG.

**Master's Degree**

- Geography - Master of Arts (MA) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/geography/geography-master-arts-ma)

**Doctoral Degree**

- Geography - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/geography/geography-doctor-philosophy-phd)

**Certificates**

- Development Studies - Graduate Certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/geography/development-studies-graduate-certificate)
- Hydrologic Sciences - Graduate Certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/geological-sciences/hydrologic-sciences-graduate-certificate)
- Population Studies - Graduate Certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/geography/population-studies-graduate-certificate)

**Interdisciplinary Program**

- Earth Data Analytics - Foundations - Graduate Certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/interdisciplinary-programs/earth-data-analytics-foundations-graduate-certificate)

**Faculty**

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member’s home department.

Abdalati, Waleed (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_145800)  
Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

Balch, Jennifer Kakareka (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_154464)  
Associate Professor; PhD, Yale University

Barnard, Holly Rene (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_147417)  
Associate Professor; PhD, Oregon State University

Blanken, Peter David (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_114026)  
Professor; PhD, University of British Columbia (Canada)

Bryan, Joseph Henry (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_145802)  
Associate Chair, Associate Professor; PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Buttenfield, Barbara P. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_107860)  
Professor; PhD, University of Washington

Caine, T. Nelson  
Professor Emeritus

Fluri, Jennifer L. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_154033)  
Associate Professor; PhD, Pennsylvania State University

Foote, Kenneth E.  
Professor Emeritus

Goldman, Mara Jill (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_143542)  
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Karimzadeh, Morteza  
Assistant Professor; PhD, Pennsylvania State University

Leyk, Stefan (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_145192)  
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Zurich (Switzerland)

Lininger, Katherine (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_163643)  
Assistant Professor; PhD, Colorado State University

Molotch, Noah Paul (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_139374)  
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Arizona

O’Loughlin, John (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_101339)  
Professor; PhD, Pennsylvania State University

Oakes, Tim (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_109269)  
Professor; PhD, University of Washington

Pitlick, John  
Professor Emeritus

Ranjbar, Azita  
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Washington

Reid, Colleen (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_157951)  
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Riosmena, Fernando (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_144419)  
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Rogers, Andrei  
Professor Emeritus

Serreze, Mark (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_106334)  
Distinguished Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder
Courses

**GEOG 5003 (4) Elements of Geographic Information Systems**
Discusses incorporating GIS methods into graduate thesis or dissertation research. Reviews basic mapping concepts (scale and projections), acquiring different types of spatial data (raster and vector), building an error-free database, making simple queries, overlays, charts, and maps. Intended for students who want to learn GIS but lack background skills in computing or cartography.

**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite some experience with Mac or Windows.
**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: GIScience

**GEOG 5023 (4) Advanced Quantitative Methods for Spatial Data**
Reviews fundamental statistical and quantitative modeling techniques and introduces more advanced statistical techniques widely used in geography today. Emphasizes geographic examples and spatial problems teaching hands-on skills in statistical programming. Topics covered include generalized linear models, spatial autocorrelation, spatial regression methods, and working with complex datasets.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** GEOG 4023
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Methods

**GEOG 5034 (4) Advanced Geovisualization and Web Mapping**
Advanced technical course in web-based cartography and geovisualization stressing the important role digital cartography plays in cyberspace and society. Focuses on principles of effective cartographic design in multimedia and hypertext environments. Labs are organized around hands-on active learning projects demonstrating skills in geovisualization and cartographic practice.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** GEOG 4043
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Methods

**GEOG 5093 (4) Remote Sensing of the Environment**
Covers acquisition and interpretation of environmental data by remote sensing. Discusses theory and sensors as well as manual and computerized interpretation methods. Stresses infrared and microwave portions of the spectrum.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** GEOG 4093 and GEOL 4093 and GEOL 5093
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Methods

**GEOG 5100 (1-4) Special Topics: Geography**
Covers various topics outside of the normal curriculum; offered intermittently depending on student demand and availability of faculty.

