

**Introduction to Graduate Study**  
**ANTH 7901 / GEOG 7901 / Fall 2021**  
**SYLLABUS REVISED SEPTEMBER 6**

## INTRODUCTION

This course provides an introduction to graduate studies in geography and anthropology, and offers a series of insights into career developments in academia and beyond. It is designed to help you adjust to life as a graduate student, understand the logistics of graduate studies, and make sure you succeed once you complete your studies at LSU. The course is co-taught by anthropologists and geographers with the objective of catering as much as possible to the diverse needs of our graduate student community. Upon completion of the course, you should be in a position to:

- 1-Know the requirements of your respective graduate program.
- 2-Understand the logistics of graduate studies and their place within your broader field of research and professional development.
- 3-Develop expectations about the tools necessary to pursue and achieve your career goals.

## GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Time: Wednesday 4:00 – 4:50 pm

Place: Howe-Russell-Kniffen (HRK) E131

Instructors: Drs. Kory Konsoer (HRK E119, [kkonsoer@lsu.edu](mailto:kkonsoer@lsu.edu)) + David Chicoine (HRK 250, [dchico@lsu.edu](mailto:dchico@lsu.edu))

Office Hours: Konsoer M + W 10.30-11.30am CST (or appoint), Chicoine M+ W 2-3.30pm CST (or appoint)

Online Hours: Konsoer during office hours, Chicoine during office hours (on Zoom, see Moodle)

Readings: No formal textbook. Files and links will be posted on Moodle

Grading: No exams. Instead, your active participation is essential and the grading structure reflects this importance. What we cover depend on where discussions take us! See criteria below including the four written assignments.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The learning objectives of the master's degree programs in the LSU Department of Geography & Anthropology are to:

1. acquire advanced knowledge of subject matter in one of the specialized research areas of geography/anthropology identified at the MA/MS level
2. analyze and synthesize the literature in a specialized research focus
3. develop a practical research plan within a theoretical framework
4. demonstrate the ability to develop the method for a research study
5. demonstrate the ability to design and conduct independent research

The learning objectives of the PhD programs in Geography & Anthropology are to:

1. develop sophisticated mastery of theory and research in a disciplinary specialization
2. devise and pursue a program of independent research
3. make original contributions to the relevant research community

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

To facilitate the aforementioned learning objectives, this course aims at:

1. acquainting you with the culture, rules, and ethics of graduate school and professional geography and anthropology
2. guiding you in your transition to LSU and Louisiana and in familiarizing you with the colleagues and resources available to you
3. supporting your creativity by reviewing the process of development of original research

Everything we do in this course directly supports the course objectives and either directly or indirectly supports the learning objectives of your degree program.

## DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE + PERSONAL INFO

By September 15 please send Erika DeLeon ([gradsec@lsu.edu](mailto:gradsec@lsu.edu)) an email with this [personal data sheet completed](#). Separately, in the body of your email, send information for the department website including: full name, degree(s), undergraduate university, current advisor, research interests, and email. You can consult the bios of current graduate students [here](#). If you do not wish your email to be on the website, please let Erika know. If you wish, you can also email Erika a headshot for the website.

## ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR ZOOM)

This class is mostly about showing up (whether in person or on Zoom), being prepared, paying attention, taking notes, and asking questions. We are basically here to help you develop as graduate students, researchers, and professionals. The attendance will count for 50% of your final grade. A letter grade will be assigned for attendance: A- to A+ (90-100%) if attend all classes, B- to B+ (80-90%) if you miss one class without appropriate documentation/justification, C- to C+ (70-80%) if you miss two classes without appropriate documentation/justification, D- to D+ (60-70%) if you miss three classes without appropriate documentation/justification, and F (below 60%) if you miss four classes or more.

The remainder of the final grade will consist of four short assignments including (1) an Individual Development Plan (10%), (2) a mock research proposal (West-Russell Competition) (15%), (3) a journal scope review (15%), and (4) a Curriculum Vitae (CV) (10%).

