

# WORLDINGS: REGIONS, PEOPLES AND STATES

Geography 10

Professor Jake Kosek

Meeting Time: Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:30

Room: *F295 Haas*

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to transform how you think about, understand and engage in the making and remaking of the worlds we inhabit. Concepts central to Geography pepper the pages of newspapers almost every day – in stories of toxic waste sites, immigration policies, international finance capital, the military industry, genetic engineering, global warming, surveillance, racial profiling, sexuality, poverty and terrorism. Ideas central to the field of geography such as **space, nature, and inequality** animate the histories and politics of each of these issues and many other cases. Our approach will not be to simply learn about the regions of the world, but to think critically and geographically about how regions, peoples and states and other foundational concepts have come into being and how they might be otherwise. The unifying theme of the class is the contested relationships, practices, and processes in the making of these central geographic concepts (space, nature and inequality) that often go unexamined.

Starting with the concept of space, such as the world, the region, and the nation, we will examine the politics and power of space not as an empty stage upon which events happen but as a deeply contested field with specific histories and profound consequences. This course will take the map seriously by learning the empirical order of our day via map quizzes throughout the semester; however, we will also seek to disrupt the maps authority at objectively representing space and to disrespect its seeming fixity by exploring some of the politics of the broader concepts of space, region, territory and nationalism. Next, we will examine the idea of nature, both as a concept of the external environment but also as an internal essence such as human nature. We will look at the work that ideas of nature have in our lives from our understandings of the global environment, to our most intimate formations of race, gender and sexuality. Ultimately, we hope to demonstrate how the concept of nature, that is often presented as the opposite of that which is social and political, is anything but. The third section of the class deals with global inequalities. Here we will discuss modern disparities between and within regions, nations, states and communities. We will begin this section by studying economic globalization starting with its history and component parts such as property, the commodity, and labor and then explore the processes and institutions that have shaped the modern form of global production and exchange and the contemporary consequences of these formations. We will then raise key geographical questions about the politics of indigeneity, race and sexuality and how political economy and identity become intertwined as people make claims to rights, resources and redistribution in powerful and significant ways.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class/section participation:	40%	of final course grade
Map Quizzes:	10%	“
Assignments (x2):	20%	“
Final exam:	30%	“

Course grades will be based on a curve using the total points earned on all assignments, participation and exams.

## CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

Lectures will be complemented by review sections devoted to fuller class discussion of the readings and lecture material. Class assignments on topics related to the class lectures will be given two weeks in advance of their due dates. Attendance in lecture and discussion sections is mandatory and will be factored into your grade. Sections will begin on Tuesday, August 30th, the last day of sections will be Friday, December 2th. If you miss a class you are responsible to find out what material you missed and what announcements were made during your absence.

## PLAN FOR LECTURES AND READINGS

Readings are listed in italics under each lecture. You are expected to complete all of the readings *before* the lecture for which they are assigned.

## FINAL EXAM

Questions, including ones on the final exam, will be handed out by December 3rd to allow you to prepare for the proctored final exam on December 14<sup>th</sup> 8am-11am. The final exam will consist of some of these questions, other short-answer questions, and key terms. The final exam will comprise 30% of the course grade.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Contact Information

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### Office Hours

Tues 2:30-4:30	585 McCone
Tues 1:00-2:00	585 McCone
Tues 1:00-2:00	TBA
Thurs 1:30-2:30	585 McCone
Thurs 9:00-10:00	585 McCone
Mon 12:00-1:00	585 McCone

## Course Website

We will use CalCentral for posting announcements, distributing readings, maps and list items for map quizzes, and for other purposes. Please go to CalCentral and log on using your CalNet ID and passphrase. If you are registered (or waitlisted) for the course, a tab should appear automatically for Geography 10.

## Academic Integrity

Any test, paper, report or homework submitted under your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course. All words and ideas written by other people must be properly attributed: fully identified as to source and the extent of your use of their work. Cheating, plagiarism and other academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on the assignment, paper, quiz or exam in question and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

## Introduction

*August 25th:*

Introduction:

## I. SPACE

*Week 1: The Politics of Space*

*August 30th: Making Maps*

- Harley, J.B. 1989. Deconstructing the Map. *Cartographica* 26:2, pages 1-20.
- Solnit, R. 2010. *The Mission of Butterfly and Fairies in the Infinite City*, Berkeley, University of California Press.
- Optional:*
- Cosgrove, D. 2003. "Imperial and Poetic Globe" In *Apollo's Eye: A Cartographic Genealogy of the Earth in the Western Imagination*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, pages ix-xii, 1-16.
- Pickles, J. 2004. *A History of Spaces: Cartographic Reason, Mapping and the geo-coded World*. London, Routledge, pages 1-25.
- Turnbull, D. 1989. *Maps are Territories: Science is an Atlas*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

*September 1st: Producing Spaces*

- Mitchell, D. 2005. The End of Public Space? People's Park, Definitions of the Public, and Democracy. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. Volume 85. Issue no. 1, pages 108-133.
- Optional:*
- Harvey, D. 2006. Space as a Keyword. In *Spaces of Global Capitalism: Towards A Theory of Uneven Geographical Development*. New York, Verso, pages 117-148.
- Low, S & Smith, N. 2006. The Imperative of Public Space. In *The Politics of Public Space*. New York, Routledge, pages 1-17.