**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 9.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.

**GEOG 5103 (4) Geographic Information Science: Spatial Analytics**
Explores advanced topics in geospatial databases, spatial analytics and geoprocessing in a Geographic Information System (GIS). Emphasizes how geographic concepts are linked to methodological frameworks for recording, transforming, storing/retrieving, analyzing, and processing geographic data as well as various forms of uncertainty. Exercises demonstrate the application of GIS-based methods to real world scenarios in interdisciplinary settings.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** GEOG 4103
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: GIScience

**GEOG 5113 (3) Seminar: Geographic Information Systems**
Focuses on the current research topics in geographical information systems and selected areas of application. Includes major journal articles related to each topic. Students complete and present a seminar paper.

**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite GEOG 4103 or GEOG 5103 or instructor consent required.
**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: GIScience

**GEOG 5152 (3) History and Theory of Geography**
History of ideas and institutions that have shaped contemporary geographic inquiry. Examines the evolving relations among human geography, physical geography, environment-society relations, and geographic information processing. Designed to situate graduate student research within major subfields and intellectual currents of geography.

**Requisites:** Restricted to Geography (GEOG) graduate students only.

**GEOG 5161 (3) Research Design in Geography**
The human section reads and discusses contemporary research philosophies and methodologies in human geography. Practices the development of research proposals and presentation of research ideas and results. The physical section reads and discusses contemporary research philosophies and methodologies in physical geography (climatology, geomorphology, biogeography, and soils geography). Practices the development of research proposals and presentation of research ideas.

**Requisites:** Restricted to Geography (GEOG) graduate students only.
**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Physical Geography
GEOG 5203 (4) Geographic Information Science: Spatial Modeling
Focuses on the use and development of advanced models for human and environmental applications in a geospatial environment integrating raster and vector data models. Covers terrain and hydrologic modeling, geostatistical modeling, dasyometric modeling, as well as multi-criteria modeling. Group projects critically design, implement and test spatial models to develop independent skillsets in a chosen problem setting.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4203
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Recommended: Prerequisite GEOG 4103 or GEOG 5103 or working knowledge of GIS software or instructor consent required.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Methods

GEOG 5211 (3) Seminar: Physical Climatology
Involves a research seminar concerned with problems of mass and energy exchange in the Earth-atmosphere system. Selects topics from such areas as air quality, bioclimatology, hydrology, climate change, and the climates of urban, agricultural, and natural environments.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5221 (3) Synoptic and Dynamic Climatology
Examines global climates from the standpoint of synoptic and dynamic climatology.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5221 (1-3) Topics in Physical Geography
Presents recent research topics that vary from year to year. Consult the online Schedule Planner for specific topics.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5251 (4) Fluvial Geomorphology
Emphasizes landscapes formed by running water. Includes basic fluid mechanics, sediment transport, hillslope and channel erosion, and sediment yield.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4251
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5271 (3) The Arctic Climate System
Understanding the climate of the Arctic requires a synthetic, system oriented approach. The course focuses on the intimate linkages between the atmosphere, ocean and land that give the Arctic region its unique character, link the Arctic to the larger global climate system, and promote understanding the rapid changes occurring in the Arctic.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4271
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5303 (4) Geographic Information Science: Spatial Programming
Focuses on the extension of geographic information systems (GIS) through programming as well as on the development of algorithms for spatial analysis and information extraction in vector and raster data using open source tools. Covers concepts, principles and techniques of programming and solving spatial problems in natural and social science settings. Group projects will foster skillsets in implementing solutions to complex spatial problems.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4303
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Recommended: Prerequisite GEOG 4203/5203.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: GIScience

