

Geography 218 – A01

Social & Cultural Geography University of Victoria Fall 2016

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Office hours: Mondays, 12 – 2 pm and Thursdays, 12 – 2 pm or by appointment
Course time: Mondays & Thursdays, 10 – 11:20am
Course location: MacLaurin Building, Room D288

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In a broad sense, social and cultural geography is the study of the interrelations of culture, society, place, and landscape. The very fabric of our everyday lives – from how we access food to how we move through our streets – is a matter of social and cultural geography. In this course, we will explore the central theories giving rise to the discipline of social and cultural geography, and how these concepts take on material, lived and spatial form.

The **first aim** of this course is to develop an understanding of the following: What is meant by 'social and cultural geography'? To achieve this aim, we will spend the first three lectures exploring key *theories* of social and cultural geographic scholarship, with a particular focus on concepts such as 'cultural landscapes', 'place-making', and a 'sense of place'.

Following these foundational lectures we will then explore the **second aim** of this course: how is social and cultural geography enacted, or performed, in *practice* and what real effect does this have on our lives? In this class we will explore how social and cultural geographies take material effect by shaping our experiences of place; how we interact; how we move through and occupy certain spaces; and also how some are excluded from certain spaces. We will explore these questions in relation to several pressing themes, or issues, including art, gender, public space, race, food, creativity and Indigenous representation.

How geographies are formed is a matter of power and politics, it also implies struggle. The **third aim** of this course is to explore the question of *resistance*. That is, how are struggles (on-the-ground as well as virtual, digital practices etc.) challenging exclusionary social and cultural geographies today?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Provide a broad overview of the key concepts and approaches in social and cultural geography.
- Examine the contested politics of place-making as a social and cultural practice.
- Explore the relations between social identity and the production of geographical space.
- Critically analyze and contribute to contemporary scholarship in social and cultural geography.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Acquire a general understanding of the major concepts and approaches in the fields of social and cultural geography.

Gain an appreciation for the role that social power plays in the formation of socio-spatial identities and the processes of place-making.

Develop the ability to critically assess the material and symbolic aspects of cultural landscapes.

Improve competency in interpreting scholarly literature in social and cultural geography and enhance research skills by writing an academic paper.

COURSE FORMAT

The course format consists of lecture sessions during the regularly scheduled meeting time for this class (M/R, 10 – 11:30am) as well as lab sessions that meet on different days depending on the course section number. For the most part, lab sessions will be held at two-week intervals, with the first lab meeting during Week 2 (see Course Schedule below for a full listing of the weeks that labs will meet). The material covered in the labs is meant to complement the lectures and to provide a setting for more in-depth engagement with the major themes of the course.

READINGS

Grading Scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	49% or Less

COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: COURSESPACES

We will be using the CourseSpaces management system as a medium for the posting of relevant course materials and related course information (<http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>).

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Midterm Exam (20%) and Final Exam (25%)

at the end of a sentence just as you would for in-text citations. Make sure to also include a “figure caption” that describes the content of each figure that is placed directly below the image.

Deadline for submitting the paper: The paper should be submitted at the start of class on Thursday, December 1. Please note that absolutely no late papers will be accepted. Exceptions will be made only if the student and course instructor have made special arrangements prior to the due date to accommodate any legitimate university-excused absences or for a medical emergency. ***[Note: Make absolutely sure to include your name, lab instructor’s name, and lab section on the first page of your paper.]***

Lab Assignments (20%)

There will be a total of 6 labs over the course of the semester. Students will be evaluated based upon lab assignments. For further details, see the GEOG 218 Lab Manual, which is accessible on CourseSpaces. (*Note:* In order to get a passing grade in the course as a whole, each student must have a passing grade in the Lab component of the course.)

Class Attendance (5%) & Lab Attendance/Participation (5%)

Attendance will be taken during each lab session as well as periodically during lectures throughout the semester, so it is expected that students will attend lectures and labs on a regular basis. Each student will also be evaluated based on their level of active participation in group discussions.

