

A decorative border composed of repeating black floral motifs, resembling stylized flowers or leaves, arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

**UNITED METHODIST UNIVERSITY (UMU)
ASHMUN STREET
MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

PROPOSED PROGRAM

FOR

A DEGREE GRANTING IN

GEOGRAPHY

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Department of Geography was set up at the United Methodist University by the Late Teah W. Wesseh, who served the Department as Co-ordinator between 2015-2018, with the supervision of the Dean of Liberal and Fine Arts, Rev. Dr. Momo S. Kpaan. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Rev. Jethro S. Tamba who contributed immensely on the setting up of the program at the Department.

The department also extended her warm thanks to Mr. E. Dorbo Smith, presently the Co-ordinator of the Department for his helping hands in the modelling of the program. Again, our sincere gratitude goes to Mr. Isaac G. Clay who was part of the team that help to structure the program at the department of Geography.

Introduction

the Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography (BA) is a four-year undergraduate program.

The program is designed to serve as a required course complementing other program. More importantly, it provides training for students at the J.J. Roberts College of Education reading Geography as a Major or Minor to be taught at high school level after graduation.

Additionally, the program in line with our vision at the United Methodist University provide adequate training for students reading General Geography either as a major or minor at the College of Liberal and Fine Arts with the aim of earning Bachelor Degree in Arts (BA). The Department of Geography will be putting out two or three students as their first graduates in 2022/2023.

The program is structured to guide instructors, lecturers and professors on specific course to teach during each semester, while students will be guided to select courses from the corresponding disciplines in each semester.

Courses at the Department of Geography are grouped into three (3) broad categories;

- General Required Courses
- Required Courses
- Elective Courses

All of these categories must be taken and successfully passed by every student being eligible for graduation. Elective courses, as the name suggest, present students with choices of what they would select to study or not to study.

Due to the growing demand of qualified geographers both at the high school level and tertiary institutions, the Department of Geography was set up at the United Methodist University to Provide training in geography as a means of reducing the growing demand.

The menu of the required courses and elective courses was prepared carefully by the Department to suit individual preferences while ensuring that student completing geographic study has the minimum practical skills required of every geographers.

Please Note: Course reference 310 was initially known as practical town mapping, but has been changed to GIS due to Global Change in scientific technology in Geography.

Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Department of Geography at the United Methodist University is to equip students with an excellent understanding of the Geographic skills which is relevant to our spatial Environment and the development of Liberia and the world at large.

Vision Statement:

To Integrate and expand the learning activities of students through the usage of modern technological advance method such as Geographic information system (GIS). Transform the ancient way of instruction to a new technology of computer: and broaden the scope of learning to a better equip students at the bachelor's level for a job market.

United Methodist University

College of Liberal and Fine Arts

Dean: Rev. Dr. Momoh Kpaan

Full time Lecturers and Qualification

- E. Dorbor Smith – Chairman	B.Sc Edu, M.Sc
- Isaac G. Clay	B.Sc, M.Sc (Candidate)
Adjunct Faculty (Geography Department)	
- Jethro S. Tamba	BA, MA, M.Sc
- Joseph Wenneh	B.Sc, M.Sc
Proposed Lecturers for the Program when approved	
- James K. Mulbah	BA., M.Sc
- Alphonso G. Sloan	BA, M.Sc (Candidate)
- T.T. Yantay	B.A, M.Sc (GIS Specialist)
- David Wiles	BA, MSc Phil
- Roland Yengbeh	BA, MSc (GIS Specialist)

Strategic Goals

The Department of geography endeavors to achieve the following objectives.

- To prepare Geographers to conduct research in work places that deal with spatial analysis of the environment.
- To train students in the field of Geography to teach in our schools and colleges both public and private institutions.
- To acquaint students with the different Geographic features that we encounter in our surrounding.
- To provide better understanding of Geographic information system (GIS) and its application in solving the numerous environmental problems that confront us as human beings.
- To provide a solid foundation which would allow students to progress to post graduate studies in Geography.

Requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Geography (BA)

The course of study for the degree in Geography is 136 credit hours. A student pursuing the degree must complete the general requirements as prescribes by the United Methodist University.

