Geography 536
Advanced Seminar in Human Geography
University of Victoria
Fall 2017

Instructor: Reuben S. Rose-Redwood, Ph.D.
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Office hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 1:00pm—2:15pm
Course time: Thursdays, 6:30pm—9:20pm
Course location: Clearihue Building, D130

COURSE OVERVIEW

This graduate seminar will explore the major theoretical approaches to contemporary human geography as well as key debates and concepts that inform current scholarship on social, cultural, political, and economic geographies. The course shall consider how a variety of perspectives—including positivism, humanistic geography, political economy, feminist geography, and poststructuralism—have each sought to provide a different lens through which to understand geographical notions of space, place, landscape, and scale while grounding such conceptual debates within concrete case studies. The aims of the course are, therefore, threefold:

(1) to provide a solid foundation and appreciation for the diversity of contemporary perspectives in human geography;

(2) to examine major thematic areas of human geographical inquiry and debate;

(3) to cultivate one’s own “geographical imagination” by critically assessing current geographical scholarship and exploring the philosophical underpinnings of one’s own approach to conducting geographic research.

The format for class sessions will be based upon group discussions of the assigned readings. Students will have the opportunity to lead at least one class discussion over the course of the semester. Each week, students are also expected to participate in a virtual discussion of the readings as part of the online discussion forum using the CourseSpaces course management system. Additionally, each student will write a Perspective Paper, and students will give a 15-20 minute presentation on their paper as well at the end of the semester. During three sessions over the course of the semester, we shall meet at the Legacy Art Gallery (630 Yates St.) to attend The City Talks lectures during our regularly scheduled meeting time instead of meeting in the regular seminar classroom.
COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts


All other reading materials will be available on the CourseSpaces page for this class ([http://coursespaces.uvic.ca](http://coursespaces.uvic.ca)).

GRADING SCHEME

Your final grade will be based on the following calculation:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Perspective Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Discussion Postings</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Leader of Group Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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Grading Scale

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<tr>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: COURSESPACES

We will be using the CourseSpaces management system as a medium for the posting of relevant course materials and related course information ([http://coursespaces.uvic.ca](http://coursespaces.uvic.ca)).

ASSIGNMENTS

*Perspective Paper*

The aim of the Perspective Paper is to give students the opportunity to explore one of the theoretical frameworks in human geography in greater depth while also showing how this perspective provides the conceptual tools to better understand a geographical phenomenon related to the student’s research interests. The paper should be 20-25 pages, double-spaced, 12-pt font, 2.54 cm margins, and consist of two parts: (1) a critical analysis of the core assumptions, concepts, and critiques of a theoretical framework in human geography and (2) a discussion of how this theoretical framework relates to a specific geographical topic or case.
study. The Perspective Paper will be due via email (redwood@uvic.ca) by noon on the last day of class, November 30.

Paper Presentation
On November 23, we will have a “mini-conference” where each student will give a 15-20 minute presentation based upon their perspective paper using PowerPoint or related computer software as a visual supplement to the oral presentation. The aim is to simulate the atmosphere of giving a talk at an academic conference, such as the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) or the American Association of Geographers (AAG). Ideally, we will schedule 15 minutes for each presentation, plus an additional 5 minutes for a questions/answers session, yet this may be altered somewhat depending on how many students enroll in the course.

Online Discussion Postings
Each week, students are required to post brief, but thoughtful, comments and reactions to the assigned readings in the discussion forum on CourseSpaces. The chief purpose of these online discussion postings is to spark dialogue outside of the classroom setting. Initial postings should be made by all students no later than 9pm on Wednesday nights—that is, the day before each class session. Students are also encouraged to reply to each other’s postings in addition to offering their own thoughts on the readings.

