



COURSE OUTLINE

Geographies of Culture and Identity (GEOG 3021)

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Fall 2024

Schedule: Lectures/ Seminar-based Tues. 11:35am – 14:25pm

Course instructor: Dr. Paul B. Williams, B353 Loeb Building

Email: paul.williams@carleton.ca

Office hours: TBA (also after class or by appointment)

Calendar description:

Examination of culture, identity and place over time in different contexts; how colonialism, globalization and other processes have shaped societies; geographies of identity, including gender, ethnicity, race and nationality; relationships between cultural groups and their natural surroundings and impacts of climate change.

Course description:

As globalization continues to shape aspects of our world, the concept of culture and cultural practices are constantly being redefined. The role of culture in defining identity, shaping the human and natural landscape, and creating places has been a central theme within human geography since the inception of the discipline. Cultural geographers look at, for example: how distinct peoples' way of life relate to their natural surroundings; how cultural landscapes are formed; how cultural identity and a sense of belonging become reflected in places; and how colonial and other historical processes have shaped societies around the world and provide context needed to better understand contemporary issues. In an increasingly globalized world, and particularly one in which climate change threatens cultures, cultural practices, and traditional ways of life, geographers will continue to make important contributions in how to interpret the complex cultural dimensions of economic, social, political, and environmental change.

The purpose of this seminar/ lecture course is to examine concepts and approaches in cultural geography through a combination of lectures, guest lectures, fieldtrips, videos, class discussion,

readings and assignments. Together we will explore topics like cultural landscapes, place and identity, nations and states, cultural representation, “identicide”, colonial legacies, cultural diversity, the effects of climate change on cultures, and other related concepts and issues. The content will reflect an international approach, but with somewhat greater emphasis on Canada.

We will be getting out of the classroom when possible. Three of our classes will be based downtown (one out of Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre - CDCC) and one will be at the Carleton University Art Gallery (CUAG). You will have to find your own way to the CDCC (there is a shuttle bus) and the other fieldtrips. You will also need to be prepared to walk. The planned field trips will explore parts of Ottawa as a means of thinking about issues that will be presented. Geography is best seen and done so we will get out of the classroom as much as possible (weather permitting).

Prerequisites:

GEOG 2300 and third-year standing or permission from the Department. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if you do not have the prerequisites but wish to take this course. It will be assumed that students have sufficient background in human geography for the course, as well as the writing skills and critical thinking abilities expected of third year students.

Course objectives:

- To become familiar with the diverse nature of cultural geography;
- To become knowledgeable about some core issues in this field;
- To begin to see the issues which affect us on a daily basis in a different way
- To improve critical thinking and writing skills

Brightspace and communications:

Course content will be posted on **Brightspace** these include: the course outline, lecture slides, assignments, and any announcements. As they become available, your grades will also be posted on **Brightspace**. Please notify me of any omissions or inaccuracies. Assignments are to be submitted in Word format, please, and on Brightspace.

I may be reached during my office hours or by email. I USE EMAIL to communicate!! I will return email inquiries as soon as I can. Please place “GEOG 3021” in the subject heading. If I have sent out a message requesting acknowledgement that the message was received, PLEASE respond!

Required readings:

There are no required textbooks for this course. Each themed section of the course will have a range of assigned readings. These will include journal articles, news articles, reports, literature, websites, etc. The readings for each section will also form the basis of discussion and the assignment for that section. Some of these harder to find readings may be placed in the weekly Brightspace folder.

If you wish to review introductory material in cultural geography, the following texts are very

useful. The book by Norton is on reserve for four-hour loans and the Atkinson book is available in the reference section of the library:

Atkinson, David, editor (2005) *Cultural Geography: A Critical Dictionary of Key Concepts*. New York: I.B. Tauris. (Call number GF41 C8523)

Norton, William & Margaret Walton-Roberts (2014) *Cultural Geography: Environments, Landscapes, Identities, Inequalities*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press. 3rd edition (Call number GF41 N66) For additional library research on the topics addressed in class or in your assignments, the following library subject guide is a useful place to begin: <http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/geo/index.html>

Centre for Student Academic Support:

Writing is a critical component of this course. Students who are having writing difficulties, or who simply want to improve their writing skills, should consider making use of the writing tutorials provided by Carleton University: <https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Course evaluation:

Photo commentaries (3 X 10) 30%
Written “think” piece (1 X 25% each) 25%
Take home examination project 35%
Participation 10%

Individual Photo Commentaries (30%)

You will each be required to complete **three brief photo commentaries (3 X 10%)**.

These **weekly commentaries** will consist of an image (preferably one of your own) that illustrates an aspect of the week’s class discussion. You **MUST also provide a quote from one of the readings associated with the topic**. You will also provide a commentary (approx. **200-250 words** for each photo) that explains what the image is attempting to show in terms of the topic of the week and what the image shows in terms of the chosen quote (derived from the readings), why you chose this image, what details are important to recognize, and where it was taken. The commentary **must have a degree of analysis that addresses ideas, concepts, and theories of the topic in question (this can be from the readings or ideas explored in the lectures)**. It cannot be solely a personal narrative. NOTE. Occasionally I will use your picture and quote in the lecture to generate discussion and engage students in terms of participation.

Think Piece (25%):

You will be expected to do **ONE double-spaced 8-page think piece discussion paper**. This will be worth **25%** of your final grade. You will have different main themes of the course to choose from. This *think piece* is intended to provide your own more in-depth analysis of one of the topics being discussed. **In your analysis, you will be required to use material from the readings, films, discussions and lectures**. You are also encouraged to bring your own experiences, knowledge and ideas to the discussion. All papers must be properly referenced using APA style

citations. **PLEASE NOTE: Your think piece can be completed at any time during the term but must be completed by the last day of classes. It is up to you to choose which think piece interests you most - you will be given all the think piece discussions ahead of time. Due no later than 3 December 2024.**

Take-home “examination” project (35%):

Finally, there will be a **take-home “examination” project** to be distributed before the end of classes. You will have until the last day of the exam period to submit this project. There will be **no extensions** allowed without proper documentation. This project will be **worth 35 percent of the final grade**. The nature of this project will be discussed in class.

Participation (10%)

The participation mark is more than just a record of attendance. It includes taking an active involvement in the in-class discussions and fieldtrips.

Rubric

NOTE: Assignments will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. The evaluation will consider the content in relation to the purpose of the assignment, as well as the quality of written expression and the overall presentation. Please include a title, your name and student number, the course number and instructor’s name, and the date on all your written assignments at the top of the first page. Please also retain an additional hard copy for your records.

Several criteria will be important in influencing your final mark on an assignment. In making my assessment I will be looking for these points [where applicable]:

- 1) Has answered all the question(s) in a thorough and systematic way [Has followed the instructions]
- 2) There is a good organization and flow to the discussion [it is easy to follow and understand the thought process]
- 3) Has researched the answer and understood the concepts being discussed [shows evidence that the ideas are understood and articulates this]
- 4) Includes relevant concepts, facts, quotations, and/or statistics to support the position taken
- 5) Has cited all sources in a standardized APA bibliographic format
- 6) Uses an appropriate number of high-quality sources when required
- 7) Has checked the answer(s) for spelling mistakes and grammatical errors [writes in proper sentences and paragraphs when required]
- 8) Has attempted to improve style and polish prose

Late or deferred submissions:

I am always open to discussing extensions, but late submissions of the written commentaries or the photographic essay, without first discussing with me or getting prior permission, may result in a penalty equivalent to 5 percent per day after the designated due date. Students who are unable to complete assignments on time because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control **MUST** speak to me and arrange a time for submission. Having said that, there is plenty of

flexibility in terms of the choice of all assignments. **The only assignment for which there is no flexibility is the final take-home project which MUST be handed in no later than 23:59 (midnight) on the 21st of December 2024. Again, if there are circumstances beyond your control that make this impossible there are processes available for deferred exams.**

Academic accommodations:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), 5 psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>.

Academic dishonesty:

Students are reminded of the seriousness with which Carleton University treats academic dishonesty of any form, including plagiarism. Students should be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy (see <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>). For more information on plagiarism, its consequences and how to avoid committing plagiarism, see the MacOdrum Library web site on the topic: <http://www.library.carleton.ca/howdol/plagiarism.html>.

Foundations - Culture & Cultural Geography

10 Sept Course Introduction – What is Culture?

17 Sept What is Culture? (cont'd) and What is cultural geography? Review!

Theme 1: Culture Made Material?

24 Sept Culture as Matter!
Workshop – Cultural artefacts: Antiques Roadshow!

1 Oct Material Culture.
Visit to CUAG Exhibition – A dream of Return <https://cuag.ca/exhibition/a-dream-of-return/>

8 Oct Landscape.
Field Trip [Class to be held at Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre]

15 Oct Layered & Contested landscapes:
Field Trip [Meet at the National War Museum]

22 Oct. Reading Week – No Classes

Theme 2: Cultural Representation: Deconstructing the Cigar Store Indian!

29 Oct Who says? - Defining Identity/ Creating the Other - “Why is the Redman Red?” Representation

5 Nov. **Cultural Representation**
Field Trip – National Art Gallery and Kiwecki Point [meet at NAG]

Theme 3: Cultural Identity “Imagined Community”

12 Nov Belonging: “Imagined Community”: Nationalism and the Nation.
Field Trip - Commemorative Landscape - Based out of CDCC

19 Nov Belonging: “Imagined Community”: Nationalism and the Nation (continued)

26 Nov Debating the loss of Culture and Climate Change

3 Dec. Final Take-home Project Discussion and Workshop and Social Get-together!!