**Introduction to Graduate Study**

**ANTH 7901/GEOG 7901**

**Fall 2024**

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. We will address basic skills necessary in graduate school such as how to choose a dissertation or thesis topic, how to use the library, where to look for funding, how to choose the best journal for a publication, etc.

This course will also help indoctrinate you as to what it means to be a graduate student specifically at LSU and, more broadly, detail what it means to be a graduate student in the state of Louisiana. To this end, we will explore the intricacies of life in Louisiana both anthropologically and geographically through a field trip. The field trip will also act as a means to help build camaraderie within your cohort.

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:** Wednesday11:30 am -12:20 pm

**Place:** Howe-Russell E332

**Instructors:** Drs. Kory Konsoer and Juliet Brophy

**Office:** Brophy: HR E105; H-R Konsoer, HR 119

**E-mail:** jbrophy@lsu.edu, kkonsoer@lsu.edu

**Office Hours:** Brophy – by appointment; Konsoer – by appointment

**Readings:** There is no formal textbook. PDFs will be posted on Moodle

**Grading:** See criteria below.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**:

The learning objectives of the master’s degree programs in the LSU Department of Geography and 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 Ph.D. program in Geography and 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 FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS:**

**1. Class Attendance: (20%)**

Your class attendance grade will consist of weekly attendance during our class, which will include participation in discussions. You will also be required (as part of this grade) to attend our Department’s Friday Forum (speaker series).

**2. Field Trip: (30%)**

We will go on one day-long field trip to the New Orleans metropolitan region. This field trip will center on the impacts of Hurricane Katrina and involves visiting relevant sites to bring an understanding of what caused the catastrophe and the effects the catastrophe had on the people/culture. However, we will also visit sites that will broaden your understanding of the New Orleans metropolitan area, both from an anthropological and geographical perspective. The following week you need to submit a reflection/response to the experience in NOLA. This assignment should be no more than 1-2 pages double spaced. Questions you might consider reflecting on: what were the major structural flaws in the levees, what is being done to prevent another Katrina level catastrophe, how have people adapted to living so close to water, after 17 years does Katrina still have a residual effect on the culture, does it make sense to maintain New Orleans, etc. The van will leave from LSU at 7am and return at approximately midnight. Please dress comfortably. More details will be given in class.

**Electronic copy to Brophy by 09/04; Electronic copy to Konsoer by 09/04.**

**3. Department Website and Personal Information**

By **30 August** please send Camille W. Dupuis ([cwilth2@lsu.edu](mailto:cwilth2@lsu.edu)) an email with this personal data sheet completed (<https://lsu.edu/ga/files/forms/personal_data.pdf>). 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 on the department website in the tab People and Graduate Students. She will also need a good headshot for the website where your face can clearly be seen. If you do not wish your email to be on the website, please let Camille know.

**4. Individual development plan**

Please fill out the IDP form (on moodle) which will serve as the foundation of our discussion on Week 3 (11 September). The Individual Development Plan is a tool designed to help you plan and track your yearly goals and achievements. Please complete the form before class on **18 September**.

**5. Journal Scope Paper: (20%)**

Choosing what journal to publish in is almost as important as what you are publishing. 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 thesis or dissertation 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. 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, double sided).

**Hard copy due in appropriate instructor’s mailbox by 10/02.**

**6. Research Proposal**: **(20%)**

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 Graduate Student Field Research Fund to support thesis and dissertation field research and to honor Boyd Professor Robert C. West. Masters’ students often use Robert C. West or R. J. Russell funds for their thesis research. PhD students generally use the funds for exploratory or pilot research to help them develop a dissertation topic and leverage outside funding. Information on formatting the grant can be found here: <http://ga.lsu.edu/west-russell-awards/>

**Electronic copy to Brophy by 10/23.**

**Electronic copy to Konsoer by 10/23.**

**7. C.V.: Write a C.V. (10%)**

**Hard copy to Brophy by 11/20.**

**Electronic copy to Konsoer by 11/20.**

**GRADING**

Konsoer is responsible the GEOG grades and Brophy 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/ 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.

**LECTURE SCHEDULE**

**Class Meeting** **Topic**  **Date**

1. Brophy & Konsoer Introduction to course 8/28

Field Trip to New Orleans Saturday 8/31

2. Konsoer The mechanics of graduate research + Program reqs 9/04

**Field Trip Reflection Due**

3. Konsoer Developing a Research Topic 9/11

4. Konsoer Individual Development Plan + Advisor/advisee relations 9/18

**IDP Due**

5. Diamond Archival research: Library resources at LSU 09/25

6. Konsoer Conference Presentations and behavior 10/02

**Journal Scope Paper Due**

7. Brophy How to write a grant proposal 10/09

8. Whitmer Funding in academia: Grants & fellowships 10/16

9. TBA Ethical Field Research 10/23

**Research Proposal Due**

10. Brophy International Research and Travel 10/30

11. Konsoer Publishing- the peer review process 11/06

12. Brophy Writing your thesis/dissertation + Defense 11/13

13. Career Center Rep How to write a CV/find a job 11/20

**CVs due**

**14. No Class – Thanksgiving 11/27**

15. Konsoer and Brophy Final thoughts

End of Class Soiree 12/04