

Dr. Kate Berry
University of Nevada, Reno
Spring Semester 2010

GEOGRAPHY 418 GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will explore the philosophy, practices and potential of geography. We will examine how professional geographers and the public have thought about the discipline as well as your own geographic thinking. This course is about:

- the evolution of geography as an academic discipline among the fields of knowledge;
- the ways that different groups (professional geographers, the public and students) think about the significance of space, place and landscape;
- the concepts that motivate geographers and the concerns that shape their work;
- the people who have shaped geographic traditions and those who are shaping its future;
- the ideas, techniques and solutions that geographers have contributed to current problems and conflicts.

As a major capstone course in the University's Core Curriculum, this course will give you a chance to refine your skills in synthesizing material and critical analysis. You will be reading, researching, writing, evaluating, listening, discussing and presenting throughout the semester. At the same time, you will reflect upon what you have learned throughout your 'journey through geography' thus far and consider where you will go from here.

SCHEDULE

This course will meet from 9:30 to 10:45am on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Mackay Science Room 227. I encourage you to visit about any aspect of the course by making an appointment with me. My office is located in Mackay Science Room 201 and I can be reached by phone at 784-1865 or email at kberry@unr.edu

OTHER INFORMATION

If you have a disability and will be requiring assistance, please contact me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building Ste. 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations and keep me apprised of your situation.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Grading for this course will utilize the University's grading policy which allows for letter grades with the possibility of a plus or a minus (for example, it is possible to get a C+ or an A-). Your grade for this course will be based on the following items:

150 points	class attendance and participation
300 points	reading journals (turned for grades twice during the semester)
150 points	attending & evaluating presentations at the Western Social Science conference
400 points	class assignments (4)

1000 points	cumulative total possible
-------------	---------------------------

Points will be deducted for late work.

A plus/minus grading scale will be used:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	less than 60%

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance is expected for each scheduled class period. Bear in mind that missing a class period will affect both the attendance and participation component of your grade. If you are absolutely unable to attend class, you may want to contact your fellow classmates to get notes. Please keep me apprised of your situation.

Your active involvement in the class is expected. Feedback and discussion are important to understand and assimilate the materials presented in this course.

READING

All assigned readings for this course are available electronically through this course on *Web Campus*. Check your access to *Web Campus* and let me know immediately if are having difficulties getting access to the readings or other materials online.

READING JOURNAL

The idea of this assignment is to synthesize what you have learned from the assigned class readings and class lectures and discussions of them, with the goal of helping you process these more thoroughly and recall them better. Each of the assigned class readings should have a typed journal entry of one-half to one page, single-spaced that includes both a description and an analysis. Your reading journal entries should both show that you have done the reading and provide your analysis of the reading. Consider what the significant points that are being made with regards to geographic thought and how you respond to the points. Where possible, draw connections between two or more readings and include your analysis of the similarities or differences between articles.

Prepare a separate journal entries for each assigned class reading. I will distribute a worksheet and we'll work in class on these so you can feel comfortable with what is expected. Journals will be collected twice during the semester: **Tuesday March 9 and Tuesday May 4.**

ATTENDING AND EVALUATING PRESENTATIONS AT WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

As mentioned in the footnote for this course in the spring schedule, you will register and attend the Western Social Science Association conference, which will be held at the Grand Sierra Hotel and Casino in Reno from **April 15-17**. This is a chance for you to learn more about geography and social science. You do not need to attend the entire conference as your assignment is to select at least six paper presentations (or panel sessions, plenary presentations or poster sessions) to attend and evaluate. If you need a letter for another professor to let them know about your absence from their class, please let me know well in advance. Your evaluations of the six paper presentations will be due **Tuesday April 20**. We will be discussing the logistics and details throughout the semester, so stay tuned for more. If for some reason you cannot join us at the conference, please let me know the first week of the semester so you can arrange for an alternative assignment.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Throughout the semester there will be four class assignments, each worth 100 points. Detailed instructions will be provided for each assignment.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Readings</u>
Tues. January 19	Introduction	-----
Thur. January 21	The Geographic Advantage	Hanson 2004 (<i>Annals of AAG</i>)
Tues. January 26	Making the Case for Geography	Lawson & Murphy undated (AAG website)
Thur. January 28	Who are Geographers Today?	Pandit 2004 (<i>Professional Geographer</i>)
Tues. February 2	Geography in Higher Education	Murphy 2007 (<i>J. of Geography in Higher Education</i>)
Thur. February 4	K-12 Geography Education	Bednarz & Bednarz 2004 (<i>Professional Geographer</i>)
Tues. February 9	Learning to Become a Geographer	Bauder 2006 (<i>Antipode</i>)
Thur. February 11	Famous Geographers of the Past	-----
Tues. February 16	International Views of American Geography	Kolossov 2004 (<i>GeoJournal</i>) Wood 2004 (<i>Professional Geographer</i>)
Thur. February 18	Changing Economic Landscapes	Florida 2009 (<i>The Atlantic</i>)
Tues. February 23	Challenges for Geography	Kitchin & Sidaway 2006 (<i>Professional Geographer</i>)
Thur. February 25	Bringing in Humanities & Art	Tuan 2004 (<i>Annals of AAG</i>)
Tues. March 2	Historical Changes in Observing Landscapes	Stilgoe 2005 (2 chapters from <i>Landscape & Images</i>)
Thur. March 4	Making Maps, Valuing Cartography	Harvey 2000 (Ch 4-6 from <i>The Island of Lost Maps</i>)
Tues. March 9	Humor & Maps	Caquard & Dorman 2008 (<i>Carto. & GI Science</i>)
Thur. March 11	Place & Narratives in Maps & GIS	Pearce 2008 (<i>Cartography & GI Science</i>) Madden & Ross 2009 (<i>Professional Geographer</i>)
Tues. March 16	No Class – Spring Break	-----
Thur. March 18	No Class – Spring Break	-----
Tues. March 23	Tobler's 1 st Law & Spatial Analysis	Miller 2004 (<i>Annals of AAG</i>)
Tues. March 25	Form & Process in GI Science	Goodchild 2004 (<i>Annals of AAG</i>)
Tues. March 30	GIS & Critical Geography	Kwan & Schwanen 2009 (<i>Professional Geographer</i>)
Thur. April 1	Activating Geographers	Bello 2008 (<i>Antipode</i>)
Tues. April 6	Int. Environmental Governance	Liverman 2004 (<i>Annals of AAG</i>)
Thur. April 8	An Interdisciplinary Discipline?	Skole 2004 (<i>Annals of AAG</i>)
Tues. April 13	Building Knowledge in Physical Geography	Phillips 2004 (<i>Professional Geographer</i>)
Thur. April 15	Western Social Science Assoc. Conference	-----
Tues. April 20	Geography as a Model for Science?	Colwell 2004 (<i>Annals of the AAG</i>)
Thur. April 22	Geography's Subfields & Cognate Disciplines	-----
Tues. April 27	Geographers at Work	Crosby 2005 (<i>Occupational Quarterly</i>) Gewin 2004 (<i>Nature</i>)
Thur. April 29	The Lure of the Field	Delyser & Starrs 2001 (<i>Geographical Review</i>)
Tues. May 4	Wrap-up	-----
Fri. May 7 (by 9:30am)	Final class assignment due	-----