

GEOG 241: Geographic Thought

1st sem 2015-2016

Instructor: Dr. Kristian Saguin

Email: kcsaguin@up.edu.ph

Office: WF 9-11:30am; WF 2:30-5pm, FC 405

Course Description: Key concepts, traditions and debates in the development of geographic thought.

Geography graduate students require an adequate grasp of the history and philosophy of geography as a discipline from its early origins to its contemporary forms. The course traces the roots, debates and evolution of key concepts in geographic inquiry through various perspectives and traditions. It situates these within major ontological and epistemological debates that have shaped the discipline's trajectories. A holistic understanding of the nature and history of geographic thought trains students to think geographically, and enables them to frame human and biophysical phenomena from a geographic perspective. The course helps students prepare for conceptualizing geographic research and serves as an introductory course for advanced geography graduate courses.

Course Objectives: At the end of the semester, students are expected to:

1. Identify and engage with key concepts, debates and traditions in the history of geographic thought
2. Develop critical skills for integrating and evaluating geographic literature
3. Appreciate the scope of geography as a discipline, and the relevance of geographic inquiry in addressing contemporary human and biophysical issues

Course Requirements:

One-Page Weekly Reading Reflection (40%)

You will be asked to submit 8 one-page reflection pieces for 8 class sessions. The one-page reflection should contain three components. *First part:* Write a paragraph or two reflecting on the common themes, and major tensions and debates among the articles (e.g. How do the articles relate to or differ from each other? What are some of the common claims and the points where they disagree? How do this week's articles link with or build on previous ones? How do you relate them with your interests and experiences?). *Second part:* List two quotes from the set of articles that you found interesting, illuminating or useful for your research or for class discussion. *Third part:* Pose three questions for the class discussion. Please upload your submissions online via UVLe (see section below) before start of each class (5:59 PM at the latest).

One-Page Concept Paper (20%)

At the end of the course, you will write and present a one-page concept paper that details a topic you would want to pursue for your thesis. You will choose one or more approach/tradition we discussed in class to frame this topic.

Journal Report (10%)

You will be assigned one general geography journal and one specialized geography journal each. Your task is to gain a sense of what the journal is, what articles they publish and who publishes in these journals. Go over the last 2-3 issues of the journal and identify two articles from each journal you think are interesting or relevant to you based on their abstracts. Report to class in not more than 10 minutes a summary of the journal and the articles that interest you.

Facilitation (15%)

You will facilitate the discussion for at least two class sessions along with another classmate. A good facilitation requires preparation: read the materials beforehand, write down notes, and think of questions that will enable a productive discussion. The format of the discussion will depend on your style but provide a short introduction at the beginning.

Active Participation (15%)

This is a reading-intensive class where learning is produced through an active reading of the text and engagement with the materials and with your classmates. Remember that you are expected to produce, rather than merely transmit or passively acquire, knowledge in graduate school. The course is structured in a seminar format wherein instructor and students actively engage with the reading materials during each session instead of lecture-type sessions.

Grade Equivalents

1.0 = 90-100%	1.25 = 80-89%	1.5 = 70-79%	1.75=65-69	2.0 = 60-64%	2.25 = 57-59%	2.5 = 54-56%
2.75 = 52-53%	3.0 = 50-51%	4.0 = 41-49%	5.0 = 0-40%	Note: No grade of INC (Incomplete) will be given		

Key Reference Materials: The following are the two “textbooks” for the class.

Couper, P. (2015) *A Student’s Introduction to Geographical Thought*. Sage: London.

Cresswell, T. (2013) *Geographic Thought: A Critical Introduction*. Wiley-Blackwell: Chichester.

Other Materials: We will read sections from some of these books. These may also be useful for further reading on certain topics.

Agnew, J. and Duncan, S. (2011) *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Human Geography*. Blackwell: Malden.

Agnew, J. and Livingstone, D. (2011) *The Sage Handbook of Geographical Knowledge*. Sage: London.

