GEOG 803: HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH SEMINAR
Social Impacts of Climate Change
Spring 2020
TR 2:00-3:15pm, Carolina Hall 204

Instructor
Dr. Clark Gray
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Prerequisites: This course is open to all graduate students at UNC who have previous training in geography, environmental studies/sciences, statistics/quantitative methods, population studies/demography or public health, and to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

Nature and Goals of the Course: This is a project-based course in which we will work together on one or more collectively-defined research projects with the goal of producing the draft of a publishable manuscript. The research topic/s will fall within the general area of the social impact of climate change, but interpreted broadly to encompass various aspects of environmental change and human well-being. We are likely to take advantage of new population-representative data sources on human health and well-being (e.g., IPUMS, DHS, LSMS) as well as new high-resolution environmental data sources on climate and other aspects of environmental change. This practicum will expose students to the entire research process (from defining a question to submitting a manuscript) as well as to working in an interdisciplinary team - increasingly the norm in this area.

Structure of the Course: Class time will be used for group discussions, work in small teams, and short presentations by students, the instructor and (if needed) guest lecturers. Assignments will be made at the end of each class period.

Grading
- Weekly presentations: Students will take turns making weekly presentations on potential research topics and/or progress on their project (30% of grade).
- Completed project: Overall quality of the project (40% of grade).
- Contribution to project: Students contribution to the project via self-assessment and instructor’s observations (30% of grade).

Class Policies: If you need to miss class for any reason, please let me know ahead of time via email if at all possible.

Tentative Timeline
- Weeks 1-2 (Jan 9-16): Explore project topics.
- Weeks 2-4 (Jan 21-30): Settle on research questions, study designs and teams.
- Weeks 5-8 (Feb 4-27): Data setup and literature review.
- Weeks 9-12 (March 3-26): Data analysis and writing. Share draft of literature review and preliminary results.
- Weeks 13-17 (March 31-April 23): More data analysis and writing. Share complete draft for peer feedback. Discuss future plans for the manuscript.