

GEOGRAPHY

Professor & Head of Department

W Ellery, PhD(Wits)

Professors

RC Fox, PhD(Strathclyde), PGDHE(Rhodes)

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GK McGregor, MSc(Rhodes)

Lecturer

P Irvine, MA(Rhodes)

Professors Emeritus

CA Lewis, BA(Wales), PhD(Ireland)

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Visiting Professors

P Assmo, PhD(Göteborg)

J Boelhouwers, BSc(Utrecht), MSc(Natal),

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I Foster, BScHons(London), PhD(Exeter) K Hall,

BScHons(Swansea), MPhil(Reading), PhD(Free State), DSc(UKZN)

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B.Agric(Fort Hare), MSc(Guelph), PhD(Western Cape)

E Nel, BAHons(Rhodes), HDE(Rhodes),

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Research Associates

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Geography (GOG) is a six-semester subject that may be taken as a major subject for the degrees of BSc, BA, BJourn and BSocSc.

To major in Geography, a candidate is required to obtain credit in the following courses: EAR 101; GOG 102; GOG 201; GOG 202; GOG 301; and GOG 302. See Rule S.23. At the discretion of the Head of Department students may replace one third level course with an acceptable alternative course deemed to be its equivalent.

EAR 101 and GOG 102 are pre-requisites for students majoring in *Environmental Science* (ENV), details of which are given in a separate entry.

Students are expected to participate in Departmental excursions. Costs are kept as low as possible. Honours students are encouraged to attend the South African Student Geographical Conference, which is held at a different university each year. See the

Departmental Web Page (<http://www.ru.ac.za/geography>) for further details, particularly on the contents of courses.

First-year level courses in Geography

Geography 1 consists of two first-year courses, namely Earth Science 101 (jointly taught by the Geography and Geology departments) and Geography 102 (Introduction to Global Development), which are normally taught in the first and second semesters respectively. Students who take both Geography 1 and Geology 1 will have to take an additional semester course in an appropriate subject during the first semester to ensure that they have enough credits for their degree. Credit may be obtained in each semester course separately and, in addition, an aggregate mark of at least 50% will be deemed to be equivalent to a two-credit course GOG 1, provided that a candidate obtains the required sub-minimum in each component. However, students wishing to major in Geography must normally obtain credit in both components separately. Supplementary examinations may be recommended in either course, provided that a candidate achieves a minimum standard specified by the Department.

These courses provide a sound foundation for the student majoring in Geography as well as general courses for the student studying Geography for one year. Practical work, including field work, is an integral part of both courses.

A rating of at least 4 for Geography in the National Senior Certificate (or equivalent) is recommended for entry into Earth Science. Students may not register for Geography 102 unless they have met the subminimum requirements in both the theory and practical papers (35%) for EAR 101, or a rating of at least 4 in Geography in the National Senior Certificate (or equivalent).

EAR 101

Introduction to Earth Systems. This course introduces the processes that have shaped the Earth and its environment over both geological and recent time scales. The interrelationships between the Earth, the atmosphere and living organisms forms a key theme through the course.

GOG 102

Introduction to Global Development. This course examines the key political, economic, demographic and cultural forces that have shaped the global development process and assesses the relationship between these factors in a spatial context.

Second-year level courses in Geography

There are two independent second-year courses in Geography. GOG 201 is normally held in the first semester and GOG 202 in the second semester. Credit may be obtained in each course separately and, in addition, an aggregate mark of at least 50% will be deemed to be equivalent to a two-credit course GOG 2, provided that a candidate obtains the required subminimum in each component. No supplementary examinations will be offered for either course.

Practical work is an integral part of both courses and is related to the relevant lecture courses and to the development of research techniques.

Credit in GOG 102 and EAR 101 is required before a student may register for GOG 201 or GOG 202. At the discretion of the Head of Department, students who have an aggregate pass of at least 60% for GOG 1 may be allowed to register for GOG 201 and GOG 202.

GOG 201

Space and place in Southern Africa 1. This course examines the key processes that determine the physical and human geography of southern Africa. Concepts, theories and examples from other regions will be used where appropriate to help us understand the southern African experience. Contemporary issues such as environmental change and associated problems of human development will be examined. Selected human and physical geographical perspectives are used to understand the rural and urban landscapes. The complementary course is GOG 202.

