

GEO 490 Spring 2020

3 cr. (CAP, CIM)

Dr. Neil C. Heywood

SENIOR RESEARCH (Geography/Geoscience)

Lecture 1: W 17-19:30; Sci B347*

Office: Science D333

Office Hours: on-line; or by appt

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***except for the all-class meetings, each project team meets at its own weekly hour**

READ AND RETAIN THIS SYLLABUS!

SHARE IF YOU KNOW WHAT THESE ARE



This is the capstone course, your culminating experience of an undergraduate career and Geo major. Accordingly, my expectations for your project will be quite high. I expect nothing less than products that will win you the position when you show them to a personnel officer during an interview. You will not obtain my endorsement for anything less. Be aware that I am likely of a geographic origin and vintage quite distinct from you.

This course carries three GEP credit hours toward graduation. Importantly, **all** projects are collaborative; you will be part of a team working *together* to address a research problem. The faculty provide a choice of general research themes; student teams then refine one of these into a specific research question, with advice from a topical faculty mentor.

Project teams shall consist of no fewer than three and no more than five students; four is the ideal. Each team will meet for about one hour weekly with their topical advisor and/or myself; **attendance is mandatory.** Teams will mutually determine the time, day and place of their meetings to accommodate the schedules of the students *and the faculty advisor(s)*. Except for the very first class meetings and the final presentations, we will **NOT** meet as a full class every Wednesday. Once you have made your project commitment to me *via e-mail*, you may **NOT** change to another question or team. You must make this commitment **NO LATER** than the end of the first class meeting on Wednesday, 22 January 2020. If you do not inform me by this deadline, I will review your coursework before *assigning* you to a team. Your team shall design, execute, and report upon a substantive research work of your mutual device. Collectively your team shall produce a project report, a poster, and an illustrated oral presentation, and individually you will provide a research journal and survey of your personal activities. In the "real world" you may rarely again ever find yourself required to come up with a solo *prima donna* product, but it is extremely likely that you *will* someday (translate as "very soon") need to contribute towards a team effort. This is how the modern professional workplace usually operates.

*I will accept your projects **only** by delivery through electronic media.* All word processing must be in the current campus version of MicroSoft Word; all journals/spreadsheets in MicroSoft Excel, and all presentations in MicroSoft PowerPoint. I will **NOT** accept any materials that are in inappropriate format or on tangible media (i.e., no paper or diskettes). Submit all group work into a team "dropbox" that I will set up on **Canvas**, and at my **external back-up site**. By this same procedure I shall return feedback and comments. *Please do **NOT** send large attachments (report drafts with embedded graphics, PowerPoint presentations, etc.) by e-mail*, as having many students doing this quickly jams my e-mail quota. **Use the dropbox, and nothing else.** There is no required textbook, but 30% of your course grade derives from weekly participation.

CLASS ID#: **Subtract** (do *not* concatenate, append, or excise digits!) the **last** letter of your **first** name from your UWSP ID#. e.g. 12345678 (UWSP ID#)

- 12(Neil)