Castree, N., Rogers, A. and Sherman, D. (2005) *Questioning Geography: Fundamental Debates*. Blackwell: Malden.

Clifford, N.J., Holloway, S.L., Rice, S.P. and Valentine, G. (2009) *Key Concepts in Geography*, 2nd ed. Sage: London.

Cloke, P. and Johnston, R. (2005) *Spaces of Geographical Thought: Deconstructing Human Geography’s Binaries*. Sage: London

Gregory, D., Johnston, R., Pratt, G., Watts, M., and Whatmore, S. (2009) *The Dictionary of Human Geography*, 5th ed. Blackwell: Malden.

Henderson, G. and Waterstone, M. (2009) *Geographic Thought: A Praxis Perspective*. Routledge: London and New York.

Kitchin, R. and Thrift, N. (2009) *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*. Elsevier: Amsterdam and Oxford.

Nayak, A. and Jeffrey, A. (2011) *Geographical Thought: An Introduction to Ideas in Human Geography*. Pearson: Harlow.

Warf, B. (2006) *Encyclopedia of Human Geography*. Sage: London.

UVLe: All digital readings and submissions will be through UVLe (uvle.upd.edu.ph). Please make sure that you have an account and that you enroll yourself in the class. Look for the Geog 241 (Geographic Thought) section and use the enrollment key “Geog241” to add yourself to the class. You will upload all your reflection pieces in the assignment folders and I will provide feedback accordingly.

Class Policies: You are most welcome to consult with me if you have any concerns regarding the class or the program.

Attendance and Tardiness. You are allowed a maximum of 3 excused/unexcused absences. Please present medical forms for excused absences. Also, inform me if you know you will miss class beforehand. Please come to class on time (i.e., not later than 6:15 pm). Late submissions will also be deducted 10% of total score for every weekday missed.

Academic Honesty: I do not tolerate any form of dishonesty, whether cheating, plagiarism or submitting other people’s work. Consult with me if you have any questions regarding citations, writing and other related matters. You can also check many of the resources available on the internet about how to cite and how to avoid plagiarism.

Class Behavior: Please keep your cell phones in your pockets or elsewhere during class hours. I will, however, allow use of laptops as long as it is for class-related purposes. Remember to exercise basic forms of courtesy to your instructor and classmates.

Course Outline

The course is divided into three parts. The first introduces the discipline of geography, its history, and its divides. The second reviews the various traditions, approaches and turns in 20th and 21st century geography. The third identifies key concepts in geographic thought and frames them within debates in the discipline. Reading assignments may change during the semester.

Week	Topic	Readings	Facilitator/Journal
Part 1: Geography as a discipline			
1 Aug 5	<i>Theory and philosophy in geography</i>	Cresswell 2013 Ch. 1 Introduction Couper 2015 Ch. 1 Geographers at the beach	Class intro
2 Aug 12	<i>Becoming a geographer/ Early geographies</i>	Sauer 1956 Education of a geographer Bauder 2006 Learning to become a geographer Hoogendoorn 2013 Becoming a geographer in South Africa Unwin 2011 Geography and geographers in policy and government	FAC: Kristian
3 Aug 26	<i>Modern geography/ Regional geography/ Geography as science?</i>	Cresswell 2013 Ch. 3 The emergence of modern geography Cresswell 2013 Ch. 4 Thinking about regions Couper 2015 Ch. 2 Positivism Hickey and Lawson 2005 Beyond science? Geography, interpretation and critique	FAC: Journal: Progress in Human Geog
4 Sep 2	<i>Physical geography and philosophy</i>	Harrison 2005 What kind of science is physical geography? Couper 2015 Ch. 3 Critical rationalism Inkpen 2005 Ch. 6 Systems: the framework for physical geography? Couper 2015 Ch. 8 Complexity theory	FAC: Journal: Progress in Physical Geog
5 Sep 9	<i>Bridging the physical- human geography divide</i>	Couper 2015 Ch 10 Thinking, doing, constructing geography Castree 2015 Geography and global change science Tadaki et al 2014 Applied climatology: doing the relational work of climate Stallins and Kelly 2013 The embeddedness of snake in the wildlife pet trade and the production of assemblage biogeographies	FAC: Journal: Annals of the Association of American Geographers
6 Sep 16	<i>Human geography and divides</i>	McKittrick and Peake 2005 What difference does difference make in geography? Blomley 2006 Uncritical critical geography? Elwood 2010 Engaging critical GIS theory Kwan 2004 From canonical geography to hybrid geographies	FAC: Journal: Antipode
Part 2: Approaches in geography			
7 Sep 23	<i>Spatial science and the quantitative revolution</i>	Cresswell 2013 Ch. 5 Spatial science Berry and Garrison 1958 The functional basis of central place hierarchy Vandenbulcke et al 2009 Mapping accessibility in Belgium Wyly 2009 Strategic positivism	FAC: Journal: Applied Geography
8 Sep 30	<i>Humanistic and lived geographies</i>	Cresswell 2013 Ch. 6 Humanistic geographies and Couper 2015 Ch. 5 (pp. 85-94) Phenomenology Bale 1996 Yi-Fu Tuan and a geography of sport Nayak and Jeffrey 2011 Emotions, embodiment and lived geographies	FAC: Journal: Transactions of the Institute of British

