



COURSE OUTLINE

Geographies of Culture and Identity (GEOG 3021)

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Fall 2019

Schedule: Lectures/ Seminar-based Fri. 8:35am – 11:25am

Course instructor: Dr. Paul B. Williams, B440 Loeb Building

Email: paul.williams@carleton.ca

Office hours: Weds. 9:30-11:30 (or by appointment)

Calendar description:

Examination of culture, identity and place over time. Colonial and other historical processes that have shaped societies from place to place; relationships between cultural groups and their natural surroundings; gender, ethnicity, nationality and other dimensions of identity; impacts of globalization.

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, cultural 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, globalization and cultural diversity, and other related concepts and

issues. The content will reflect an international approach, but with somewhat greater emphasis on Canada.

The planned fieldtrips 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. Students who do not have adequate experience will be at a significant disadvantage and should not register in this course.

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

CULearn and communications:

Course content will be posted on CULearn these include: the course outline, lecture slides, assignments and any announcements. As they become available, your grades will also be posted on CULearn. Please notify either the teaching assistant or me of any omissions or inaccuracies.

I may be reached during my office hours or by email. I will return email inquiries as soon as I can. Please place "GEOG 3021" in the subject heading.

Required readings:

There are no required textbooks for this course. Each themed section of the course will have a range of assigned readings. These may include journal articles, reports, literature, websites, etc. The readings for each section will also form the basis of discussion and the assignment for that section.

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>

Writing Tutorial Service:

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:
<http://www.carleton.ca/wts/>.

Course evaluation:

Individual Photo Commentaries (30%)

You will each be required to provide **three brief photo commentaries for discussion**.

These 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. **You must each do three commentaries (3 X 10%) of eight choices.** Moreover, **you each must be prepared to discuss at least one of your commentaries with the class.** The commentaries must be submitted to me no later than 2:00p.m. on the day of the class in which they are to be presented and I will decide which one's will be discussed.

Think Pieces:

You will be expected to do **ONE double-spaced 8-10-page think piece discussion paper**. This will be worth **25%** of your final grade. You will have the **five** 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. Your one think piece will be **due on the last day of classes 3 April 2019**. You will be given all of the think piece discussions ahead of time.

Take-home "examination" project:

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 40 percent of the final grade**. The nature of this project will be discussed in class.

Photo commentaries (3 X 10) 30%
Written “think” pieces (1 X 25% each) 25%
Take home examination 40%
Participation 5%

NOTE: Assignments will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. The evaluation will take into account 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 of your written assignments at the top of the first page. Please also retain an additional hard copy for your records.

Late or deferred submissions:

A late submission of a written commentary or the photographic essay without prior permission will result in a penalty equivalent to 10 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 may request an extension within five days after the deadline to negotiate a new deadline, either directly with their supervisor or the course instructor depending on who is evaluating the assignment. Permission will only be granted if the request is supported by a medical certificate or other supporting documentation. Conflicts arising due to religious obligations should be indicated in advance, but do not require verification. Late assignments can be submitted to me directly during office hours or put in or in the mail drop box of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, near the main office, on the third floor of the Loeb building.

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/howdoin/plagiarism.html>. 6
Changes will be announced in advance on WebCT and during class.