

Introduction to Human Geography

GEOG 600 Fall2008

Instructor: Dr. Martha Geores, mgeores@umd.edu; 54064

Monday 1-3:30, Room 1124 Lefrak

Office hours M 11-12, T 11:30-12:30 and by appointment

Required Texts:

Agnew, Human Geography: an Essential Anthology (1996) ISBN 978-0-6-31194613.

Malden, MA: Blackwell publisher

Cloke and Sadler Approaching Human Geography (1991) NY: The Guilford Press. 978-

0-8-9862490-8

Unwin, The Place of Geography, (1992) Essex: Longman/John Wiley ISBN 978-0-5-

8205107-2.

All titles are available as used books.

Recommended Texts (Copies will be available in a box in the Lounge. Please sign them out.):

Paulson, Political ecology across spaces, scales, Rutgers University Press.

Cloke, Envisioning Human Geographies, Arnold

AAAS, AAAS Atlas of population & environment, University of California Press.

Jared Diamond, Guns, germs and steel and Collapse

Nellis, Presidential Musings AAG

Goals of the course

GEOG 600 is the first segment of the graduate introduction to Geography as a field of study. The second segment is the Introduction to Physical Geography and will be taught by Dr. Townshend in the spring semester. This sequence is the comprehensive exam for both the MA and the PhD students. Therefore, we expect you to give these courses a high level of effort and to emerge from the sequence as a certified geographer. You should know the history and philosophy of the discipline and have a working knowledge of human and physical sub disciplines and their integration.

Rules of the road

Attendance at all classes is expected. Class will start at 1, be there. You are expected to have read the assigned material and be ready to discuss it. Common rules of courtesy apply during class time. Open discussions will occur and all opinions will be respected and probably challenged – that's what grad school is all about.

Grades will be assigned for class participation including both group presentations*(450 points) and participation in discussion of the issues (130 points), a journal of your "encounters with human geography"(100 points), a journal of articles reflecting current research on each topic (150 points), two 5-7 page essays on assigned topics,***(250 points a piece) and an in-class, closed book final exam (600 points). Each assignment is graded on a check-mark system. When I read the assignment I will give you a checkmark for good points, correction information, thoughtful consideration, critical thinking, application of principles from course materials. The check mark score will be converted to the point value for the assignment.

Everyone is expected to participate during class discussions as well as on ELMS. You are **not** competing against each other for grades. Help each other; this course requires a lot of work.

* Each week groups will be responsible for presentation of the topic. The syllabus includes the minimum reading and you are expected to supplement it with current research articles. Your presentation may focus on the question of the day, or not, as you choose. The presentation should include the main themes for that day and it should not be just a summary of each article. You might want to present something about the author or the time she/he was writing in, or other works, and his/her impact on the discipline. Don't be afraid to add a little flavor to the class. Your group will guide the discussion, so you should prepare stimulating questions. We will proceed by "mutual invitation". Mutual invitation means that each person who answers a question will invite another person to contribute.

A note about group work. I expect all members of each group to collaborate with each other in preparing the presentations. Simply assigning readings to report on is not collaboration.

There will be three groups. The code to the syllabus is that Group 1's assignments are in *italics*, group 2's are **bold** and group 3's are underlined.

**The essays cover central themes in the course and will be due after we have finished the unit on that topic.

You must complete all of the work in order to get a grade (it's a university rule). Assignments are due at the beginning class time. Assignments will lose half a letter grade each day they are late. If you fail to complete 2 assignments on time, or you miss 3 classes you will be asked to withdraw from the course, or you will likely receive a failing grade.

Accommodations

If you have any special needs relating to your performance in the course, please let me know by Sept 15. I will accommodate you. Religious holidays and campus obligations will be respected.

Honor Pledge

On each assignment you must include and sign the honor pledge – "I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment". This is a university requirement. I expect you to know how to write papers without plagiarizing anyone's work.

Syllabus

Each class will have 3 parts: presentation of the topic in the readings, discussion of the readings, and an introduction to the next section. There will often be videos to supplement the readings and to give a context for the world of human geography.

Introduction

Sept. 8

Outline of the course and requirements
What do geographers say geography is?
Core statement from the faculty at UMD
Video on Mountaintop Mining "Is God Green?"

The History and Philosophy of Geography

Question to think about – what do you think geography is?