		Wright 2012 Emotional geographies of development	Geog
9 Oct 7	<i>Marxist geographies</i>	Cresswell 2013 Ch. 7 Marxist geographies Couper 2015 Ch. 4 Marxism and critical realism Harvey 2011 Crises, geographic disruptions and the uneven development of political responses Watts and Bohle 1993 The space of vulnerability: the causal structure of hunger and famine	FAC: Journal: Geoforum
10 Oct 14	<i>Feminist and postcolonial geographies</i>	Couper 2015 Ch. 6 Social constructionism and feminism Sundberg 2005 Looking for the critical geographer, or why bodies and geographies matter in the emergence of critical geographies of Latin America Briggs and Sharp 2004 Indigenous knowledges and development: a postcolonial caution Roy 2009 New geographies of theory	FAC: Journal: Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography
11 Oct 21	<i>Postmodern and poststructural geographies</i>	Couper 2015 Ch 7 Structuralism, poststructuralism and postmodernism Cresswell 2013 Ch. 10 Toward poststructuralist geographies Crampton 2007 Maps, race and Foucault May 2010 Zombie geographies and the undead city	FAC: Journal: Environment and Planning D
12 Oct 28	<i>Relational and more-than-human geographies</i>	Cresswell 2013 Ch. 11 Relational geographies and Couper 2015 Ch. 5 Post-phenomenology (pp. 95-104) Cresswell 2013 Ch. 12 More-than-human geographies Barratt 2012 A more-than-representational account of the climbing assemblage Keul 2013 Embodied encounters between humans and gators	FAC: Journal: Environment and Planning A
Part 3: Key concepts in geography			
13 Nov 4	<i>Space vs. place</i>	Agnew 2005 Space: place Taylor 1999 Place-space tensions in the political geography of modernities Merrifield 1993 Place and space: a Lefebvrian reconciliation? Massey 2005 Throwntogetherness: the politics of the event of place	FAC: Journal: Area
14 Nov 11	<i>Nature, culture, landscape</i>	Watts 2005 Nature: culture Mitchell 2003 Dead labor and the political economy of landscape Braun 1997 Buried epistemologies: the politics of nature in (post)colonial British Columbia Hinchliffe 2003 Inhabiting - landscapes and natures	FAC: Journal: Geography Compass
15 Nov 18	<i>Scale, time and the global</i>	Cox 2005 Local: global Manson 2008 Does scale exist? Massey 1994 A global sense of place Schwanen et al 2008 Gendered rigidity of space-time constraints and geographies of everyday activities	FAC: Journal: Geographical Journal
16 Nov 25	Class presentations and wrapping up		