GEOG 5321 (3-4) Snow Hydrology
Offers a multidisciplinary and quantitative analysis of physico-chemical processes that operate in seasonally snow-covered areas, from the micro- to global-scale: snow accumulation, metamorphism, ablation, chemical properties, biological aspects, electromagnetic properties, remote sensing, GIS and quantitative methods.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4321
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5331 (3-4) Mountain Climatology
Surveys and analyzes climatic characteristics of mountain environments worldwide.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4331
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5371 (3) Forest Geography: Principles and Dynamics
Surveys principles of forest geography and ecology. Includes both individual tree responses to environmental factors and species interactions within communities. Emphasizes forest dynamics and their relation to management problems.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4371
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5391 (3) Seminar: Biogeography
Considers in detail current research themes in biogeography. Includes intensive reading of current research literature and preparation of research papers. Topics vary.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5401 (3) Soils Geography
Discusses chemical and physical properties of soils, soil development, distributions and management relevant to understanding plant-soil relationships in natural and human-altered landscapes.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4401
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Physical Geography

GEOG 5403 (3) Geographic Information Science: Space Time Analytics
Focuses on understanding processes (human, natural, social or physical) through data driven analysis of patterns in spatio-temporal data. Covers a wide range of topics relevant to space time data, including pattern analysis, modeling and visualization as well as time geography and various contemporary issues in space time analytics. Utilizes a hands-on, flipped classroom approach with in-class development of technical skills.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4403
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
GEOG 5463 (3) Earth Analytics Data Science Bootcamp
Learn key skills to automate data processing and visualization workflows that support both repeatable analysis and collaborative project approaches using scientific programming, version control and project management tools. Covers working with heterogeneous, large spatio-temporal data derived from space, airborne and ground based sensors and other sources. Gain applied experience through group projects that address real world problems.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4463
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

GEOG 5503 (3) Geographic Information Science: Project Management
Managing a geospatial project encompasses problem identification, project design, analysis and supporting team dynamics. The class mixes lectures and class exercises with student-selected projects and works through all stages of a project from articulating an initial idea to project planning and scoping, building a work plan, timeline and budget, executing the work plan and evaluating a project’s progress.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4503
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of GEOG 5103 (minimum grade C-).

GEOG 5563 (3) Earth Analytics
Introduce students to major unanswered questions in Earth science and to the analytical tools, including data management, analysis and visualization, necessary to explore ‘big data’ from a suite of sensors. Aligns with Earth Lab, a new initiative of the University’s Grand Challenge (http://www.colorado.edu/grandchallenges/) to use our expertise in space-based observation to address our world’s most pressing problems.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4563
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

GEOG 5662 (3) Seminar: Topics in Economic Geography
Students will work collaboratively on semi-guided science project. Students gain critical skills required to understand data structures, utilize APIs, extract insight from data and understand how uncertainty propagates. Culminates with a formal presentation of project results.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4662
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

GEOG 5663 (3) Earth Analytics Applications
Develop expertise in finding, organizing, managing and processing large, heterogeneous, spatio-temporal data to address a real-world problem. Students will work collaboratively on semi-guided science project. Students gain critical skills required to understand data structures, utilize APIs, extract insight from data and understand how uncertainty propagates. Culminates with a formal presentation of project results.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4663
Recommended: Prerequisites GEOG 4463 or GEOG 4563 or GEOG 5463 or GEOG 5563.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

GEOG 5712 (3) Political Geography
Systematic study of relations between geography and politics, especially as background for better understanding of international affairs. Includes topics such as frontiers and boundaries, power analysis, geopolitics, international political economy, and strategic concepts.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4712
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 5722 (3) Field Methods in Human Geography
Examines research methods associated with field work in human geography. Prepares students for fieldwork by focusing on geographic and interdisciplinary field work techniques; interpretation of field data; discussion of the politics, ethics and gender, race, class and cross-cultural issues related to field work.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4722
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 5732 (3) Population Geography
Emphasizes spatial aspects of population characteristics including fertility, mortality, migration, distribution and composition. Includes both theoretical and empirical considerations, in addition to field work and computer simulations.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4732
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
GEOG 5750 (3) Climate Politics and Science-Policy
Explores, understands and critically analyzes influences and trends in climate politics and science-policy. Course participants will gain an improved understanding of the myriad factors, pressures and processes that are involved in contemporary climate politics undergirding explicit policy proposals. Course participants will more capably identify consequential spaces of decision-making, recognize tractable places for change and fashion constructive strategies for their own research by way of best available evidence from work done in these areas. Overall, our attention to these course themes, concepts and case studies will help us to more capably understand, analyze and engage in the high-stakes 21st century arena of climate politics and science-policy. Previously offered as a special topics course.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ENVM 5750, ENVS 5750 and SOCY 5750
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

