

Possible Essay Questions for Final Exam – GHY 5000 – Fall 2019

1. Critically evaluate the Harden (2012) Presidential Address. Do you agree with her assertion that geography made a mistake in completely abandoning environmental determinism? Why or why not?
2. What is the point of a geographical education? As you compose your answer, reflect upon the balance of knowledges you've *chosen* to study and *had* to study during your degree (or will). How do you intend to get the most out of your time in graduate school and how will this help you to meet your personal and professional goals?
3. Turner (2002a) argues that in order for the discipline of geography to realize its full potential, both the spatial-chorological and human-environment traditions should be elevated to equal status and incorporated into one logical conceptual framework. In your view, will this solve geography's internal and external ambiguity and enhance geography's often tenuous position within academia? Why or why not?
4. Until recently, physical geography was rather inconspicuous within the wider discipline of geography. What factors contributed to this marginalization and why has scholarly activity within physical geography experienced a resurgence in the past several decades?
5. Is geography a science? Can critical human geography be "scientific"? If so, in what way(s)? Lastly, please discuss if/how your research project is "scientific" and how.
6. Fully discuss the origins, motivations, and key players in the Quantitative Revolution. In what sense was it a "revolution"? Did it achieve the desired results? Why or why not? What were some of the shortcomings of the Quantitative Revolution and how did those influence subsequent research directions in geography?
7. How do you view the current breadth and diversity within geography? Are there challenges? Opportunities? Is unity a desirable characteristic and one that the discipline should aspire towards? Why or why not?
8. What does Livingstone mean by the "Geographical Experiment"? Thoroughly discuss the reasons why geography struggled to gain acceptance as a university discipline during the latter half of the nineteenth century. According to Livingstone and Cresswell, how did its advocates eventually succeed in developing a disciplinary identity?
9. According to Hartshorne, what is the "nature of geography"? What factors led Hartshorne to develop his argument? How and why did Sauer offer a different view of regional geography? From your perspective, what were the major pitfalls of this regional focus in academic geography?