

GEOG 363V: Cultural Geography
Fall 2017
Room: CB 111 // 8:55-10:10am Tu-Th

Professor: Dr. Eric Magrane

Email: magrane@nmsu.edu

Office: Breland Hall, Rm 145

Office Hours: M, T, W, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm or by appointment

Course Website: Canvas

Graduate Assistant: Joel Cisneros

Email: jc22@nmsu.edu

Office: Breland Hall, Rm 140

Office Hours: T 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm; W 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm; F 9:00 am to 10:00 am;
or by appointment

Course Description

In this course, we will consider the intersections between geography and culture, and explore key cultural geographic concepts such as landscape, place, nature, and environment. We will consider multiple ways of doing cultural geography, focusing on cultural geography as both a critical and creative practice. Key topics and themes that we will focus on include the cultural geography tradition, critical cultural geographies, and cultural geography and creativity.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to

- Understand critical approaches to the cultural geographic concepts of landscape, place, space, and environment
- Discuss contemporary cultural geographic approaches to topics such as environmental narratives, environmental justice, and the Anthropocene
- Discuss and articulate the connections between geography and artistic/literary practices
- Articulate their own practice of cultural geography through multiple forms of output, such as place journals, story maps, or visual essays.

Course format

There are two weekly class sessions and participation and attendance are required. These sessions will include a combination of lectures, class discussions, group exercises, in-class writing assignments, viewing of films, and presentation of work completed outside of class. Students taking this class are expected to be willing to ask and answer questions in class, and participate actively in discussion and debate on the cultural geography topics at hand.

Course materials

All course materials will be posted on Canvas. Materials will include pdfs of essays and articles, images, maps, videos, and websites.

Grading summary

Canvas discussion posts (15 at 10 pts)	(150 points)
Place journals	(150 points)
Short Essays/Assignments (2 at 75 pts)	(150 points)
Story Map or Visual Essay	(250 points)
Final Exam	(200 points)
Participation/Attendance	(100 points)

Total	(1000 points)
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A = 93-100%	A- = 90-92%	
B+ = 88-89%	B = 83-87%	B- = 80-82%
C+ = 78-79%	C = 73-77%	C- = 70-72%
D+ = 68-69%	D = 63-67%	D- = 60-62%
F = < 60%		

Canvas discussion posts

Students are expected to respond (about 200-250 words) about the readings and course content in discussion posts on Canvas. These discussions will also help facilitate discussion in class.

Sometimes I will give a prompt beforehand; other times the discussion will be open for you to respond to whatever in the week's readings or lectures most interests you. Students will also be responsible for responding to at least one of the other posts in their discussion group each week.

The posts will be located under "Discussions" on the course Canvas site. **Initial posts are due by 5 pm on each Wednesday. Responses will be due by 5 pm on each Friday.**

Place journals

As part of this class, you will be asked to keep a "place journal." You will choose a specific place that you will visit at least once a week, and while there, you will make an entry about what you notice at the place from a sense-of-place and cultural geographic perspective. More details on this assignment will be provided in class and on Canvas.

Story Map or Visual essay and Short Essays/Assignments

You will produce a story map or visual essay as a final project for this course. We will have a peer review process for this assignment, in which you receive feedback from the instructor or TA on your proposal and then will receive peer feedback on a draft of your project. In addition, two short essays/assignments will be assigned over the course of the semester. Details will be provided in class and on Canvas.

Academic Policies

Academic Misconduct

Academic and non-academic misconduct: The Student Code of Conduct defines academic misconduct, non-academic misconduct and the consequences or penalties for each. The Student Code of Conduct is available in the NMSU Student Handbook online:

<http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/>

Academic misconduct is explained here:

<http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/student-code-of-conduct/academic-misconduct/>

Discrimination and Disability Accommodation

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Trudy Luken, Director
Student Accessibility Services (SAS)
Corbett Center Student Union, Rm. 208
Phone: (575) 646-6840
E-mail: sas@nmsu.edu
Website: <http://sas.nmsu.edu/>

NMSU policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans status.

Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct: sexual violence (sexual assault, rape), sexual harassment and retaliation.

For more information on discrimination issues, Title IX, Campus SaVE Act, NMSU Policy Chapter 3.25, NMSU's complaint process, or to file a complaint contact:

Lauri Millot
Title IX Coordinator

Agustin Diaz
Title IX Deputy Coordinator
Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)
O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue
Phone: (575) 646-3635
E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu
Website: <http://eeo.nmsu.edu/>

Other NMSU Resources:

NMSU Police Department: (575) 646-3311 www.nmsupolice.com
NMSU Police Victim Services: (575) 646-3424
NMSU Counseling Center: (575) 646-2731
NMSU Dean of Students: (575) 646-1722
For Any On-campus emergencies: 911

Absence and Late Assignment Policy

Attendance in class is crucial and mandatory, and a percentage of the course's grade is based on attendance. It is important to come to class on time; tardiness is disruptive to class. Two or more unexcused absences or late arrivals will affect a student's final grade. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day they are late. Canvas discussion posts will not be accepted late.

Electronic equipment in class (Laptops, phones etc.): Laptops should only be used for note taking or for course-related activities. Cell phones should be on silent and put away during class. Use of electronic equipment for social media, text, etc. is disrespectful and distracting to both the instructor and class peers.

Withdrawals/Incompletes:

Withdrawals are your responsibility. The instructor will not withdraw or drop students from this class under any circumstances. Incomplete grades will not be given except under extraordinary

circumstances related to serious illness, bereavement, etc. Documentation will be required in these limited circumstances.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed.

Statement of Inclusivity

An inclusive and respectful classroom environment is crucial to our success and is a fundamental part of higher education. This course supports elective gender pronoun use and self-identification; rosters indicating such choices will be updated throughout the semester, upon student request. As the course includes group work and in-class discussion, it is vitally important for us to create an educational environment of inclusion and mutual respect.

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

COURSE TOPICS OUTLINE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
CHECK CANVAS REGULARLY FOR COURSE MATERIALS AND UPDATES.

WEEKLY TOPICS

Week 1 (8/17): Course Introduction: What is Cultural Geography?

Unit 1 (The Cultural Geography Tradition)

Week 2 (8/22, 8/24): The Landscape Tradition/Cultural Landscapes

Week 3 (8/29, 8/31): Sense of Place

Week 4 (9/5, 9/7): Nature and Wilderness

Week 5 (9/12, 9/14): Place, Space, and Representation

Unit 2 (Critical Cultural Geographies)

Week 6 (9/12, 9/14): Political Ecology

Week 7 (9/19, 9/21): Cultural Geography and Difference: Gender, Race, Class

Week 8 (9/26, 9/28): Cultural Geography and Environmental Justice

Week 9 (10/3, 10/5): Dystopia, Ecotopia: The Cultural Anthropocene

Week 10 (10/10, 10/12): Workshop on Story Maps/Visual Essays: Proposal Due

Unit 3 (Cultural Geography and Creativity)

Week 11 (10/17, 10/19): Cultural Geography and Creativity: Art & Environment

Week 12 (10/24, 10/26): Cultural Geography and Creativity: GeoHumanities

Week 13 (10/31, 11/2): Cultural Geography and Creativity: The Map as Art

Week 14 (11/7, 11/9): Story Maps/Visual Essays Peer Reviews

Unit 4 (Future Cultural Geographies)

Week 15 (11/14, 11/16): Environmental Narratives and Perceptions

Happy Thanksgiving! (No class 11/21, 11/23)

Week 16 (11/28, 11/30): Cultural Geography and Socio-Ecological Transformation

Week 17 (12/5, 12/7): Final Review and Final Exam (Final Exam is Thursday 12/7, 8 am to 10 am)