



The Department of
GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2013
GEOGRAPHY 561
H(3-0)

Critical Debates in Cultural Geography

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC01	We	15:00 - 17:45	ES 908

Instructor: Denise Brown	Office: ES 444
Telephone: 220 3930	Email: dfbrown@ucalgary.ca

Please note: The emergency evacuation assembly point for classes taught in Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.

Official Course Description:

In-depth discussion of key topical issues and points of debate in the field, including methodological issues, points of theoretical conflict among the subfields of Geography, moral or ethical issues in Geography.

Prerequisite: Geography 361

Supplementary Fees: (*field trips etc*). *N/A*

Introduction

This seminar is designed to explore the breadth and depth of the sub-field of cultural geography. The primary goal of the seminar is to encourage students to develop, expand, and critique their conceptions about the production and interpretation of culture and space. The student will problematize the role that culture and space play in the constitution of society, identity, and place, and will look at how cultural geographers interpret and critique space. Students will examine the major debates in this subfield emerging from the contested definition of “culture”, the modernity/postmodernity debate, and feminist approaches. Then, students will trace the emergence of this subfield through an examination of the scholarship of selected distinguished cultural geographers. Finally, students will evaluate research in the field. Assignments are intended to introduce students to the writing style, research interests, and mind set of scholars specializing in the “new” cultural geography. Students will critically examine recent publications in this sub-field, which will introduce them to the themes and design of contemporary research. This seminar provides students with the opportunity to work at developing a command of the fastest-growing sub-field within the greater discipline of geography.

The seminar has several objectives:

- Develop critical thinking and intellectual discussion.
- Trace the emergence of the “new” cultural geography.
- Introduce dominant themes and topics in cultural geography.
- Introduce research design and research methods in cultural geography.
- Encourage responsibility for independent learning.
- Exercise and develop reading, writing and verbal skills.

Fulfilling these objectives will enable the student to:

- Situate his/her own research in the larger theoretical and topical contexts of cultural geography and cultural theory.
- Understand the emergence of theory in the “new” cultural geography, and the state-of-the-art in this new subfield
- Better articulate his/her opinions, interpretations and arguments in both verbal and written form.

Text(s)/Readings:

- Readings will be available at the RESERVE desk of the library, available at the Geography Collections room, or cited with ONLINE information.

Grading (Weighting):

- **Seminars- 30%:**
- **Paper and class presentation on “Great Thinker”, due February 27- 35%:**
- **Paper and class presentation on approved topic, due April 3, 2007- 35%:**

There will be no registrar scheduled final exam

Grading System:

96-100	A+	77-80	B	59-61	C-
90-95	A	71-76	B-	55-58	D+
86-89	A-	65-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85	B+	62-64	C	0-49	F

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at:
<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

Writing across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Principles of conduct

The University of Calgary Calendar includes a statement on the Principles of conduct expected of all members of the University community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors and volunteers) whether on or off the University’s property. This statement applies in all situations where the members of the University community are acting in their University capacities. All Members of the University Community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with this statement which is available at:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j-2.html>

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/honesty/plagiarism>

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

FOIP: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access. Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: arts1@ucalgary.ca
- The students ombudsman office information can be found at:
<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca