

WORLDINGS: REGIONS, PEOPLES AND STATES

Geography 10

Professor Jake Kosek

Meeting Time: Tues & Thurs 12:30-2pm

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 nation. 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 Monday, August 28th, the last day of sections will be Friday, December 8th. 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 14th 3-6pm. 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

Jake Kosek	jake@berkeley.edu	Thurs 2-4	585 McCone Hall
Camilla Hawthorne	camilla.hawthorne@gmail.com	Thurs 2-3	149 McCone Hall
Jesse Rodenbiker	rodenbiker@berkeley.edu	Weds 2-3	189 McCone Hall
Leonora.zoninsein	leonora.zoninsein@gmail.com	Thurs 11-12	585 McCone Hall
Erin Torkelson	etorkelson@berkeley.edu	Thurs 2-3	195 McCone Hall
Meredith Palmer	mapalmer@berkeley.edu	Mon 3-4	TBA
Phillip Campanile	p.campanile@berkeley.edu	Tues 11-12	189 McCone Hall

Office Hours

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 24th:

Introduction:

I. SPACE

Week 1: The Politics of Space

August 29th: 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.

August 31st: 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.

Dyson, E. M. 2017. Charlottesville and the Bigotocracy. August 12th, The New York Times.

Week 2: State of Territory

September 5th: 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.

September 7th: Walls, Borders and Flows

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

Trump, D. TBA

Week 3 Nationalism of Segregation:

September 12th: Imagined Communities

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

September 14th: Segregation

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

Taylor, K. Y. 2016. *The Double Standard of Justice, From #Blacklivesmatter to Black Liberation*, Haymarket Books, pages, 107-135.

Week 4: Region e³ Empire

September 19th: The Orient & The Occident

Said, E. 1994 [1979]. Introduction to *Orientalism*. New York, Vintage, pages 1-30.

II. NATURE

Week 5: Purity and Essence

September 26th: 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 28th: Natural Disasters

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

Week 6: Degradation e³ Transformation

October 3th: 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.

October 5th: Mutant Ecologies

Masco, J. 2004. Mutant Ecologies: Radioactive Life in Post-Cold War New Mexico, *Cultural Anthropology* 19: 517-550.

Week 7: The Politics of Climate Change

October 10th: Global Discourses on Climate Change

Pararenti, C 2012. *Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence*, New York, Nation Books, pages 1-36.

Morales, E. 2008. *Save the Planet From Capitalism*. November 28th, pages 1-5.

October 12th: The Anthropocene

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

Haraway, D. 2015. "Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Chthulucene: Making Kin," *Environmental Humanities*, vol. 6, pages 159-165.

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

Week 8: The Politics of Nature and Difference

October 17th: 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.

October 19th: The Nature and Science of Sex

Bederman, G. 2001. Theodore Roosevelt: Manhood, Nation and "Civilization". In *Manliness e³ Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pages 170-215.

Butler, J. 2001. "Doing Justice to Someone: Sex Reassignment and Allegories of Transsexuality." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 4, 2001, pp. 621-636.

III. INEQUALITY

Week 9: Colonialism e³ Globalization

Map Quiz # 4 Europe

October 24th: 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 26th: Neoliberal Intimacies

Gregory, S. 2006. The Politics of Livelihood, in *The Devil Behind the Mirror*. Berkeley, University of California Press pages 11-50.

Week 10: The Commodity and Property

October 31st: On Commodities and Other Objects

- Pollan, M. 2002. "Power Steer." *New York Times Magazine*, March 31, pages 1-23.
- Bowe, M & J. 2001. *Gig: Americans Talk About Their Jobs*. New York, Broadway Books. Selections.

November 2nd: 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.
- Hong, G K 2014. Property: in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*. Edited by Bruce Burgett & Glen Hendler, New York, NYU Press.

Week 11: Labor, Value & Uneven Development

November 7th: What Makes Wealth?

Map Quiz # 5

- Arrighi, G. 2007. *Adam Smith in Beijing*. New York, Verso, pages 42-68.

November 9th: What Makes Poverty?

Assignment # 2 due

- Chari, S. 2004. *Fraternal Capital: Peasant-Workers, Self-Made Men, and Globalization in Provincial India*, Palo Alto: Stanford University Press and Delhi: Permanent Black. 1-6
- Davis, M. 2004. Planet of Slums, *New Left Review*, *New Left Review*, vol. 11, no. 26, pages 5-34.

Week 12: Democracy & Capitalism

November 14th: Debt

Map Quiz # 6

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

November 16th: 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.

Week 13: Violence and Security

November 21st: War, Poverty and Racism

King, ML 1967. *Speech on Vietnam*. September 29th.

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

November 25th: No Class Thanksgiving

Week 14: Catch-up & Review

November 28th: Catch-up & Review

Map Quiz # 7

November 30st: Rethinking Politics

Final Exam Review TBA

Final Exam: Thursday, December 14th 5-6 pm

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IMPORTANT DATES

Map Quiz	Assignments Due	Exams
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. September 5th2. September 26th3. October 3th4. October 24th5. November 7st6. November 14th7. November 28th	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. September 26th2. November 9th	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. December 14th