

## Foundations for Capstone Research in Geography

GEOG 4799 [Course #7267] 1 credit

Spring 2023-2024

T 5:00-5:55 pm

Tupper Hall 204

## Jim Dyer

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Office hours: M&W 1-3 pm

- Office hours are available in-person, or via Teams (“Dyer Office Hours Spring 23-24”). I’ll assume in-person unless you let me know otherwise.
- Contact information is also available on Blackboard.

This course serves as the prerequisite for GEOG 4800: *Capstone Experience in Geography*. In GEOG 4799, students (who will be graduating next fall or spring semesters) interact independently with faculty to define a research focus for the capstone project undertaken next fall semester.

**Course Objective:** Students will determine the topic for their GEOG 4800 capstone research projects. To do so, GEOG 4799 students will need to:

1. Select and interact with a faculty mentor,
2. Decide upon group members,
3. Review literature relevant to their research interests,
4. Identify viable data sources necessary to complete the research project.

There is no required textbook for the course; any readings will be made available via Blackboard.

### Attendance, Office Hours, & e-mail

In order to pass the course (with a grade of “CR” [credit]), students must complete all the assignments listed below. **Attendance is mandatory.** If you are unable to participate in the course during the semester for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness, death in your immediate family, religious observance, jury duty, required military reserve training, involvement in University-sponsored activities), notify me ASAP about making up the missed material. (Note: misrepresenting your reasons for missing course activities constitutes academic dishonesty.) If you miss a class due to unforeseen circumstances, contact me within a day.

During the semester, we will have scheduled one-on-one (or small group) meetings to discuss project ideas. Outside of these scheduled times, my official office hours listed above are also available for meetings. Additionally, you can send me an email message any time (please include a relevant subject line, and sign your name at the end of your message). During the semester I will send out announcements and messages to your “official” e-mail account (typically your “ohio.edu” address). There is an expectation that students monitor (and respond to!) their e-mail accounts.

### Special Accommodations

Any student who suspects s/he may need a disability-based accommodation should contact me privately to discuss specific needs, and provide me written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If you are not yet registered as a student with a disability, you should contact that office.

## Course Schedule

This class proceeds incrementally: students research their project ideas, then meet with the instructor individually to discuss progress. Below is a “framework” for class activities; dates are approximate. Assignments and due dates will be announced well in advance, however.

Week (beginning)	Activity	Assignment
<b>Week 1</b> (Jan. 16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organization. Course goals and expectations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial project interests in-class survey</li> <li>“Geographic Identity” reflective essay</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b> (Jan. 23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More on Capstone expectation</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 3</b> (Jan. 30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faculty video presentations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response to videos</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b> (Feb. 6)		
<b>Week 5</b> (Feb. 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing groups</li> </ul>	Discussion Board: Settling on research topics; what you can “bring to the table” in a team
<b>Week 6</b> (Feb. 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial project discussions, and one-on-one/small group meetings with instructor</li> <li>Methods for researching your topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reaching out to faculty mentors</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b> (Feb. 27)		
<b>Week 8</b> (Mar. 5)		
Spring Break March 10-16		
<b>Week 9</b> (Mar. 19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-on-one/small group meetings with instructor for guidance and progress reports.</li> <li>Meetings with faculty mentors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalizing topic, identification of data needs</li> <li><i>Ongoing activities: Researching your topic, identifying appropriate references and data sources.</i></li> <li><u>Research Synthesis</u>: Identification of 10 articles, with explanation of their direct relevance to project’s context and methods. Identification of project data source.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10</b> (Mar. 26)		
<b>Week 11</b> (Apr. 2)		
<b>Week 12</b> (Apr. 9)		
<b>Week 13</b> (Apr. 16)		
<b>Week 14</b> (Apr. 23)		

Revised Research Synthesis assignment due Tuesday of Finals Week, **April 30<sup>th</sup>** at 4:40 pm.