

Materials

CETL Lunch: Intro the Library, Into the Research

Thursday Oct. 18, 2007

GEOGRAPHY 017
Culture, Place, and Environment
Spring, 2007
SYLLABUS

I. COURSE BACKGROUND

A. Description

This course is an ecological and historical approach to the study of cultures and cultural change in a spatial context. A series of broad themes and problems are illustrated by case studies. While often these case studies are set in North America, many examples are found in other culture areas. Among major themes considered are: human adaptation to the "natural" environment; culture in prehistory; migration and the creation of cultural areas; the world views of primitive, traditional, and industrial culture; cultural landscapes and cultural ecologies of first and third world cultures; and the cultural geography of urban areas. The objective of the course is to demonstrate the spatial variability of human culture, to delineate the role that culture in a spatial context plays in contemporary human behavior, to discover the "why" of geography from a cultural perspective, and to develop basic skills in analyzing both data and events for their cultural geographic content and meaning.

B. Course Requirements:

This course is primarily a lecture course. However, discussion section participation is required as part of the course. Map interpretation exercises and other assignments, as well as amplification of course material, are the focus of discussion section meetings. Section meeting times are prearranged and everyone registering for this course has (or should have!) enlisted in a discussion section when registering for the course. Discussion group meeting sites will be announced in the first class meeting in the second week of classes. A schedule of office hours for all teaching personnel is contained in the syllabus. Discussion section assignments will focus on, but not be limited to, the interpretation of cultural features and processes as they appear on maps. On several occasions groups will meet in the library for information search skill development and to launch work on discussion assignments. Issues related to the lectures can be discussed, when appropriate, during class, discussion section meetings, regularly scheduled office hours, or by appointment. Appointments should be made directly with the instructor or teaching assistant either in person immediately before or after class, or by phone or e-mail. If you leave a phone message, be sure to identify yourself clearly, leave a telephone number at which you can be contacted, and indicate a time when you can be reached at that number.

Course requirements include:

(1) active participation via attendance and verbal involvement in class and discussion section (10% of course grade). Ability to perform effectively in both venues is invariably based on familiarity with assigned readings as well as a reflective and questioning approach to course material and concepts;

(2) completion of all assigned discussion section exercises (20% of course grade). These will invariably involve some writing, although all exercises will be brief. These assignments are usually due two weeks after they are assigned, and all due dates appear in the syllabus;

(3) two approximately 30-45 minute exams (30% of course grade), which will be written in class on the dates (Tuesday, February 20 and Tuesday, March 27) noted in the syllabus; and

(4) an approximately 90 minute long multiple choice, problem-solving, and image interpretation exam (40% of course grade) will be administered during the final exam time block allocated to courses meeting on a T/F 12:00-1:15 p.m. weekly schedule. This event is planned for Monday, 7 May from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in a place that will be announced. **Please Note:** The final exam will *only* be administered in this time block. No early exams will be scheduled for any reason. If you take this course, you **MUST** be prepared to take the final exam at the scheduled time.

C. Texts

One basic text is assigned for the course. This book is available in the bookstore in a new edition. Used copies of previous editions may be available at the bookstore or on line. Purchase is recommended because the course's basic assignments are drawn from this primary volume. The main text is: James M. Rubenstein. The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004. A companion website for this text can be found at <http://www.prenhall.com/rubenstein>.

Because cultural geography is a very broad field, it is impossible to encompass every source used in the course within the covers of one text. For this reason, additional material from books and journals is drawn on for lecture and discussion material. Reading these supplemental materials is important to successful learning in this course, and these items are noted in the assignments and reading lists. Much of this material (60% of the reading list) is readily available electronically from J-Store or InfoTrack. All reserve material is or soon will be available at the Reserve Desk in the Goddard Library. These materials will also be available in the School of Geography's J. K. Wright Reading Room, which is linked to the undergraduate computer lab on the ground floor of the Geography Building. Any missing items must be reported immediately to the instructor or teaching assistant so corrective action can be taken promptly. **It is expected that reading assignments (both from Rubenstein and from the reading list) will be completed in advance of the class for which they are assigned.**

D. Staff

Two people comprise the teaching staff for this course. Their names and locations are given below:

Douglas L. Johnson, JAC # 203 (enter via 205), Tel: (508) 793-7370, e-mail: dljohnson@clarku.edu, Office Hours: Tuesday, 4:15-5:30+ p.m. & Wednesday, 12 - 1 p.m.

