

Amanda Rees

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Education

University of Colorado, Denver
AUGUST 2020 - PRESENT
PhD Candidate (as of January 2025)
Currently pursuing a PhD in Geography, Planning & Design

University of Colorado, Denver
AUGUST 2018 - MAY 2020
Master of Arts Degree: Applied Geography and Geospatial Science, Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems

Metropolitan State University of Denver
AUGUST 2009 - DECEMBER 2011
Teaching Certification: Secondary Social Studies

University of Colorado, Denver
AUGUST 2003 - MAY 2007
Bachelor of Arts Degree: Anthropology

Work Experience

Las Nubes School, Jacó, Puntarenas, Costa Rica
World Geography Teacher
FEBRUARY 2025 - PRESENT

- Developed and implemented engaging lesson plans tailored to 7th -11th grade students with diverse learning styles.
- Assessed student progress through regular evaluations and feedback.
- Designed and implemented assessments aligned with school guidelines and content learning objectives.
- Supported bilingual and multicultural students by adapting content to meet their unique needs and abilities

University of Colorado Denver, Denver, Colorado
Geospatial Scientist, Geospatial Analysis & Mapping Lab
JULY 2024 - PRESENT

- Conducted advanced spatial analysis and modeling to support environmental assessments and resource management projects.
- Developed and maintained geospatial databases, ensuring data accuracy and accessibility for interdisciplinary teams.
- Utilized GIS software (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS) to create detailed maps and visualizations, enhancing decision-making processes for stakeholders.
- Collaborated with researchers and policymakers to integrate geospatial data into planning and development initiatives.

University of Colorado Denver, Denver, Colorado
Interim Director, Geospatial Analysis & Mapping Lab
JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

- Coordinated geospatial projects across academic, institutional, governmental, and commercial sectors, ensuring alignment with partner objectives.
- Recruited, led, and mentored student GIS Specialists on diverse GIS projects, enhancing their skill sets and project outcomes.
- Managed physical laboratory space, overseeing both hardware and software resources to support project needs.
- Cultivated and maintained strong relationships with on-campus and off-campus partners to promote collaboration and project success.
- Drove revenue growth and enhanced the visibility of the lab through strategic outreach and partnership initiatives.
- Established secure data storage and management protocols to ensure data integrity and accessibility.

University of Colorado Denver, Denver, Colorado
Lab Coordinator, Geospatial Analysis & Mapping Lab
MAY 2022 - JULY 2023

- Curated, managed, analyzed, and visualized geospatial data to support various projects and enhance decision-making.
- Communicated effectively with clients, facilitating planning sessions and regular check-in meetings to ensure project alignment and satisfaction.
- Implement an organized file management system to streamline data access and improve workflow efficiency.
- Contribute to lab growth by securing contracts, increasing revenue, and recruiting project-focused personnel.

University of Colorado Denver, Denver, Colorado
Lecturer

SEPTEMBER 2020 - PRESENT

- Delivered engaging lectures and seminars in Geography and Environmental Sciences, fostering critical thinking and a deep understanding of geographic concepts among students.
- Developed comprehensive course materials, including syllabi, lecture notes, and multimedia presentations, to enhance the learning experience.
- Designed and assessed assignments, projects, and examinations to evaluate student comprehension and academic performance.
- Mentored and advised students on academic and career paths, providing guidance and support for their professional development.
- Collaborated with faculty on curriculum development and departmental initiatives to enhance educational offerings and promote interdisciplinary learning.
- Conducted research in [specific areas of interest], contributing to academic publications and presentations at conferences.

University of Colorado Denver, Denver, Colorado
Teaching Assistant

JANUARY 2019 - MAY 2020

- Supported courses in World Regional Geography, Human Geography, and Urban Studies & Planning, enhancing the learning experience for students.
- Collaborated with the instructor to redevelop course materials and curricula, ensuring alignment with educational objectives.
- Planned and facilitated lectures, created examinations, and developed relevant case studies to reinforce course content.
- Evaluated and provided constructive feedback on student assignments and projects, contributing to their academic growth.

Denver Public Schools, Denver, Colorado
Teacher / Teacher Leader

JANUARY 2012 - AUGUST 2018

- Taught 6th–8th grade English Language Development, 9th grade Language Arts, 9th grade Geography/AP Human Geography, and 10th grade US History/AP US History.
- Adhered to federal, state, district, school, and subject guidelines, regulations, and standards to ensure compliance and quality education.
- Organized a variety of engaging learning opportunities that were diverse, relevant, and authentic for student development.
- Earned the DPS Distinguished Teacher Award for the 2014–2015 academic year.
- Collected, analyzed, and utilized student data to inform lesson planning, supporting student mastery of standards and skills; presented team and student data for district and school evaluations.
- Co-authored a new Common Core State Standards-aligned US History curriculum to enhance educational effectiveness.
- Pioneered district leadership, technology, and curriculum initiatives to improve instructional practices.

- Observed and evaluated teammates, facilitating targeted professional development training to enhance teaching effectiveness.

Training

- Geographic Information Systems
- Cognitive Coaching / Adaptive Schools
- Secondary Social Studies
- Secondary Language Arts
- Secondary English Language Development
- AP College Board: AP Human Geography

Study abroad

Field Experience in Sustainable Development and Health Care
Mondaña, Ecuador 2006 – 2007

Teaching Assistant, Field Experience in Sustainable Development and Healthcare
Mondaña, Ecuador 2007 – 2008

Research Experience

Research Assistant for Dr Brian Page, 2018 - present
Auraria Spatial History Project, in collaboration with History Colorado

Research Assistant for Dr. Jean Scandlyn, 2000 – 2002
Community-based, ethnographic study of homeless and runaway youth in Denver, Colorado in collaboration with the Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado Denver and Urban Peak, Denver, Colorado

Field Experience in Sustainable Development and Health Care
Mondaña, Ecuador 2006 – 2007

Teaching Assistant, Field Experience in Sustainable Development and Healthcare
Mondaña, Ecuador 2007 – 2008

Teaching Experience

- Denver Public Schools
 - Geography and Language Arts, 2011
 - AP Human Geography, US History, 2012 - 2015
 - AP US History, 2014 - 2015
 - Middle School English Language Development, 2016 – 2018
- University of Colorado Denver
 - Cartography; Environmental Science; Introduction to GIS; Human Geography; World Regional Geography; Environment, Society & Sustainability
- Las Nubes School, Jaco, Costa Rica
 - 7th-11th grade World Geography

Publications

- [Evaluating the Environmental Justice Dimensions of Odor in Denver, Colorado](#), Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology, February 2025
- *Where is it Healthy to Build Affordable Housing?* [StoryMap](#), January 2024
- *Zoning & Housing Segregation in Denver: A Geospatial History*, AAG Conference poster, March 2023
- [Colorado Latino Climate Justice Policy Handbook](#), Protégete, November 2022
- [Validating the Spaces of Our Lives in Geography](#), Geography Teacher Special Issue, April 2022
- [Mapping for Environmental Justice in Globeville, Elyria-Swansea](#), Community-based capstone Story map project, Spring 2020.

Presentations & Lectures

- Association of American Geographers annual meeting, 2024
- Association of American Geographers annual meeting, 2023
- American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2007
- High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology, Ghost Ranch Retreat 2007
- High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Spring Meeting, 2008
- Dean's List: Spring 2007

Awards and honors

- Distinguished Teacher, 2014-15

Technical, computer, and language skills

- Internet communication through blogging, social media, website creation and maintenance, and email
- Google Suite (Gmail, docs, sheets, forms, slides, sites, YouTube, analytics)
- Database design and organization
- Adobe Illustrator
- ESRI software: geospatial data creation, analysis, and management; story mapping; cartographic principles and techniques
- Basic coding in R, Python
- Written and verbal communication in Spanish

Professional licenses and certifications

- Geographic Information Systems
- PRAXIS: Social Studies and Language Arts
- Leading Effective Academic Practices (LEAP; DPS teacher evaluation system)
- English Language Acquisition
- Cognitive Coaching / Adaptive Schools

Hobbies and interests

- National and International travel (most of the USA, Mexico, Honduras, Ecuador, Spain, Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Monaco, and Portugal)
- International politics, globalization, economic development, social equality/mobility
- Current events and news
- Local politics and community events