General Requirement for all Geography Major 64 credit hours.

- Major Area of Concentration credit hours required 63 credits.
- Minor in Geography credit hour required 18.
- Elective 9 credit hours.

General Requirement	64 Credit Hours
Major Area of Concentration	63 Credits Hours
Elective	9 Credit Hours
Total	<u>136 Credits Hours</u>

FIRST YEAR: - FRESHMAN

FIRST SEMESTER				SECOND SEMESTER			
Course	No	Course Title	Cr/Hr	Course	No	Course Title	Cr/Hr
Geog.	101	Fundamental of Geog.	3	SOSC	101	Intro. SOSC	3
Engl.	101	English 1	3	English	102	English II	3
Math	101	Math	3	Math	102	Math	3
French	101	French	3	TIR	102	Intro. To Religion	3
PHsc/BIO	101	BIOL	3	PHS/BIO	102	BIOL	3
PHED	101	PHED	1	PHED	102	PHED	1
ROTC	101	ROTC	1	ROTC	102	ROTC	1
TOTAL			17	TOTAL			17

SECOND YEAR: SOPHOMORE

FIRST SEMESTER				SECOND SEMESTER			
Course	No	Course Title	Cr/Hr	Course	No	Course Title	Cr/Hr
Geog.	100	Map Reading	3	Geog.	200	Map Reading II	3
Geog.	203	Geog. Of Africa 1	3	Geog.	202	Geog. Fundamental II	3
Engl.	201	Sophomore Engl.	3	Geog.	208	Industrial Geog.	3
French	201	Sophomore	3	Geog.	214	Physical Environmental System	3
SOSC	201	Intro. To Liberian Society	3	Engl.	202	Sophomore Engl.	3
Mang.	201	Computer	3	French	202	Sophomore French	3
Total			18	Total			18

THIRD YEAR: JUNIOR

FIRST SEMESTER				SECOND SEMESTER			
Course	No	Course Title	Cr/Hr	Course	No	Course Title	Cr/Hr
Geog.	304	Popu. Geog.	3	Geog.	310	GIS Informational	3
Geog.	306	Econ. Geog.	3	Geog.	314	Quantities Technique	3
Geog.	312	Reg. Geog. W/A	3	Geog.	318	Theory Application	3
French	303	Advance Engl.	3	Engl.	304	Advance English II	3
Elective				Minor			
Total			12			TOTAL	12

FOURTH YEAR: SENIOR

FIRST SEMESTER				SECOND SEMESTER			
Course	No	Course Title	Cr/Hr	Course	No	Course Title	Cr/Hr
Geog.	495	Research Method	3	Geog.	410	Practical Town Mapping	3
Geog.	401	Reg. Geog. Of Liberia	3	Geog.	496	Thesis	3
Geog.	419	Reg. Deve. Policy	3	Minor			3
Elective			3	Minor			3
Total			12	Total			12

COURSES FOR GEOGRAPHY MAJOR

Courses	No	Description	Cr/Hrs
Geog.	100	Map Reading	3
Geog.	200	Map Reading	3
Geog.	203	Regional Geography of Africa	3
Geog.	202	Fundamentals Geography	3
Geog.	208	Industrial Geography II	3
Geog.	214	Physical Environmental System	3
Geog.	205	Geomorphology	3
Geog.	206	Agricultural Geography	3
Geog.	209	Environmental Geography & Ecology	3
Geog.	210	Transportation	3
Geog.	301	Bio-Geography	3
Geog.	304	Population Geography	3
Geog.	305	Climatology	3
Geog.	306	Economic Geography	3
Geog.	312	Regional Geography of West Africa	3
Geog.	310	Geography Information System (GIS)	3
Geog.	315	Spatial Organization	3
Geog.	314	Quantities Techniques	3
Geog.	318	Theory and Application	3
Geog.	401	Regional Geography of Liberia	3
Geog.	419	Regional Development Policy in Liberia	3
Geog.	414	Urban Growth and Development	3
Geog.	495	Research Method	3
Geog.	496	Thesis	3

COURSES FOR GEOGRAPHY MINOR

Course	No	Description	Cr/Hrs.
Geog.	100	Map Reading I	3
Geog.	200	Map Reading II	3
Geog.	203	Regional Geography	3
Geog.	214	Physical Environmental	3
Geog.	304	Population Geography	3
Geog.	401	Regional Geography of Liberia	3

Elective

Students can do at least 9 credit hours; courses from any of the five below.