Daniel Haberly, Geography Building, Mezzanine 102, Office Tel: (508) 793-7525, e-mail: dhaberly@clarku.edu. Office Hours: TBA

II. COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

January

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| T | 16 | Introduction to the Course: Outline, Objectives, and Key Concepts. Rubenstein, Chapter 1 |
| F | 19 | People on the Land: I. Population Dynamics and Movements. Rubenstein, Chapter 2, pp. 45-57; Pyne. |
| T | 23 | People on the Land: II. Patterns and Processes. Rubenstein, Chapter 2, pp. 57-81; Neel; Yellen. Paper #1 Assigned |
| F | 26 | Migration: I. From Whence We Came: Cultural Origins, Demographic Regions, Migration in Prehistory and the Enduring Power of the Primitive. Rubenstein, Chapter 3, pp. 82-98; Martin; Nemecek. |
| T | 30 | Migration: II. Patterns of Obstruction and Opportunity. Rubenstein, Chapter 3, pp. 98-113; Toth. |

February

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| F | 02 | The Culture of the Folk: Ethnoscience Wisdom and the Genius of the House. Rubenstein, Chapter 4, pp. 129-128; Kniffen; Gray; Hale; Johnson. |
| T | 06 | Contemporary Popular Culture. I: Counter Culture versus the Automobile. Rubenstein, Chapter 4, pp. 129-137; Gersh; Goss; Gumprecht. |
| F | 09 | Contemporary Popular Culture. II: Images of Place, from Cowboys to Cigarettes. <u>Rubenstein</u> , Chapter 4, pp. 137-145; Jordan; Fleming and Roth; Butzer. Paper #1 Due |
| T | 13 | Contemporary Popular Culture. III. Regions and Landscapes. Arreola; Nostrand; Evans-Cowley & Nasar. Paper #2 Assigned |

- F 16 The Tower of Babel in the Modern World: I. Language Families. Rubenstein, Chapter 5, pp. 146-165.
- T 20 The Tower of Babel in the Modern World: II. Language Dynamics and Landscape. Rubenstein, Chapter 5, pp. 165-183; Gade . **Exam 1** (in class)
- F 23 Religion in Daily Life: I. Scene and Unseen. Rubenstein, Chapter 6, pp. 185-207. Prorok; Peach & Gale.
- T 27 Religion in Daily Life: II. How Sacred is a Cow? Rubenstein, Chapter 6, pp. 207-223; M. Harris; Harvey.

March

- F 02 The Ethnicity of Cultural Space. Rubenstein, Chapter 7, pp. 224-236.
Paper #2 Due
- T 06 **SPRING BREAK!**
- F 09 **MORE SPRING BREAK!!**
- T 13 Cultural Ecology and Ethnicity. I: Patterns of Integration. Rubenstein, Chapter 7, pp. 237-244; Schnell; Hume; Cross. **Paper #3 Assigned**
- F 16 Cultural Ecology and Ethnicity. II: Ethnic Landscapes and Ethnic Conflict. Rubenstein, Chapter 7, pp. 244-259; C. D. Harris.
- T 20 Culture and Politics: I. Macroscale Patterns. Rubenstein, Chapter 8, pp. 260-281; Nijman.
- F 23 Culture and Politics: II. Microscale Processes. Rubenstein, Chapter 8, pp. 281-295. Steinberg & Taylor.
- T 27 Culture and Politics: III. Globalization and Past and Present Wars of Empire.
Little; Palka; Swearingen. **Exam 2.**
- F 30 Development and the Green Revolution. Rubenstein, Chapter 9.

April

- T 03 Centers of Agricultural and Pastoral Innovation. Rubenstein, Chapter 10, pp.330-347; Willard; **Paper #3 Due; Paper #4 Assigned**
- F 06 Contemporary Agricultural Patterns and Environmental Impacts.

- Rubenstein, Chapter 10, pp. 347-367; Guthie; Hart; McKenna and Murray.
- T 10 Industry and the Culture Landscape. Rubenstein, Chapter 11, 368-380; James.
- F 13 Industry, Resources, and Location. Rubenstein, Chapter 11, pp. 381-401; Buckley, Bain, and Swan.
- T 17 The Urban Scene. I: The City of Order in the Traditional World. Rubenstein, Chapter 12, pp. 402-422. Kaldjian; Christie.
- F 20 The Urban Scene. II: The City of Change in the Modern World. Rubenstein, Chapter 12, pp. 422-435; Edmundson; Ueland & Warf; Wikle.
Paper #4 Due
- T 24 The Urban Scene. III: Cities and the Sense of Place. Rubenstein, Chapter 13, pp. 437-454 ; Burns; Carlisle; Chelminski.
- F 27 The Urban Scene IV: Suburbs and the Sense of Place. Rubenstein, Chapter 13, pp. 455-471. Hoffman; Robbins and Sharp.
- T/W/Th 2-4 Seeing is Believing: Cultural Geography in Retrospective, Informal Review Sessions (6-7 p.m. by discussion section)
- M 07 **Final Exam**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. (room to be announced)

III. READING LIST

- Arreola, Daniel D. "Urban Ethnic Landscape Identity," Geographical Review, 85, No. 4 (October, 1996), pp. 518-534. [J-Store]
- Buckley, Geoffrey L., Nancy R. Bain, and Donald L. Swan. "When the Lights Go Out in Cheshire," Geographical Review, 95, No. 4 (October, 2005), pp. 537-556. [InfoTrack]
- Burns, Elizabeth K. "The Enduring Affluent Suburb," Landscape, 24, No. 1 (1980), pp. 33-41.
- Butzer, Karl W. "Cattle and Sheep from Old to New Spain: Historical Antecedents," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 78, No. 1 (1988), pp. 29-56. [J-Store]
- Carlisle, Susan G. "French Homes and French Character," Landscape, 26, No. 3 (1982), pp. 13-23.
- Chelminski, Rudolph. "Warsaw: The City that Would Not Die," Smithsonian, 28, No. 8 (November, 1997), pp. 108-120.

