

GEOGRAPHY 596:
AN INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT & LITERATURE
WEDNESDAY, 4:00-6:30, FALL 2018 (PH1-230)

Faculty:

Dr. Paul Laris, Department of Geography; Office: PH1-210c; Office Hours: M-TH 1-2
paul.laris@csulb.edu (Best to email and make an apt any afternoon).

Optional Textbooks:

Gregory, G. et al. eds. 2009. *The Dictionary of Human geography*. 5th ed. Malden, MA:

Blackwell. <http://coast.library.csulb.edu/record=b2569558~S2>

Thomas, D. S. et al. eds. 2000. *The Dictionary of Physical Geography*. 3rd ed. Oxford:

Blackwell. <http://coast.library.csulb.edu/record=b2048354~S2>

Clifford, N. J. et al. eds. 2009. *Key Concepts in Geography*. 2nd ed. Reprint. Los Angeles; London: Sage.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is about intellectual exploration! You will be introduced to key concepts and theories in geographic thought, as well as to broader philosophical ideas about knowledge and knowledge acquisition through research. You will learn to differentiate between varying approaches to the study of geography and to recognize the philosophical underpinnings that inform those approaches. You will also learn how to use your own invaluable curiosity and passion for geography in order to discover new ways of thinking, geographically. You will become skilled at explaining how different kinds of geographic frameworks can be used for scholarly analyses and how these different approaches can be applied to specific studies, including your own thesis project.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe different theoretical approaches to and sub-areas of geography;
- Identify research questions and the methods researchers use to answer them;
- Explain how researchers connect research questions to broader theoretical concerns;
- Engage in discussion about and write short, focused responses to geographical scholarship.

Course Requirements:

1. *Class participation and attendance (10%)* Please bring your intellectual curiosity to every class and arrive prepared to participate in discussions. You are expected to contribute to the conversation in a thoughtful balance of talking and active listening. You will have scheduled opportunities to lead the class discussion. You are expected to complete all assigned readings, any necessary background reading, and any other assigned activities for that day, every class.
2. *Six response papers (60%)* Please submit **a total of 6** response papers—approx. 500 words each, including required and optional papers. Each response paper is **due by 11:59PM to Dropbox the day before the readings will be discussed**. Please remember, each response must more than descriptive; that is, you must develop an argument in reference to the readings. In addition, we expect essays to be carefully structured, well-written, correctly referenced, grammatically correct and free of spelling errors -- please proofread your work! **Note:** you can always submit more than 6, if you choose.
3. *Thesis Reflection (10%)* Write a short essay (approx. 750 words) in which you describe your proposed thesis topic, including your preliminary research question, problem or purpose, and reflect

upon how this has evolved over the past 15 weeks. As evidence, please refer to specific class readings, discussions and/or assignments. **Due Dec 4, 11:59PM to Dropbox.**

4. Conceptual Framework (20%) **Due by the end of the term.** In this final assignment (4-5 pages, single spaced), please engage in a review of the literature in order to present a conceptual framework which:
- is clearly related to your identified preliminary research question, problem or purpose;
 - states up front the bodies of literature consulted, and why;
 - engages with primary sources, including recent empirical studies from scholarly journals and publications;
 - is logically organized by theme or subtopic, from broad to narrow;
 - develops YOUR conceptual framework via synthesizing findings across studies and comparing and contrasting different research outcomes, perspectives, or methods;
 - notes gaps, debates, or shortcomings in the literature and provides a rationale for your proposed study.
 - has a bibliography (following Annals style)

Expectations:

You are expected to attend all classes, read all required work, and complete all requested activities and papers. Your engaged and respectful presence, timely reading, thoughtful consideration of materials, and active scholarship will be critical to your success. Please draw upon us if you have any difficulties – whether with the material, the assignments, the in-class work, or any other aspect of the course – this is why we are here. Please note: **Geography 596 may not be repeated if you do not earn at least a B.**

Accessibility:

It is your responsibility to inform us if you have a disability requiring accommodation. We strive to make the class accessible to everyone; to do so, we need to be informed so that we can work together to make any necessary arrangements. For further assistance, please contact:

Disabled Students Services, BH-270: *Tel:* 562-985-5401; *Email:* dss@csulb.edu; *TTY:* 562-985-5426
The Learning Assistance Center, HC-104, *Tel:* (562) 985-5350; *Email:* centers-lac@csulb.edu

Religious holiday observances:

Students are entitled to excused absences for the purpose of observing major religious holidays if the instructor is notified by the end of the first full week of classes.