1. Geog. 305 Climatology
2. Geog. 205 Geomorphology
3. Geog. 210 Transportation
4. Geog. 315 Spatial organization
5. Geog. 414 Urban Growth and Development

GEOGRAPHY COURSE DESCRIPTION

Geog. 101: Fundamental of Geography I:

This is an introductory course in geography with emphasis on understanding of geography as a science. The course covers the need and purpose of geography as the study of area differentiation. The course also deals with the laws, dualism of physical and human geography, regional constraints, systematic in geography, challenges and opportunities in geography.

Geog. 100 Map Reading 1

This is an introduction to the different types of maps, and the symbols and scales of map, diagrams, tables, and graphs will be studied for their compilation and values. A section of the course 'sill deal with surveying instruments. Students of the courses will learn how to use the basic map information, the act and the techniques values, the use of various map scales, map symbols and the technique characteristics of map projection, as well as the types of map.

Geog. 200: Map Reading II

Following the first map reading course 100, this course map reading 200 is more practical study of drawing techniques and cartography with a special section dealing with projections, thematic maps will he produced map interpretation will embrace all types of map including air photos. A study of recent map of Liberia will be made.

Geog. 202: Fundamental of Geography I:

This course is a continuation of geography 101. It explores in details scientific method and its application in geography. It therefore deals with the structuring of geographic relationships, formulation classification, resource appraisal, location and uses of land, regional geography and theory of region, and contemporary trends in geography.

Geog. 203: Regional Geog. Of Africa

This course is designed to acquaint student with the physical features of Africa including the human aspects of geography. As physical feature varied from within regions and from regions, so do the activities of the inhabitants who imprint on the land.

Geog. 205: Geomorphology (Pre-requisite Geog. 101)

This course exposes the students to the study of the features of the land forms both simples and major landforms. It gives discretion and explanations of climate, vegetation, river systems, and volcanic activities. It points out different geomorphologic belts around the globe. This course also includes field trip and practical field work to understand the tropical landscape of Liberia.

Geog. 206 Agricultural Geography

This course is to introduce the spatial aspects of enterprises, transport and marketing of agricultural commodities must also be a major aspect in the course. It is also known that traditional re-industrial societies developed tools and other artifact, and in addition to this, they created institutions land practices that were related to their continuing needs finding or reducing food and essential materials. That need still remained. However, the cultural difficult solutions of traditional societies are being gradually replaced by the shared technologies of modern industries.

Geog. 209: Environment Geography and Ecology

This course defines man's special relationship to his environment and the role he plays in it. This course stresses the value of the environment and the quantity of life derived from it. It points out the role of man in maintaining and improving his environment to ensure better livelihood. It looks at the environment on a regional level, and discusses the existence of various eco-system looking at the macro-systems and the micro-system. Finally, the course evaluates some contemporary environmental and ecologist problems facing man and the various theories to deal with them.

Geog. 210 Transporting Geography

This course is to provide students a more detailed understanding of transport and trade functions in the world and their direct relationship to the world's economics. The planning of transport infrastructure, and how they are related to the world's trade will be highlighted in details.

Geog. 214: Physical Environmental System

Environmental degradation is a broad term referring to processes that destroy a regions resources base and thus hinder its long-term biological and economic productivity.

Examples of major types of Environmental degradation include covering productive and with water, silt, or building to such an extent that agricultural productivity has been reduced by soil erosion and depletion of plant nutrients. Physical Environment system also examines pollution (both on land and water bodies).

Geog. 301 Bio-Geography

This course is about the study of the distribution of fauna and flora in spatial perspective. It combines the discipline of biology, ecology and geography in a field known as biogeography. This course includes the study of biomes and has strong ties to biology, ecology, evolution studies, climatology and soil science as they relate to animal populations and factors that allow them to flourish in a particular region.