GEOG 5842 (3) Seminar: Cultural Geography
Explores various geographic topics emphasizing the concept of culture. Emergence of several points of view in the development of cultural geography. Required preparation: GEOG 5023.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4832
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 6211 (1-3) Readings in Climatology
Rigorously examines contemporary Tibetan society, culture and nature from a geographical perspective. Uses readings on contemporary Tibet as an entry point into scholarly research about nationalism, representation, diaspora, landscape and place, sustainable development, natural resource management, identity and environmentalism.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4832
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Asia Content

GEOG 5750 (3) Advanced Internship
Provides an academically supervised opportunity for graduate-level geography majors to work in public and private organizations on advanced projects related to geographic theory and their career goals. Instructor consent required.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 5782 (3) Sustainable Development: Critique
Explores and critically analyzes influences and trends in sustainable development and their implications for geographic theory and method. Focuses on the role of representation in evaluating case studies and examining the potential for a sustainable development.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 5022 (3) Seminar: Geographical Methodology
Considers in detail history and methodology of the field, including an analysis of selected systematic topics such as frontiers and boundaries, international rivers, conflicting claims to territory, and electoral geography.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 5832 (3) Geography of Tibet
Rigorously examines contemporary Tibetan society, culture and nature from a geographical perspective. Uses readings on contemporary Tibet as an entry point into scholarly research about nationalism, representation, diaspora, landscape and place, sustainable development, natural resource management, identity and environmentalism.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4832
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 5680 (1-3) Readings in Transportation Geography
Explores transportation geography, including critical and evaluative readings on transportation systems, infrastructure, and the political economy of transportation. Required preparation: GEOG 5023.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: GEOG 4832
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 6702 (1-3) Seminar: Cultural Geography
Explores and critically analyzes influences and trends in sustainable development and their implications for geographic theory and method. Focuses on the role of representation in evaluating case studies and examining the potential for a sustainable development.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 6642 (3) Seminar: Political Ecology
Critically examines the politics of human-environment relationships across cultures and societies. Focuses on environmental degradation, change and management from the perspectives including political economy, cultural politics, STS and post structural theory.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 6200 (1-3) Seminar: Political Geography
Consider in detail history and methodology of the field, including an analysis of selected systematic topics such as frontiers and boundaries, international rivers, conflicting claims to territory, and electoral geography.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 6712 (3) Seminar: Political Geography
Consider in detail history and methodology of the field, including an analysis of selected systematic topics such as frontiers and boundaries, international rivers, conflicting claims to territory, and electoral geography.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 6732 (3) Formal Population Geography: Analysis and Forecasting
In-depth introduction to formal demography. In addition to learning the basic demographic tools used nowadays in fertility, marriage, mortality, migration and forecasting/projections, it also looks at some potential links between formal and statistical demographic work that would enable the student to apply some of the methods learnt in an econometric or multivariate setting.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Recommended: Prerequisite GEOG 5023.

GEOG 6742 (3) Seminar: Cultural Geography
Explores various geographic topics emphasizing the concept of culture. Emergence of several points of view in the development of cultural geography.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 6940 (1) Master's Candidate for Degree
Instructor consent required.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
GEOG 6950 (1-6) Master’s Thesis
Instructor consent required.
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 7840 (1-3) Graduate Independent Study
Offers independent research for doctoral students only. Instructor consent required.
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

GEOG 8990 (1-10) Doctoral Dissertation
All doctoral students must register for not fewer than 30 hours of dissertation credit as part of the requirements for the degree. For a detailed discussion of doctoral dissertation credit, refer to the Graduate School section. Instructor consent required.
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 30.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.