Leader of Group Discussion
Each student will have the opportunity to lead at least one class discussion over the course of the semester. Within the first week or two of classes, students will use CourseSpaces to select which date they shall lead the discussion. In preparation, it is highly recommended that you do the readings for your chosen week several weeks in advance. Each group discussion leader must submit the following via email (redwood@uvic.ca) by the Monday before the class session that they will be leading: (1) a short commentary on each of the readings; (2) an outline of the discussion format (e.g., how you plan to structure the discussion); and (3) a list of at least 10 questions you plan to ask the class (e.g., keeping in mind that things don’t always go as planned!). Those leading the discussion should also contribute to the CourseSpaces discussion forum online early in the day on Wednesday or sooner to set the tone of the online discussion. At the beginning of class, the discussion leader should start by providing a summary/critique of the readings (no more than 10-15 minutes) and then lead the discussion for the remainder of the class session.

Attendance and Participation
Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all seminar sessions. If you have a university-excused absence, please discuss this with me prior to the date of absence if possible. To get full marks for participation, students must make a concerted effort to offer meaningful contributions to class discussions.

The City Talks Lecture Series
This fall the Committee for Urban Studies at UVic will be hosting its annual public lecture series called The City Talks. On Sept. 14, Oct. 26, and Nov. 30, our class will be attending The City Talks during our regularly scheduled seminar time at the Legacy Art Gallery (630
Yates St.) instead of meeting in the regular seminar classroom. I am the Chair of the Committee for Urban Studies and lead organizer of this semester’s talks. I’ll also be giving the first talk in the series, and the series as a whole will be of direct relevance to the course content for this graduate seminar. For more information about The City Talks schedule, see http://thecitytalks.ca.

OFFICE HOURS

I strongly encourage you to come to my office hours. As the course instructor, my main goal is to help you learn, so if you have any questions about the material, or the class in general, you are more than welcome to come speak with me during office hours. If you are not available during that time, email me to set up an appointment.

EMAIL

Send all email to me using the email address listed on the first page of the syllabus. Please include the course number (GEOG 536) in the email subject title. I will do my best to respond promptly to your questions.

PLAGIARISM

All class assignments should be prepared by the students submitting the assignment. Plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism consists of: (a) submitting someone else’s work as your own without the use of proper citation or (b) paraphrasing another’s ideas without acknowledging the author’s work through citation. The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization. If you have any questions concerning matters of plagiarism or academic integrity, please discuss these matters with your instructor and see the following link: http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/index.php

UVIC’S ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (http://rcsd.uvic.ca). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.
COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEYS (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

Human Geography Journals
ACME: An International E-Journal of Critical Geographies
Annals of the American Association of Geographers
Antipode
Applied Geography
Area
CITY
Cities
Cultural Geographies
Dialogues in Human Geography
Economic Geography
Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space
Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science
Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space
Environment and Planning D: Society and Space
Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space
Environmental History
Ethics, Place & Culture
Gender, Place and Culture
Geo
Geoforum
GeoJournal
Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography
Geographical Review
Growth and Change
Health and Place
Human Geography: A New Radical Journal
International Journal of Population Geography
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
Journal of Cultural Geography
Journal of Economic Geography
Journal of Historical Geography
Journal of Political Ecology
Journal of Rural Studies
Journal of Transport Geography
Political Geography
COURSE SCHEDULE
Below is the course schedule for the entire semester. I will do my best to stick to this schedule, although I do reserve the right to make changes if necessary.

Course Schedule Outline

September 7: Overview
No assigned readings.

September 14: City Talks Lecture #1—Reuben Rose-Redwood (meet at Legacy Gallery, 7:30pm-9:00pm)


September 21: Approaches in human geography I

September 28: Approaches in human geography II


October 5: Key geographical concepts—space, place, and landscape


October 12: Political geographies of territory and the politics of mapping


October 19: Economic geographies of capitalism and the more-than-capitalist world


October 26: City Talks Lecture #2—Anton Tantner (meet at Legacy Gallery, 7:30pm-9:00pm)


November 2: Social and cultural geographies of race, gender, and sexuality


November 9: The resurgence of indigenous geographies


November 16: New directions in human geography—creative and digital turns


November 23: Student presentations
No assigned readings.

* REMINDER: COMPLETE CES EVALUATIONS

November 30: City Talks Lecture #3: Emilia Palonen (meet at Legacy Gallery, 7:30pm-9:00pm)


* Perspective Paper Due via email (redwood@uvic.ca) by noon on November 30.

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.