Sept 15. *Unwin, Chapter 3, "Geography and Society"*

_____ *Chapter 4, parts 4.1 and 4.2*

Agnew, Chapter 1, "A Plea for the History of Geography" by John K. Wright

Agnew Chapter 7 "What Geography Ought to Be" Peter Kropotkin

_____ *Chapter 9. "The Study of Geography" Frank Boas*

_____ **Chapter 2 Paradigms and Revolution or Evolution, R.J. Johnston**

_____ **Chapter 5. "On the history and present condition of geography", David Harvey**

Sept. 22 What Is Human Geography?

Question to think about: What are the ontologies and epistemologies of human geography?

Unwin, Chapter 2 "The place of theory"

Philo Chapter 1 "Introduction: Changing Approaches to Human Geography"

_____ Chapter 2 Marxism

Philo Chapter 3 Humanist Geography

_____ *Chapter 4 Structuration*

Sept 29 Philo Chapter 5 Realism

_____ **Chapter 6 Post-modernism**

Agnew Chapter 6, Haraway, "Situated Knowledges"

_____ Chapter 10. 'Meaning and Aim of Human Geography', Paul Vidal de la Blache

_____ Chapter 38, "Reassertations: Toward a Spatialized Ontology" Soja

OCTOBER 6 First paper – Discuss ontology and epistemology in the Context of Human Geography no readings due

Geography as an Academic Discipline

Questions to think about:: 1. What does it mean to be a unified discipline?

2. When is conflict within the discipline productive?

3. What does conflict within the discipline look like to people outside the discipline?

Oct 13

Unwin, Chapter 1 "Geography: the social construction of a discipline" and the remainder of Chapter 4.

Agnew, Chapter 4, "Institutionalization of Geography and Strategies of Change", Capel

_____ *Chapter 3, "Musing on Helicon" Anne Buttimer*

Johnston, R.J. 1986. "Four Fixations and the Quest of Unity in Geography" Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers 11(4): 449-453.

Massey, Doreen. 1999. "Space-time, 'Science' and the Relationship between Physical and Human Geography" Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers New Series, 24(3)"261-276.

The Harvard Story

Smith, Neil. 1987. "Academic War over the Field of Geography": The Elimination of Geography at Harvard, 1947-1951" Annals of the Association of American Geographers 77(2): 155-172.

Augelli, John and Donald Patton. 1988. "On "Academic War of the Field of Geography" Annals of the Association of American Geographers 78(1): 145-147.

Cohen, Saul. 1988."Reflections on the Elimination of Geography at Harvard, 1947-51" Annals of the Association of American Geographers78(1) 148-151.

Raisz, Erwin.1952. "Geography at Harvard" Science (Apr 11, 1952) 115(2989)" 405-406.

Cutter, Susan. 2004 "Bring Geography back to Harvard and Yale and...: in Nellis, p. 225-227.

Oct. 20 The Relationship between human and physical geography

Questions to think about – 1.Why was environmental determinism shoved into the closet?
 2. What did it mean historically?
 3. Is the new environmental determinism dangerous?

Environmental Determinism –IT’S BACK

Peet, Richard. 1985. "The Social Origins of Environmental Determinism" Annals of the Association of American Geographers 75(3):309-333.

The old kind:

Huntington, Ellsworth.1924. "Geography and Natural Selection: a Preliminary Study of the Origin and Development of Racial Character" Annals of the Association of American Geographers 14(1): 1-16.

_____. 1943. "The Geography of Human Productivity" Annals of the Association of American Geographers 33(1): 1-31.

The new kind

Blaut, James 1999. "Environmentalism and Eurocentrism" Geographical Review 89(3): 391-408.

Colchester, Marcus 2000. "Self-Determinism or Environmental Determinism for Indigenous Peoples in Tropical Forest Conservation" Conservation Biology 14(5): 1365-1367.

Sluyter, Andrew. 2003. "Neo-Environmental Determinism, Intellectual Damage Control, and Nature/Society Science" Antipode 35(4): 813-817.

McNeill, J.R. 2001. "The World According to Jared Diamond" The History Teacher 34(2): 165-174.

Hausmann, Ricardo. 2001. "Prisoners of Geography" Foreign Policy Jan/Feb: 45-53.

Frenkel, Stephen. 1992. "Geography, empire, and environmental determinism" Geographical Review 82(2); 143-154.

October 27

Frenkel, Stephen. 1994. "Old Theories in New Places? Environmental Determinism and Bioregionalism" Professional Geographer 46(3):289-295.