*Week 2: State and Territory*

*September 6th: The Spaces of Sovereignty*

### Map Quiz #1

- Scott, J. C. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven, CT: Yale Univ. Press, pages 11-52.
- Optional:*
- Sparke, M. 2013. Governance. In *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions and Uneven Integration*. Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell, pages 227-277.

### **September 8th: Walls, Borders and Flows**

Brown, W. 2010. Waning Sovereignty, Walled Democracy, in *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty*. New York, Zone Books, pages 7-42.

#### *Optional:*

Weizman, E. 2007. The Wall: Barrier Archipelagos and the Impossible politics of Separation. In *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*. New York, Verso Press.

Jones, R. 2011. *Border Walls: The Security and the War on Terror in the United States, India and Israel*. New York, Zed Books, pages 1-26.

### **Week 3 Nationalism & Segregation:**

#### **September 13<sup>th</sup>: Imagined Communities**

Anderson, B. 1983. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London, Verso Press, pages 48-58

Mae Ngai, 2014. *Impossible Subjects: The Making of the Illegal Alien in Modern America*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, pages 127-165.

#### *Optional:*

Fanon, F. 1963. Concerning Violence, in *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press.

Gilroy, P. 1990. Nationalism, History and Ethnic Absolutism. *History Workshop*, No. 30, Autumn, pages 114-120.

Chatterjee, P. 1993. "Whose Imagined Community?" in *The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Studies*. New Jersey Princeton University Press, pages 3-34.

Thongchai, W.. 2000. The Quest for "Siwilai": A Geographical Discourse of Civilizational Thinking in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century Siam. *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 59. No. 3 pages 528-549.

#### **September 15<sup>th</sup>: Segregation**

Coates, T. 2013. The Ghetto is Public Policy, *The Atlantic*, May 1<sup>st</sup>, pages 1-5.

Alexander, M. 2012. *The New Jim Crow* (New York: New Press, 2012) pages 178-221.

#### *Optional:*

Coates, T.N. 2014. The Case for Reparations, *The Atlantic*, May 21 pages 1-37.

Kelly, R. D. 1993. "We are not what we seem": Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition to the Jim Crow South. *The Journal of American History*, 80,1 pages 165-187.

Gilmore, G. 1996. *Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy*. Chapel Hill, UNC Press.

- Goldberg, D. T. 1993. "Polluting the Body Politic: Race and Urban Location". In *Racist Culture: Philosophy and the Politics of Meaning*, Oxford Blackwell Publishers. Pages 185-205.
- Howard N. R. 1976. "From Exclusion to Segregation: Southern Race Relations, 1865-1900," *Journal of American History*, Vol. 63, #2 (Sept. 1976), pp. 325-350.

**Week 4: Region e<sup>3</sup> Empire**

**September 20th: The Orient & The Occident**

- Said, E. 1994 [1979]. Introduction to *Orientalism*. New York, Vintage, pages 1-30.
- Kaplan, A. 2009. Manifest Domesticity. *American Literature* Vol. 70, no. 3, pages 581-606.

**September 22nd: Regionalisms**

- Mamdani, M. 2002. Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism. *American Anthropologist*, Volume 104, Issue 3, pages 766-775.

*Optional:*

- Huntington, S. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations? The Next Pattern of Conflict," *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993.
- Said, E. 2001. "The Clash of Ignorance," *The Nation*, October 22, 2001.

**II. NATURE**

**Week 5: Purity and Essence**

**September 27th: Essence**

Assignment #1 due

Map Quiz #2

- Williams, R. 1980 [1972]. Ideas of Nature. In *Problems in Materialism and Culture*. London: Verso, pages 67-85.

**September 29th: Natural Disasters**

- Davis, M. 1998 The Case for Letting Malibu Burn. In *Ecology of Fear*. NY. Metropolitan Books: 93-148.

*Optional:*

- Klein, Naomi 2007. *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. New York: Picador, Introduction and part 1 & 7.
- Farmer, P. 2009. "On Structural Violence and Suffering: A View From Below." *Race/Ethnicity* 3:1, 11-28.