12345666 THIS WOULD BE MY CLASS ID#

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

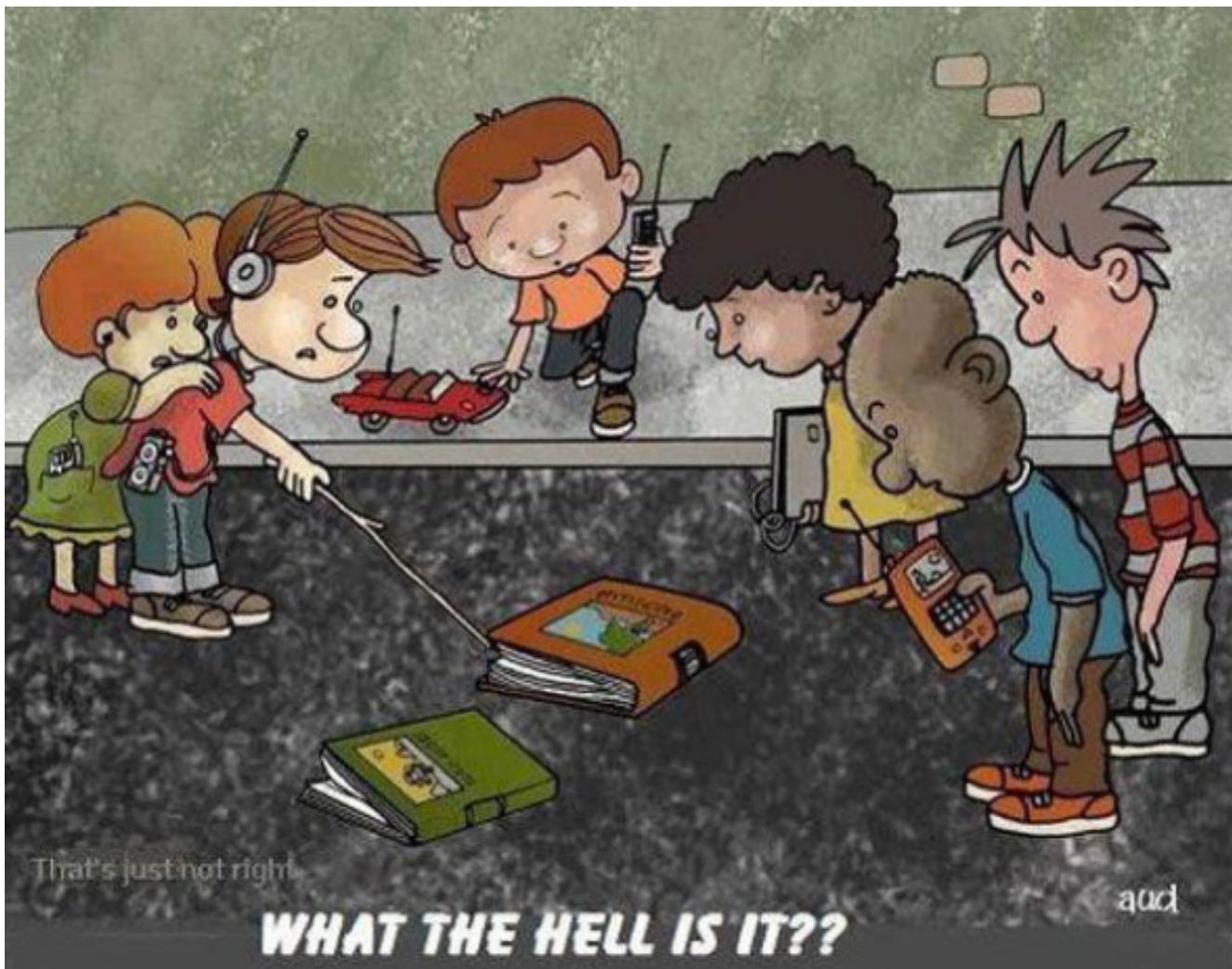
This extra procedure to further protect YOUR identity in this class. Do **NOT** use it to access UWSP computing accounts.

DATES (due dates in bold)	TOPICS	ITEMS DUE
W22JAN	All-class meeting: teams, Institutional Reviews	
Week ending F31JAN	Problem refinement, feasibility, product	Draft Proposal
Week ending F07FEB	Team research questions, data sources, proposal	Final Proposal 5%
Weeks ending F21FEB	Team report introduction drafts; problem statements	Statement Draft 5%
Week ending F06MAR	Team report methodology drafts	Methods & Data 5%
Weeks ending F13MAR	Team report analyses/interpretations drafts	Interpretations 5%
Week ending F03APR	Team full report drafts	Report Draft
Weeks ending F24APR	Team final reports; <i>Powerpoint</i> presentations/rehearsals	FINAL Report 30%
W06MAY17:00	All-class meeting: up to six Final Presentations (10%)	Personal Journal 5%
W13MAY 17:00	Final consultations	Evaluation Survey 5%

You *must* work as a *team*. Accordingly, there are **NO acceptable excuses** for late submissions; don't even ask. Have your tasks at the designated site and at the correct time and date, else you will **all** go without. If you habitually have relied upon second chances, or extra credit, you will find some very hard landings on the far side of the graduation stage—if you even get there. Second chances and extra credit do *not* apply in skydiving, heart surgery, nor nuclear hand grenades, nor shall they for GEO 490! Fair notice, Folks; got it? Be on time.

Please also examine campus [Rights and Responsibilities](#), specifically pages 2-4, that explains Student Rights and Responsibilities within the UWSP campus community, including required behavior by students and faculty within the classroom environment. The professionalism component of your course grade depends in part upon your compliance with these official UWSP guidelines. If I hear of any 3 AM fistfights in our computing labs, you are back here again next year (if there is one).

Drop your preconceptions that Google and Social Media will save you. These can help (*sometimes*), but there are things called books and libraries (alien as these may have become to you) that warrant examination. *Try one!*



You may find some additional web links useful, even beyond GEO 490. I frequently receive requests for these.

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