Frenkel, Stephen. 1996. "Jungle Stories: North American Representations of Tropical Panama" Geographical Review 86(3): 317-333.

Bassin, Mark. 1996. "Nature, Geopolitics and Marxism: Ecological Contestations in Weimar Germany" Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers New Series 21(2):315-341.

Pulido, Laura. 2000. "Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90(1): 12-40.

Kirkpatrick, Jamie. 2000. "The Political Ecology of Biogeography" *Journal of Biogeography* 27(1): 45-48.

Human Geographers' Ways of Looking at the Physical Environment

Questions to think about –1. How is nature political?

2. Is description of the landscape human geography?

3. What does the historic view add to our understanding of the nature of landscape?

Guelke, Leonard. 1997. "The Relations between Geography and History Reconsidered" *History and Theory* 36(2): 216-234.

Agnew 13, "Traces on the Rhodian Shore", Clarence Glacken

14 "Influences of Geographic Environment" Ellen Semple

17, "The Morphology of the Landscape" Carl Sauer

16 Geography, Marx and the Concept of Nature" Neil Smith and Phil O'Keefe

19 Marxism, Culture and the duplicity of nature" Stephen Daniels

Nov 3 no new readings

November 3 Second paper: Research a geographer whose work spans human and physical systems. What did the geographer study, how did she/he study it, and how credible were her/his findings?

Nov.10 Scale

Questions to think about: 1. Does scale explains everything?

2. If scale is socially constructed, how can it be used?

Gezon and Paulson, 2005. Place, Power, Difference: Multiscale Research at the Dawn of the Twenty-first Century, in Political Ecology across Spaces, Scales, and Social Groups, pp. 1-17.

Herod, Andrew and Melissa Wright. 2002. "Introduction: Theorizing Scale" in Geographies of Power, Placing Scale. Oxford: Blackwell.

Marston, S 2000. "The Social Construction of Scale" *Progress in Human Geography* 24(2): 219-242.

Brenner. 2001. "Limits to Scale? Methodological Reflections on Scalar Structuration" *Progress in Human Geography* 25(4): 591-614.

Marston, Jones, Woodward 2005 "Human Geography Without Scale" *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 30(4) 416-432.

Nov. 17 Regional Geography

What is the purpose of regionalism?

What were Hartshorne and Schaefer fighting about?

Old regional geography:

Agnew Chapter 23 “Human Regions” Fleure

Chapter 24 “The Character of Regional Geography” Hartshorne

Chapter 32 “The territorial growth of states” Ratzel

*Agnew Chapter 35 “Exceptionalism in Geography: a Methodological Examination”,
Shaefer.*

*Unwin, Chapter 5. “From region to process: the emergence of geography as an
empirical-analytic science.*

November 24 New Regional Geography.

**Holmen, Hans. 1995. “What’s New and What’s Regional in the ‘New Regional
Geography’? *Geografiska Annaler, Series B, Human Geography* 77(1):47-63.**

**Deas, Iain and Kevin Ward. 2000. “From the ‘new localism’ to the ‘new
regionalism’? The implications of development agencies for city-regional relations”
Political Geography 19(2000): 273-292.**

**Gilbert, A. 1988. “The new regional geography in English and French-speaking
Countries *Progress in Human Geography* 12(2):2-208**

How do human geographers do research?

Unwin Chapter 6, Geography and historical-hermeneutic science: the quest for
understanding.

Agnew, Chapter 7 Critical science and society: the geographer’s interest

Agnew 11, “Geography without human agency” David Ley

Gregory, D. 1996. ‘Commitments: The Work of Theory in Human Geography’ *Economic
Geography* 72(1):73-80.

Agnew, chapter 12 “Areal Differentiation and Post-modern Human Geography” Derek
Gregory

**Dec 1 Staeheli, Lynn and Patricia Martin. 2000. “Spaces for Feminism in Geography”
Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science Vol 571 *Feminist Views
of the Social Sciences: 135-150.***

**Fels, Dick. 2001. “Three Spaces of Social Theory: Towards a Political Geography of
Knowledge. *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 26 (1):31-56.**

Dec 8. The place of geography

Unwin Chapter 8.

**Final Exam Tuesday 12/16/08 1:30-3:30, Room
1124 Lefrak**

On-Line Course Evaluations:

Course EvalUM open Tuesday, December 2 to Sunday, December 14
(note: Classes end December 12; Study days are Saturday, December 13
and Sunday, December 14)