OFFICE HOURS

I strongly encourage you to come to my office hours. As the course instructor, my main goal is to help you learn, so if you have any questions about the material, or the class in general, you are more than welcome to come speak with me during office hours. If you are not available during that time, email me to set up an appointment.

EMAIL

Send all email to me or your lab instructor using the email address listed on the first page of the syllabus or that provided by your lab instructor. Please include the course number (GEOG 218) in the email subject title. We will do our best to respond promptly to your questions. If you have a question concerning your course grade, please speak with your lab instructor during office hours rather than via email.

PLAGIARISM

All writing assignments should be written by the student(s) submitting the assignment. Plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism consists of: (a) submitting someone else’s work as your own without the use of proper quotation and citation or (b) paraphrasing another’s ideas without acknowledging the author’s work through citation. If you have any questions concerning matters of plagiarism, please discuss these matters with your lab instructor prior to submitting any assignments.

UVIC'S ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (<http://rcsd.uvic.ca>). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEYS (CES)

Week 3

Monday, September 19: Geographical approaches to reading the cultural landscape

Readings

Monday, October 31: *Critical Geographies I: Posthumanism*

Readings

'Biosphere 2, Poetry, and the Anthropocene' by Eric Magrane - Terrain.org: A Journal of the Built + Natural Environments'. 2014. *Terrain.org: A Journal of the Built + Natural Environments*. August 31. <http://www.terrain.org/2014/currents/biosphere-2-poetry-anthropocene-eric-magrane/>.

Datta, Ranjan. 2016. 'How to Practice Posthumanism in Environmental Learning: Experiences with North American and South Asian Indigenous Communities'.

Thursday, November 3: *Critical Geographies II: Anarchist Geographies*

Readings

Springer, Simon. 2012. 'Anarchism! What Geography Still Ought To Be'. *Antipode* 44 (5): 1605–24.

Week 10

Monday, November 7: *Film—Totem: The Return of the G'psgolox Pole*

No readings assigned.

Thursday, November 10: *Reading break; no class*

No readings assigned.

Week 11 (LAB 5: Contested landscapes of cultural heritage)

Monday, November 14: *Geohumanities: literary geographies, creative geographies*

Readings

Hawkins, Harriet. 2015. 'Creative Geographic Methods: Knowing, Representing, Intervening. On Composing Place and Page'. *Cultural Geographies*, February, 1474474015569995.

Thursday, November 17: *Creative Geographies: Guest Lecture*

Readings

McCaslin, Susan. 2011. 'Facing the Environmental Crisis with Contemplative Attention: The Eco-poetics of Don McKay, Tim Lilburn, and Russell Thornton'. *The University of the Fraser Valley Research Review* 3 (1): 64–82.

Week 12

Monday, November 21;

Tornaghi, Chiara. 2014. 'Critical Geography of Urban Agriculture'. *Progress in Human Geography* 38 (4): 551–67.

Thursday, November 24: Doing social & cultural geography: methods, ethics, politics

Readings

Longhurst, R. (2009), "Interviews: In-Depth, Semi-Structured," in N. Thrift and R. Kitchin (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, Oxford: Elsevier, p. 580-584.

Dowling, R. (2009), "Ethical Issues in Research," in N. Thrift and R. Kitchin (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, Oxford: Elsevier, p. 595-600.

Week 13 (LAB 6: Place-making research paper presentations)

Monday, November 28: Class cancelled, (additional office hours instead) *

No readings assigned.

Thursday, December 1: Wrap-up and final exam review

SUBMIT FINAL PLACE-MAKING RESEARCH PAPERS AT START OF CLASS.

Readings

Larner, W. 2009. 'Neoliberalism A2 - Kitchin, Rob'. In *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, edited by Nigel Thrift, 374–78. Oxford: Elsevier.

Springer, Simon. 2016. 'Fuck Neoliberalism'. *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies* 15 (2): 285–92.

** Note: Use this time to focus on completing your Place-Making Research Paper. I will be in my office during the regularly scheduled class time for additional office hours to provide assistance to students on the paper.*

The final exam will be scheduled during final's week: time and location to be announced.

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.