

GEOG 3021: Geographies of Culture and Identity

Winter 2022 Course Outline*

*The instructor reserves the right to make light changes in listed content and assessment, without taking away from the general 'feel' of the course.

Date Range: January 11 - April 12, 2022 (winter break: Feb. 22 – 25)

Delivery: online blended (synchronous Zoom lecture / participation & asynchronous Brightspace participation)

When? Tuesdays, 6pm – 9pm EST

[appx. 1h synchronous lecture + up to 1.5h synchronous in-class engagement + 1h asynchronous activity]

Instructor: Mihaela Vieru (mihaela.vieru@carleton.ca)

Online Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisite(s): GEOG 2300 and 3rd year standing, or permission of the Department of Geography

Course resources: all materials are available online

I. COURSE AT A GLANCE

This course focuses on identifying and examining the multilayered connections between culture, identity, and places. What is 'cultural' and how does it reflect in social relations and in the interaction between people and the material / physical world? How do cultural shifts happen? While such interrogations are central to human well-being, they are also profoundly political. They carry historical processes (e.g. colonialism, globalization) that structure power relations and social identities (e.g. gender, ethnicity, nationality etc.), embedding cultural geographies in politics and situating our knowledges.

Students are invited to discuss the complex realities that shape cultural practices, including their co-constitution and performance with the social, the physical, the material, and the political. The point of departure is common sites (e.g. the coffee shop, the body, the city, the land or the border etc.) and contemporary developments around the world (e.g. inequality, mobility, displacement, social media, crisis), to engage with critical perspectives on cultural processes like belonging, gendering, racialization, settler colonialism, territorialization & localization, AI & digital transformations, surveillance, or subcultures/counter-movements.

The goals are: i) to make sense of these processes and of their disruptions at different scales; and ii) to understand how we gain meaning of our and others' ordinary encounters (with people and places).

Objectives for students

- To become familiar with the complexity and the interdisciplinarity of cultural geographies
- To understand the connection between contemporary issues and their historical context
- To gain critical thinking skills in relation to everyday environments and developments
- To improve writing and visual / autoethnographic research skills

II. EVALUATION

1. Assignment 1 = 15% (asynchronous), due Feb. 4, 11:59pm EST on Brightspace

Position blog on cultural shifts, details in advance

2. Assignment 2 = 15% (asynchronous), due Mar. 4, 11:59pm EST on Brightspace

Reflection on experiential video documentary, details in advance

3. Assignment 3 = 20% (synchronous), due throughout the term on the day for the respective theme

Zoom-class PP presentation & leading discussions on course theme/case study, starting with Class 2

4. Participation = 15% (blended), due 11:59pm EST each Fri. of the lecture week

Zoom class participation (7%, synchronous) + Brightspace discussion forum (8%, asynchronous)

5. Take-home exam = 35% (asynchronous), due date: any day during exam period (Apr. 14-28)

Documentary analysis paper

III. WEEKLY TOPICS

Jan. 11 (Class 1). Course Introduction: Structure & Expectations. *Why Cultural Geography?*
Jan. 18 (Class 2). The Stuff of Cultural Geography: Culture & Identity
Jan. 25 (Class 3). Signifying Space and Civic Imagination: Who and What Belongs? (no PP presentations)
Feb. 1 (Class 4). Minority Cultures & Politics of Difference and Recognition
Feb. 8 (Class 5). On Movement, (In-)Placement & Displacement: Impact on Identity
Feb. 15 (Class 6). Geographies of Racialization & Urban Development (no PP presentations)
Feb. 22 (No Class). Winter break
Mar. 1 (Class 7). Turning Land into Capital. (Post-)Colonialism and Financial Cultures
Mar. 8 (Class 8). Globalization of Taste and the Expression, Consumption & Selling of Identity
Mar. 15 (Class 9). Digital Cultures, Connectivity, and Future Identities
Mar. 22 (Class 10). Surveillance Culture & Social Control: Borders, Boundaries, and Beyond
Mar. 29 (Class 11). Clash of Civilizations, Civilizations of Clashes? Place, Culture & Identity in Geopolitics
Apr. 5 (Class 12). Wrapping-up & Exam Review

IV. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

1. Brightspace platform

Students are asked to use **Brightspace** on a regular basis for course information and activities (e.g. Course Outline, PP for lectures, discussion fora, assignment submissions, announcements, grade viewing).

See [Brightspace Support](#) for information and any assistance you may need with accessing and using it.

2. Zoom platform

Lectures and chats during lectures will be delivered synchronously, using Zoom. System requirements for Zoom:

- **OS:** Windows 10, 8, 7, macOS X 10.9, Ubuntu 12.04, iOS, Android, BlackBerry
- **Memory:** 2 GB RAM
- **Processor:** Single Core 1 GHz+
- **Bandwidth:** 1.5 Mbps upstream and 1.5 Mbps downstream for group calling (720p HD video)
 - Use a [speed test](#) to check bandwidth use
- **Connection:** Broadband wired (Ethernet — preferred) or wireless (3G or 4G/LTE)
- **Hardware:** Computer or mobile device (ideally with headset or earbuds, webcam)

Need more details? See full list of system requirements for using Zoom on your [desktop](#) & [mobile](#) device.

Student-specific Zoom resources (including how to set up an account) can be found on the [Carleton Online website](#). For Zoom and other technical support (including account and educational technology application support), please contact [ITS service desk](#) and see [FAQ](#). For any other concerns, please contact instructor.

V. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Submission of assignments. All assignments are to be submitted electronically via Brightspace. *You must also keep a copy of all work submitted throughout the term. Please remember to back up often!* You must have an e-copy on hand to resubmit, should a problem arise.

Extensions. Extensions will be granted for legitimate reasons by the instructor — please contact your instructor to discuss *in advance* of the issue encountered.

Late policy. Late assignments will be penalized 2% for each calendar day past the due date, unless an extension has been arranged with the instructor.

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

VI. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Long-term medical issue. Please secure a doctor's note for any long-term medical issue that might prevent you from completing course work in a substantial manner (e.g. missing *considerable* course content, impossibility to complete multiple assignments and exams etc.) and present it to the instructor.

Short-term medical issue. For accommodation requests related to COVID-19 (e.g. cold, fever, self-isolation etc.), please complete [this self-declaration form](#) in lieu of securing a doctor's note or medical certificate, and relay it to the instructor or Registrar's Office, depending on the kind of work the deferral is requested for (details in the form).

Family/pregnancy or religious obligation. Please send an email to the instructor 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.

Students with disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please consult the protocols [here](#). After requesting accommodation from PMC, please contact instructor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Survivors of sexual violence. As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. More information about the services available at the university & about sexual violence / support [here](#).

Student activities. Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Contact the instructor 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.

Please consult [Equity Services and Inclusive Communities](#) for additional support information (e.g. crisis support, Indigenous-specific support, discrimination and harassment etc.).

VII. ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE (WRITING / RESEARCH)

Writing standards for this course include paper organization standards, correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, correct [citation](#). Please consult the [Writing Services](#) and support available to you at Carleton.

For assistance with **research**, please consult the [Geography Subject Guide](#) (it includes many research and writing starting points for students). Also, see the online [Omni Search Tips Guide](#). For any library research assistance inquiries, you can also contact Geography research specialist [Susan Tudin](#).

For general **research essay structure** help, please consult different online sources, such as the [Harvard Writing Center](#) or other sources recommended by the librarian.