Late assignment policy:

We do not accept late papers. The only exceptions are university-approved reasons. Please see details of such reasons at:

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic_information/class_attendance.html

University Withdrawal Policy.

It is your responsibility to withdraw from classes. Instructors have no obligation to withdraw students who do not attend classes and may choose not to do so. Withdrawal from a course after the first two weeks of instruction requires the signature of the instructor and department chair. During the final three weeks of instruction withdrawals are not permitted except in cases such as accident or serious illness where the circumstances causing withdrawal are clearly beyond the student's control and the assignment of an incomplete is not practical. Ordinarily, withdrawals in this category involve total withdrawal from the university. The College of Liberal Arts adheres to this policy strictly, and does NOT sign withdrawal

forms in the final three weeks for other reasons. **The deadline to withdraw from a class without a “W” for the semester is September 10, 2018.**

<http://web.csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/dates/registration.html>

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offenses. Plagiarism means representing someone else’s work as your own. When you incorporate the words, ideas, graphics, or other products from someone else’s work into your projects, you must give credit by providing a citation and reference to your source. Please note: it is not acceptable to submit your own work from another class. Please be aware if you cheat or plagiarize you may fail an assignment, fail the course, or your case may be referred to Judicial Affairs. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and to understand the consequences of cheating. If you have ANY questions about whether collaborative work or your use of research material is cheating or plagiarism, please check the regulations and please talk to us if you are uncertain about these guidelines:

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic_information/cheating_plagiarism.html

Computer Help:

The CSULB Technology Help Desk is available for students. The URL for the Help Desk is:

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/academic_technology/thd/; phone at 985-4959.

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OUTLINE

(All readings & activities must be done in advance of class)
Please note that we will have graduate student/faculty colloquia on some Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm

- Wk 1: Aug 29** SD/PL **INTRODUCTION**
Student/faculty introductions and expectations; *Readings: Clifford et al, Preface & Chapter 1*
- Wk 2: Sept 5** PL **Human Geographies: The evolution of a field of study**
Readings: Clifford et al., Chapters 3 & 4; Cosgrove (1989) "Geography is everywhere"; Rose (1993) "Feminism and Geography: An Introduction"; Tuan (1976) "Humanistic Geography"
Required* Response Paper, Due Sept 4, 11:59PM
- Wk 3: Sept 12** CJ **Urban Sustainability**
Readings: N. J. Durst (2018). Racial Gerrymandering of Municipal Borders: Direct Democracy, Participatory Democracy, and Voting Rights in the United States; John Carr (2012). Public Input/Elite Privilege: the use of participatory planning to reinforce urban geographies of power in Seattle; David Wachsmuth & Hillary Angelo (2018) Green and Gray: New Ideologies of Nature in Urban Sustainability Policy.
Optional Response Paper, Due Sept 11, 11:59PM Lluvia, Derek
- Wk 4: Sept 19** DT **Social Geographies: Society, Identity, Power, Resistance**
Readings: Clifford et al., Chapter 13; Anderson (1987) "The Idea of Chinatown"; Mott and Roberts (2013) "Not Everyone Has (the) Balls: Urban Exploration and the Persistence of Masculinist Geography" "On plantations, prisons, and a black sense of place" optional: Thomas (2005) 'Girls, Consumption Space'; Parr (2006) 'Mental Health, the Arts & Belonging'; Aitken (2006) 'Fathering and Faltering'
Optional Response Paper, Due Sept 18, 11:59PM Sam and Lilian
- Wk 5: Sept 26** GH **Urban Spaces and Social Movement Mobilization**
Readings: David Harvey. 2012. "Reclaiming the City for Anti-Capitalist Struggle." Chapter 5 in Rebel Cities. 115-153. Walter Nicholls. 2008. "The urban question revisited: the importance of cities for social movements," International Journal of Urban and Regional Research. 32:4; pp. 841-859. Mark Purcell (2013); To Inhabit Well: Counterhegemonic Movements and the Right to the City
Lassiter talk 6-7 PM
Optional Response Paper, Due Sept 25 11:59PM Claudia Seinde
- Wk 6: Oct 3** NC **Urban Geographies: The Effects of Urban Morphology**
Readings: Scheer, Brenda C. (2016) 'The epistemology of urban morphology', Urban Morphology 20:1, 5-17. Jacobs, Jane (1961) 'The need for small blocks', Chapter 9 (pages 178-186) in The Death and Life of Great American Cities (Vintage Books, New York). Ford, Larry F. (1984) 'Preserving Diversity: The Importance of Street Level Doors' California Geographer Vol. XXIV, 1-20. Whyte, William H. (1980) 'Introduction', "The Life of Plazas", 'Sitting Space', and 'Sun, Wind, Trees, and Water' from The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces; excerpted from The Urban Design Reader (Routledge, New York).
Optional Response Paper, Due Oct 2, 11:59PM Christiana Derek
- Wk 7: Oct 10** PL **Landscapes—combining the cultural and physical. Off Campus!?**
Readings: Clifford et al., Chapters 15, 16, Sauer (Morphology of the Landscape), Duncan and Duncan 2001 "The Aestheticization of the Politics of Landscape Preservation"; Pulido (2000) "Rethinking Environmental Racism"; Willems-Braun (1997 (1):3-31+ Shlyter and Willems Braun (critical debate in the Annals, two short articles, 1997 (4): 700-708). Optional if you have not read: William Cronon (1995) The Meaning of Wilderness