## ASSIGNMENT 1 INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Please fill out the following form which will serve as the foundation of our discussion Week 3 (September 8). The Individual Development Plan is a tool designed to help you plan and track your yearly goals and achievements. Please post the completed version of your IDP in a .pdf form on the dedicate Moodle item before September 29. This assignment is worth 10% of the final grade.

## ASSIGNMENT 2 RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Write a mock West-Russell fieldwork proposal. In April 1981, the faculty in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University established the Robert C. West and R. J. Russell Field Research Award to support thesis and dissertation field research. Information on formatting the grant can be found [here](#). Please complete your research proposal and post a .pdf version on the dedicated Moodle item before October 13. This assignment is worth 15% of the final grade.

## ASSIGNMENT 3 JOURNAL SCOPE REVIEW

Choosing what journal to submit your work is very important. Write a brief, original summary of your impression of the scope of three important journals in your field where you could see yourself publishing your research. Read the journal's self-described "scope." Skim the article titles of the journal for the past year or two and get a general impression of the types of research that the journal seems to attract and prefer, the length of the contributions, their format/style, etc. One selection should be a general "flagship" journal in geography or anthropology (usually a discipline has only one "flagship" journal per nation), one should be a regional journal in geography or anthropology, and the other should be well-respected specialized national or international journal. Your paper can be up to a three-page maximum (double-spaced). Your review will be evaluated based on the quality of your writing and underscoring of the journals goals, types of published research, and suitability for your own research interests and graduate studies. It is important that you briefly summarize your research interests at the beginning of the assignment. Please post a .pdf version of your assignment on the dedicated Moodle item before November 3. This assignment is worth 15% of the final grade.

## ASSIGNMENT 4

Prepare your Curriculum Vitae and post a .pdf on the dedicated Moodle item before December 1. The assignment is worth 10% of the final grade.

## GRADING

Konsoer is responsible the GEOG grades and Chicoine of the ANTH ones. Final letter grades will be assigned using this scale:

A+ 97-100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	
A 93-96%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%	F Below 60% (failure)
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%	

In all written assignments, grades will be based on three considerations: (1) content (i.e., how much quality information is provided in the limited number of words allowed); (2) quality of organization, clarity, and conciseness of writing style; and (3) the degree to which the submission demonstrates a mastery of the learning objectives of the graduate degrees in geography and anthropology. No distinction is drawn between expectations for master's-level students and PhD students. Late turn-ins are penalized substantially (unless an appropriate justification and/or documentation is provided and discussed with the instructors as soon as possible [before the deadline for submitting assignments]).

## SEMINAR POLICIES

As members of the LSU community, it is incumbent upon us to take full advantage of the educational opportunities that we are afforded and to maintain our teaching facilities. The success of this course in this learning environment is in large measure dependent upon the cooperation of everyone involved in the process.

## COVID-19

LSU strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Visit [www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/](http://www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/) to learn how to get vaccinated on campus. Vaccination helps keep our campus community safe, helps protect those among us who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, and is our path back to more normal operations and the full college experience that our students deserve.

## SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Topic	Date
1	Introduction + Outline	8/25
2	NO CLASS – HURRICANE IDA	9/1
3	The mechanics of graduate research + Program requirements	9/8
4	Library resources at LSU (ONLINE/ZOOM ONLY)	9/15
5	Individual Development Plan + Advisor/advisee relations	9/22
6	Building a bibliographic database: Endnote + <b>Assignment 1 Due</b>	9/29
7	Funding: How to write a grant proposal	10/6
8	Ethical field research + <b>Assignment 2 Due</b>	10/13
9	Conference presentations	10/20
10	Publishing: The peer review process	10/27
11	Writing your thesis/dissertation + <b>Assignment 3 Due</b>	11/3
12	Final examinations + Revisions + Graduating	11/10
13	CVs, resumes + Applying for jobs	11/17
14	No class – Thanksgiving	11/24
15	Career paths + Alt-Ac + <b>Assignment 4 Due</b>	12/1