Geog. 304 Population Geography

This course focuses on the scientific study of people, their spatial distribution and density, and examines the increase and decrease in population, movement of people over time, general settlement patterns and other aspect such as occupation, formation of geographic character of a place. Population geography closely related to demography. The study of population statistic and its trends.

Geog. 305 Climatology

The purpose of the course is to provide an integrated introduction to climatology and meteorology. The first is that the same basic principle apply to many aspects of the two subjects, as both are concerned with the same physical properties and movement of fluids at the near the surface of the rotating earth.

The introductory part in climatology makes extensive use of maps and graphs on which isopheths, lines of constant values of a given quantity have been drawn. In climatology, emphasis will be placed on the elements of climate and the characteristic of the atmosphere such as temperature, precipitation, windspeed, humidity, sunshine cloudiness and evaporation. We also look at how we determine these elements.

Geog. 306 Economics Geography

The course deals with the economic characteristics of an area which tends to exert a much direct effects upon its population. It also provides an understanding of economic condition that may tend to manage people in a specific pattern. It provides support for a certain population density regardless of irregularities in the character of the physical world in which the live. An in-depth analysis of a given economy will be highlighted.

Geog. 310 Graphic Information system (GIS)

This is an introductory aspect of geographic Information system designed in getting maps into the computer. It involves the use of the powerful sets of tools for entering and retrieving at will, transforming and displaying spatial data from the real world for particular set of purpose. It is data base system.

Geog. 312 Regional Geography of West Africa

Students reading this course are expected to acquire knowledge of the physical and human geographic condition that effect west Africa as a distinctive sub region in Africa. West Africa as a geographic region has its own peculiar natural conditions that play a major role in its developments. Students must have a fair knowledge of these conditions.

Geog. 314 Quantitative Techniques

This course provides students quantitative skill which is sine investigation in geography. It helps in collection, analysis and interpretation of geographic data.

This course quantities skill which is needed for specific investigation in geography. It helps in the collection analysis and interpretation of geographic data.

Geog. 315 Spatial Organization

(Introduction to Sustainable Development)

This is an introductory aspect of spatial organization which examines the importance of space in geographic forms of interactions, relationship and geographic explanation, location and use patterns, spatial diffusion processes and their impact on man/land relationships.

Geog. 318 Theory and Theory Applications

These course studies the scientific approach in geography and the collection, analysis, and presentation of data. Traditionally, Geographers have examined the differences between places and regions rather than their similarities, the modern geographers have becomes concerned with similarities as well as differences at many areas of study.

Geog. 401 Regional Geography of Liberia

This course is designed to study in details both physical features of Liberia and the various land use patterns that are related to those physical features. Physical features are varied from regions to regions even within regions. It is necessary for students to study these differences as they relate to the activities of the inhabitants of particular region.

Geog. 414: Urban Growth and Development

This course will provide students with location pattern in urban areas and the trend of growth; in historical development, rent theory in urban areas, housing, commercial and industrial location, the role of transportation, urban finance and sustainable development concepts.

Geog. 419 Regional Development Policies in Liberia

This course evaluates current regional development policies in Liberia. It analyzes several fields experience in Liberia through a series of how to do it exercises, it evaluates the rational for government involvement in development, programs and present alternatives to public policy analysis.

Geog. 495: Research Method

Geog. 496: Thesis

This course is aimed to familiarize students with the arts and science of qualitative and quantitative research techniques and process of writing thesis or research paper acceptable for a degree.

Note: Geog 410 was practical town mapping it has been changed to GIS (310) due to global change in scientific technology in Geography.

Career Opportunities for Studying Geography

The study of Geography at the Degree Level will open employment opportunities in several areas

- Environmental Manager
- Forestry Technician
- Park Ranger
- Hazardous Waste Planner
- Field Data Collector/Analyst
- Weather Forecaster
- Coastal Zone Manager
- Hydrologist (Water Resource Manager)
- Soil Conservationist
- Agricultural Extension Agent
- Community Developer
- Health Services Planner
- Site Selection Analyst for Business and Industry
- Real Estate Manager
- Urban Planner
- Transportation Planner
- Recreation Park Planner
- Educator (Professor, Lecturer, Teachers)
- Surveyor
- Cartographer
- G.I.S Specialist
- Pilots
- e.t.c