Add in Jocoy

Optional Response Paper, Due Oct 9, 11:59PM Lluvia, Sam

Wk 8: Oct 17 PL Philosophy and BioPhysical Geography

Read: Inkpen 2005 Chapters 2 & 4. Moon and Blackman 2014. *This is beady stuff!* Trudgill, S. 2012. Do theories tell us what to see? The 19th-century observations of Darwin, Ramsay and Bonney on glacial features. *Progress in Physical Geography*, 36(4) 558–566.

Required* Response Paper, Due Oct 16, 11:59PM

Wk 9: Oct 24 PL Environmental Geography Today and Our Determinist Roots

Semple 1901; Peet, 1985; J. Diamond 1997 (Prologue and Epilogue). Antipode 2003. 35(4): 801-831 (read at least two critiques—or find one on-line, they are short!) and J. Diamond's response.

Oct. 24th Christine Jocoy (6:00-6:45pm PH1-227)

Optional Response Paper, Due Oct 23 11:59PM Christiana, Neysha

Wk 10: Oct 31 LHP Geography is Nature/Society! : Political Ecology

Robbins, P. 2003. Political Ecology in Political Geography. Political Geography. Agrawal, A. 2005. Environmentalism: Community, Intimate Government, and the Making of Environmental Subjects in Kumaon, India. Cultural Anthropology, Mansfield, B et al. 2015. Environmental Politics after Nature: Conflicting Socio-Ecological Futures. Annals of the AAG; Walker 2005

Optional Response Paper, Due Oct 30 11:59PM Claudia; Seinde

Wk 11: Nov 7 PL Critical Physical Geography

Readings: Inkpen C. 5.; Lave et al. 2014; Laris et al 2016; Sayer et al 2015

**Optional Response Paper, Due Nov 6, 11:59PM Lilian;
Neysha**

Wk 12: Nov 14 PL Remote sensing, scale and methods issues: Temporal thinking

Read: *Robbins 2001, Yu et al 2006, Grass RS article, Polychronaki et al 2012 See Blaschke 2001 (very short and clear!) if you are new to remote sensing. Option to read Laris 2005 (critique the professor!),*

Optional Response Paper, Due Nov 13, 11:59PM

Wk 13: Nov 21 No Class Thanksgiving

Wk 14: Nov 28 PL & SW GIS is everywhere!

Readings: Kim, Sang & Ban 2014 AND Li et al 2013 AND Find a GIS or Remote Sensing article on the subject of your research. Be ready to discuss your article with the group. How did they use GIS to study your topic and what are strengths and weaknesses of a GIS approach?

Nov. 28th Dmitrii Sidorov & Andrew Jenks (History, CSULB) (6:00pm-7:00pm PH1-228)

Thesis Reflection Paper, Due Dec 5, 11:59PM

Wk 15: Dec 5 TBA: Students Choice!

Wk 16: Dec 12 TBA

Final Class off Campus?

Using these differently positioned articles as a starting place, please be prepared to discuss, question, and propose Geography's role(s) in contemporary society/culture.

Framework/**Literature Review Due, Dec 16, 11:59PM**