- James, E.C. 2010. "Ruptures, Rights, and Repair: The Political Economy of Trauma in Haiti" *Social Science and Medicine* 70, 106-113.
- Adams, V., et al. 2009. Chronic Disaster Syndrome: Displacement, Disaster, Capitalism and the Eviction of the Poor from New Orleans. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 36, Issue 4, pages 615-636.

**Week 6: Resource Degradation and Extraction**

**October 4th: The Political Ecology of Oil and Carbon**

**Map Quiz # 3**

- Watts, M. 2011. A Tale of Two Gulfs: Life, Death, and Dispossession along Two Oil Frontiers, *American Quarterly*, Volume 64, No. 3, pages 437-467.

*Optional:*

- Mitchell, T. 2009. Carbon Democracy. *Economy and Society* Vol. 38, issue 3, pages 399-432.

**October 6th: Slow Violence**

- Nixon, R. 2007. Slow Violence, Gender and the Environmentalism of the Poor. *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies* Vols. 13.2-14.1

**Week 7: The Politics of Climate Change**

**October 11th: Global Discourses on Climate Change**

- Kolbert, E. 2009. The Six Extinction? *The New Yorker*, May 2009, pages 1-19.
- Morales, E. 2008. Save the Planet From Capitalism. November 28<sup>th</sup>, pages 1-5.

*Optional:*

- Oreskes, N. 2010. *Merchants of Doubt*. New York, Bloomsbury Press.
- Chakrabarty, D. 2012. Postcolonial Studies and the Challenge of Climate Change, *New Literary History*, 43: 1-18.
- Pope Francis 2015. *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*. Our Sunday Visitor. Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 3.
- Swyngedouw, E. 2010. Apocalypse Forever? Post-political Populism and the Spectre of Climate Change. *Theory, Culture and Society* 27(2-3): 213-232

**October 13th: The Anthropocene**

- Crutzen, P. 2006. "The Anthropocene". In *The Anthropocene* Berlin: Springer, pages 13-17.

The Economist 2011a. A Man-made World. *The Economist* 399: 81–83 & Economist. 2011b. Welcome to the Anthropocene. *The Economist* 399: 13.

Scranton, R. 2015. We're Doomed. Now What? *The New York Times*, December 21<sup>st</sup> pages 1-6. <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/12/21/were-doomed-now-what/>

***Week 8: The Politics of Nature Continued'***

***October 18th: The Nature and Science of Race***

Magubane, Z. 2003. Simians, Savages, Skulls, and Sex: Science and Colonial Militarism in Nineteenth-Century South Africa. In *Race Nature and the Politics of Difference*. Moore et al., pages 99-121.

*Optional:*

Goldberg, DT 1993. Racialized Discourse and Masks of Race. In *Racist Culture: Philosophy and The Politics of Meaning*. Oxford, Blackwell, pages 41-67.

Stepan, N.L. 2003. Science and Race: Before and After the Genome Project. *The Socialist Register*, vol. 39, no. 1, pages 329-346.

See also *Is Race Real?* <http://raceandgenomics.ssrc.org> and American Anthropological Association *Statement on Race* <http://www.americananthro.org/ConnectWithAAA/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=2583>

***October 20th: The Nature and Science of Sex***

**Map Quiz # 4**

Bederman, G. 2001. Theodore Roosevelt: Manhood, Nation and "Civilization". In *Manliness & Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pages 170-215.

Padawer, R. 2016. The Humiliating Practice of Sex Testing Female Athletes. *The New York Times Magazine*. June 28<sup>th</sup>, pages 1-16.

*Optional:*

Fausto-Sterling, A. 2000. *Dueling Dualisms in Sexing the Body*. New York, Basic Books, pages 1-29.

Solnit, R. 2012. *Men Explain Things to Me*. Haymarket Books. Pages 1-19.

**III. INEQUALITY**

***Week 9: Colonialism & Globalization***

***October 25<sup>th</sup>: Making Markets***

Hochschild, A. 1998. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, Selections.

***October 27th: Neoliberal Intimacies***

Peck, J. 2004. "Geography and Public Policy: Constructions of Neoliberalism" *Progress in Human Geography* 28, 392-405.

*Optional:*

Lewis, S. J. A So Black People Stay: Bad-mind, Sufferation, and Discourses of Race and Unity in a Jamaican Craft Market. *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* Vol. 20, No. 2 327-342.

**Week 10: The Commodity and Property**

***November 1st: On Commodities and Other Objects***

**Assignment # 2 due and Map Quiz # 5**

Pollan, M. 2002. "Power Steer." *New York Times Magazine*, March 31, pages 1-23.

*Optional:*

Marx, K. 1884. [2009] *The Fetishism of the Commodity and Its Secret*. In *Capital Volume #1*, Penguin Classics, pages 163-178.

