

*****DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****

Geography 343 Society, Culture, and Place

Summer 2015, Session II Instructor: Doug Foster
Lecture: MTWR 10:00-12:50 106 Condon
Office: 275 Condon 503.880.0667 dfoster@uoregon.edu
Office hours: 2:00-3:00 pm Tuesdays or by appointment

About the Class

Socio-spatial relations are embedded in race, gender, sexuality, age, class, and political control. Power and the politics of identity are embedded in place and society, reconfiguring and transforming these entities as local forces accept and/or resist foreign people, capital, and information. This course centers society, culture, and place in an effort to examine the intersection of the global world with everyday life in the local community.

This course will enable students to develop an understanding of key themes in contemporary social and cultural geography. Specifically, we will examine the ways in which geographical context reflects and shapes cultural and social processes. Moreover, it encourages critical thinking about the role space, place and culture plays in shaping and transforming thought and practices in the contemporary world. Students are strongly encouraged to make connections between concepts and theories, and conduct empirical research on the structuring of social relations and cultural formations across space and in place.

If students make a full investment in the course, they will know and be able to do the following:

1. Summarize the key concepts in social and cultural geography, such as gender, race, ethnicity, class, consumption, and as such.
2. Choose a concept or two to explain why one social phenomenon in our everyday life occurs and analyze what kind of spatial outcomes it generates.
3. Identify the role of place and space in shaping socioeconomic relations in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, and class.

Methods of Instruction

Students are strongly encouraged to make contributions to the class by active and regular discussion and presentation. Therefore it is imperative that you come to class regularly to demonstrate your contribution to the class. In addition, field assignments, guest lectures, films/videos and group debates, will be used to foster interactive learning.

No textbook is assigned for this course. A number of required and recommended reading materials will be released to facilitate your learning. Every week there will be around 20-30 pages of required reading, including 2-3 pages from the Dictionary of Human Geography, one or two book chapters, and perhaps few additional readings. All of the readings will be available to you via the library's reservation counter or course documents in Blackboard throughout the spring term. The course consists primarily of lectures, discussions and case analyses, based on the assigned readings, movies and

other materials. To get the most from the lectures, please be sure to read the assignment materials before attending class.

Assignments (100 points total)

Please use Chicago Citation format and 11pt font on all assignments
(see <http://www.citationmachine.net/>. for assistance with this)

Exam (30 points): One final exam will be taken on the designated date listed in the syllabus.

Written Assignments (30 points total): Three (3) homework projects will be assigned and turned in on the designated date listed on the assignment. Some are a response to an assigned reading, others a different form of assignment. Details for each will be posted separately.

Individual Research Project: (30 points): An 8-10 page paper on a focused subject approved by me. The parameters will be outlined on a separate document posted online.

Attendance and participation (A&P) (10 points): Will consist of various exercises/quizzes in lecture and participation in discussion.

Grading

Exams must be taken and assignments turned in on the day they are scheduled in class/discussion section. Only in emergency situations will the instructor/GTF give approval for a makeup quiz or exam. This requires prior arrangement or acceptable excuse conveyed by immediate contact with the instructor. Examples of acceptable excuses include death in the family or documented illness. If the instructor is not contacted immediately, a "0" will be given for the quiz or exam.

Availability and Office Hours

My office hours are listed above. If you need to reach me, please feel free to do so via email (preferred) text (please be sure to identify yourself), or phone. I may arrange to see you outside of office hours when/if my schedule allows. You may see your GTFs during their office hours; they are a great resource for you – please use them.

Plagiarism Policy and Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism, presenting the writings, images or paraphrased ideas of another as one's own, is strictly prohibited at the University of Oregon. Properly documented excerpts from others' works, when they are limited to an appropriate amount of the total length of a student's paper, are permissible when used to support a researched argument. Plagiarism will result in an "F" for the course. If you are not sure whether you are committing plagiarism, consult the instructor. All students are expected to do their work without help either by copying another's work or using illegal aids or notes on exams or quizzes, or by engaging in plagiarism in the completion of written projects. Any students found cheating in any of these ways will be given a grade of "F" for the course.

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

Each Tuesday or Wednesday (TBD by the class) I will hold discussion/research help time for those who need/want it. Seeking out-of-class help is highly encouraged, and even just a few minutes per week will pay dividends.

WEEK 1

7/20: Introductions, Course requirements, Introduction to Migration, Globalization and Place; International Migration in a Historical Perspective

Readings: Jess & Massey: Introduction, pp. 1-4; King: Ch. 1

7/21: Current Migration Trends and Impacts (How do you fit into this story?)

Readings: *Geographical Identities of Ethnic America: Race, Space, and Place* (Hardwick chapter on Russians in California)

Getting organized for your final research projects

7/22: Film: *The Namesake* (2006)

Reading: Brennan on *Namesake*

7/23: Processes shaping local to global spaces and places

Readings: Massey: Ch. 2; Reading 2-A (Harvey) and 2-B (Robins); Anderson on Chinatown

WEEK 2

7/27: Place, Race, and Ethnicity

Readings: Cresswell: "Defining Place"; Panelli, Chapters 5 and 7.

Due: *The Namesake* paper

7/28: Politics of Place and Identity

Readings: Elazar: "Political Subcultures of the U.S."; Anderson "East and West Nationalisms;" Panelli, Chapter 8 (only pp. 159-167).

7/29: Security, Territory and the State

Reading: TBA

7/30: Gender and Sexuality

Reading: Rose: "Feminism and Geography"; Panelli, Chapters 4 and 6.

Film: *North Country* (2005)

WEEK 3

8/3: Class & Space: Social Stratification and Spatial Segregation by Income

Film: *Margin Call* (2011)

Readings: Panelli, Chapter 3.

Due: *North Country* paper

8/4: Contesting Place

Readings: Chapters from *The City Reader*; Zukin, "Whose Culture, Whose City?" and Madanipour, "Social Exclusion and Space"

8/5: Age, Aging and Youth

Readings: Del Casino "Ageing and the "New" Social Geography of Older People" (pp. 239-246 only) and Ansell and Smith "Young People, Care and Social Wellbeing".

8/6: Home and Homelessness

Reading: Del Casino and Jocoy: "Neoliberal subjectivities..."

Due: *Margin Call* paper

WEEK 4

8/10: Consumption

Reading: Jayne "Cultural Geography, Consumption and the City"

8/11: Imaginary landscapes?

Reading: Gregory "Imaginary Geographies"

8/12: Open Subject/Review

Final Papers Due

8/13 Final Exam 8:00-10:00am