GOG 202

Space and place in Southern Africa 2. This course examines the key processes that determine the physical and human geography of southern Africa. Concepts, theories and examples from other regions will be used where appropriate to help us understand the southern African experience. Contemporary issues such as environmental change and associated problems of human development will be examined. Selected human and physical geographical perspectives are

used to understand the rural and urban landscapes. The complementary course is GOG 201.

Third-year level courses in Geography

There are two independent third year courses in Geography. GOG 301 is normally held in the first semester and GOG 302 in the second semester. Credit may be obtained in each course separately and, in addition, an aggregate mark of at least 50% will be deemed to be equivalent to a two-credit course GOG 3, provided that a candidate obtains the required sub-minimum in each component. Normally, credit in both GOG 201 and GOG 202 is required before a student may register for either or both of the third year credits GOG 301 and GOG 302. At the discretion of the Head of Department a student with only an aggregate credit for GOG 2 may be allowed to register for either or both of the credits GOG 301 and GOG 302.

GOG 301

African Geographical Studies. In this course students will develop a critical understanding of Africa from a Geographical perspective through topics that relate to the Continent's complex social, built and physical environments, environmental processes, resources, as well as social, cultural, economic, and political systems. The specific content of the course will depend on the research and teaching interests of the academic staff who are available at the time and will vary from year to year. A compulsory field weekend may be a component of the course.

GOG 302

Geography in Theory and Practice. The aim of this course is to provide students with the theoretical background and related practical competencies in one or more sub-disciplines within Geography, including Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing. A compulsory field weekend may be a component of the course.

Honours in Geography

The Department of Geography offers separate Honours degrees in Geography and Environmental Water Management. In all cases students are required to read four modules, submit a research project proposal, a research project, and present at least two seminars during the year. At the start of the academic year all students will have to attend an induction programme and may include a compulsory field trip.

Other field trips, which may be scheduled during a vacation, are also compulsory for several individual Honours modules and students will normally be expected to attend the annual Geography Students Conference. For all programmes, the modules offered may be subject to timetable and staffing constraints. Other appropriate modules may be taken if approved by the Head of Department. Entry into any module will be dependent on being able to provide evidence of appropriate prior knowledge to the Head of Department.

Part of the Geography degree may be taken in conjunction with modules in other departments. Where approximately 50% of a student's courses are examined in another department, a joint degree is awarded (for example, Honours in Geography/ Environmental Science). Any combined degree must be agreed to by both Heads of Department concerned.

Geography Honours students may read for a BScHons, BAHons or a BSocScHons degree, depending on their undergraduate degree and curriculum. Humanities students are reminded of the alternative route to Honours. See Rules H.25(3) and H.25(4).

Geography Honours

Students are required to take a core, integrative, module and select three other courses from those offered by the staff of the Department, Visiting Professors, Visiting Lecturers and Research Associates. Our modules reflect the interests of the staff members and normally include a selection from the following: African Futures; Fundamentals of Geographical Information Systems or Advanced Geographical Information Systems (An appropriate undergraduate course in GIS is a prerequisite); GIS Internship; Catchment Systems; Climate Change, Extreme Events and Disasters; Geomorphology and Environmental Change; Geography of Small Towns; and Wetland Ecology and Management.

Environmental Water Management Honours

Environmental Water Management Honours is offered with input from the Institute for Water Research at Rhodes University. Candidates must be in possession of an appropriate Bachelor's degree, normally majoring in at least one of Geography, Environmental Science or Hydrology. Other candidates with appropriate professional experience in water resource management may be considered. This degree aims to equip students with the conceptual understanding and practical knowledge that are needed to make an effective contribution to the sustainable management of catchment systems and their associated water resources. Students are required to take a core, integrative, module, and must also select three other courses. Recommended courses include: Catchment Systems; Climate Change, Extreme Events and Disasters; Environmental Water Quality; Fundamentals of Geographical Information Systems or Advanced Geographical Information Systems (depending on whether a student has successfully completed an undergraduate GIS course); Geomorphology and Environmental Change; Integrated Catchment Management, Wetland Ecology and Management, or other appropriate courses approved by the Course Coordinator. The research project must be related to Environmental Water Management and approved by the Course Coordinator.

Interdisciplinary Honours Degrees

The Geography Department offers courses as components of various interdisciplinary honours programmes (see Interdepartmental Studies in this Calendar) including Development Studies and Industrial Society. Students should consult the Head of Department concerning available courses.

Master's and Doctoral degrees

Suitably qualified students are encouraged to proceed to the research degrees of MSc, MA, MSocSc and PhD, under the direction of the staff of the Department. Requirements for these degrees are given in the General Rules.