Pachirat, T. 2011. *The Kill Floor*. In *Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight*. New Haven, Yale University Press, pages 38-85.

Blanchette, A. 2016. *Herding Species: Biosecurity, Posthuman Labor, and the American Industrial Pig*. *Cultural Anthropology*. Forthcoming

***November 3rd: The Political Lives of Property & Labor***

Verdery, K. 1994. *The Elasticity of Property: Problems of Property Restitution in Transylvania*. *Slavic Review*, Vol. 53. No. 4, pages 1071-1109.

Bowe, M & J. 2001. *Gig: Americans Talk About Their Jobs*. New York, Broadway Books. Selections.

Hong, G K 2014. *Property*: in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*. Edited by Bruce Burgett & Glen Hendler, New York, NYU Press.

*Optional:*

Perelman, M. 2000. *Primitive Accumulation and the Game Laws*. Durham, Duke University Press, pages 38-59.

Cronon, W. 1989. *Bounding the Land*. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*, New York, Hill & Wang, pages 54-83.

**Week 11: Labor e Value e Uneven Development**

***November 8th: What Makes Wealth?***



- Arrighi, G. 2007. *Adam Smith in Beijing*. New York, Verso, pages 42-68.
- Bellamy-Foster, J. 2009. Adam's Fallacy and the Great Recession, *Monthly Review (MRzine)* 1-5. <http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2009/foster200709.html>

*Optional:*

- Rofel, L. 1999. Rethinking Modernity: Space and Factory Discipline. In *Other Modernities: Gendered Yearnings in China After Socialism*, Berkeley, University of California Press, pages 257-284.
- Smith, A. 1982. *Wealth of Nations*. New York, Penguin Classics, Book 1, Sections 1-4 pages 104-130.

**November 10th: What Makes Poverty?**

- Roy, A. 2010. "Small Worlds" In *Poverty Capital: Microfinance and the Making of Development*. Routledge: New York, pages 1-40.

*Optional:*

- Hall, S. 1992. The Rest and the West: Discourse and Power, in *Formations of Modernity*, Polity Press, pages 275–332.
- Davis, M. 2004. Planet of Slums, *New Left Review*, *New Left Review*, vol. 11, no. 26, pages 5–34.

**Week 12: Democracy e<sup>3</sup> Capitalism**

**November 15th: Debt**

**Map Quiz # 6**

- Graeber, D. 2009. *Debt: the First Five Thousand Years*. The Anarchist Library, pages 1-19.

*Optional:*

- Sparke, Matthew. 2013. "Debt, Inequality, and Global Poverty Management" In *Globalization: Ties, Tensions and Uneven Integration*, Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, pages 165-177.
- Roy, A. 2010. "The Pollution of Free Money: Debt, Discipline, and Dependence in the Middle East" in *Poverty Capital: Microfinance and the Making of Development*. Routledge, p. 139-186.

**November 17th: Freedom, Democracy & Capitalism**

- Paley, J. 2004. Accountable Democracy: Citizens' Impact on Public Decision Making in Post-dictatorship Chile. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 31. No. 4, pages 497-513.

*Optional:*

- Connolly, W. 1997. The Idea of Freedom. In *The Terms of Political Discourse*, New York, Blackwell Publishers page 139-179.

***Week 13: Violence and Security***

***November 22<sup>nd</sup>: War, Poverty and Racism***

King, ML                      1967. *Speech on Vietnam*. September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Scranton, Roy                2016. *Star Wars' and the Fantasy of American Violence*. July 2, pages 1-3.

*Optional:*

Gregory, D.                    2011. From a View to a Kill: Drones and Late Modern War. *Theory, Culture & Society*, Vol. 28, No. 7-8, 188-215.

Harvey, D.                    2000. "The Insurgent Architect at Work" in *Spaces of Hope*, pages 233-255.

***November 24<sup>th</sup>: No Class Thanksgiving***

***Week 14: Catch-up & Review***

***November 29<sup>th</sup>: Catch-up & Review***

**Map Quiz # 7**

***December 1<sup>st</sup>: Rethinking Politics***

***TBA                      Final Exam Review***

***Final Exam: Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 8am-11am***

WORLDINGS: REGIONS, PEOPLES AND STATES  
Geography 10

IMPORTANT DATES

Map Quiz	Assignments Due	Exams
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. September 6<sup>th</sup></li><li>2. September 27<sup>th</sup></li><li>3. October 4<sup>th</sup></li><li>4. October 20<sup>nd</sup></li><li>5. November 1<sup>st</sup></li><li>6. November 15<sup>th</sup></li><li>7. November 29<sup>th</sup></li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. September 27<sup>th</sup></li><li>2. November 1<sup>st</sup></li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. December 14<sup>th</sup></li></ol>