- Christie, Maria Elisa. "Kitchenspace, Fiestas, and Cultural Reproduction in Mexican House-Lot Gardens," Geographical Review, 94, No. 3 (July 2004), 368-390. [InfoTrack]
- Cross, John A. "Restructuring America's Dairy Farms," Geographical Review, 96, No. 1 (January, 2006), pp. 1-23. [InfoTrack]
- Edmundson, Mark. "The Pagan Tradition," Preservation, 50, No. 5 (September/October 1998), pp. 54-59.
- Evans-Cowley, Jennifer S., and Jack L. Nasar. "Signs as Yard Art in Amarillo, Texas," Geographical Review, 93, No. 1 (January 2003), pp. 97-113. [InfoTrack]
- Fleming, Douglas K., and Richard Roth, "Place in Advertising," Geographical Review, 81, No. 3 (July, 1991), pp. 281-291. [J-Store]
- Gade, Daniel W. "Language, Identity, and the Scriptorial Landscape in Québec and Catalonia," Geographical Review, 93, No. 4 (October 2003), pp. 429-449. [InfoTrack]
- Gersh, Jeff. "Subdivide and Conquer: Concrete, Condos, and the Second Conquest of the American West," The Amicus Journal, Fall, 1996, pp. 14-23.
- Goss, Jon. "The 'Magic of the Mall': An Analysis of Form, Function, and Meaning in the Contemporary Retail Built Environment," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 83, No. 1 (1993), pp. 18-47. [J-Store]
- Gray, Marlene. "No Squares Allowed," The Boston Globe Magazine, December 10, 2000, pp. 36-39.
- Gumprecht, Blake. "The American College Town," Geographical Review, 93, No. 1 (January 2003), pp. 51-80. [InfoTrack]
- Guthey, Greig Tor. "Creative Preservation in California's Dairy Industry," Geographical Review, 93, No. 2 (April, 2003), pp. 171-192. [InfoTrack]
- Hale, John R. "The Viking Longship," Scientific American, 278, No. 2 (February, 1998), pp. 56-63.
- Harris, Chauncy D. "New European Countries and their Minorities," Geographical Review, 83, No. 3 (July, 1993), pp. 301-320. [J-Store]
- Harris, Marvin. "The Cultural Ecology of India's Sacred Cattle," Current Anthropology, 7 (February, 1966), pp. 51-59. [J-Store]
- Hart, John Fraser. "Specialty Cropland in California," Geographical Review, 93, No. 2 (April, 2003), pp. 153-170. [InfoTrack]

- Harvey, Thomas. "Sacred Space, Common Places: The Cemetary in the Contemporary American City," Geographical Review, 96, No. 2 (April, 2006), pp. 295-312. [InfoTrack]
- Hoffman, Eva. "Warsaw Rising," Preservation, 50, No. 3 (May/June, 1998), pp. 42-51.
- Hume, Susan E. "Belgian Settlement and Society in the Indiana Rust Belt," Geographical Review, 93, No. 1 (January 2003), pp. 30-50. [InfoTrack]
- James, Preston E. "The Blackstone Valley: A Study in Chorography in Southern New England," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 19, No. 2 (June, 1929), pp. 67-109. [J-Store]
- Johnson, Douglas L. "Worcester's Ordinary Landscape," Clark Now, 11, No. 3 (Fall/Winter), pp. 7-11.
- Jordan, Terry G. "Early Northeast Texas and the Evolution of Western Ranching," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 67 (1977), pp. 66-87. [J-Store]
- Kaldjian, Paul J. "Istanbul's Bostans: A Millenium of Market Gardens," Geographical Review, 94, No. 3 (July, 2004), 284-304. [InfoTrack]
- Kniffen, Fred. "Folk Housing: A Key to Diffusion," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 55 (1965), pp. 549-577. [J-Store]
- Little, Douglas. "Kicking the Vietnam Syndrome: Waging Limited War from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf," American Orientalism: The United States and the Middle East Since 1945. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 2002. Pp. 230-266
- Martin, P. "The Discovery of America," Science, 179, No. 4077 (9 March, 1973), pp. 969-974.
- McKenna, Megan K. L. and Warwick E. Murray. "Jungle Law in the Orchard: Comparing Globalization in the New Zealand and Chilean Apple Industries," Economic Geography, 78, No. 4 (October, 2002), pp. 495-514. [InfoTrack]
- Neel, J. V. "Lessons from a 'Primitive' People," Science, 170, No. 3960 (30 November, 1970), pp. 815-822.
- Nemecek, Sasha. "Who Were the First Americans?" Scientific American, 283, No. 3 (September, 2000), pp. 80-87.
- Nijman, Jan. "The Limits of Superpower: The United States and the Soviet Union since World War II," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 82, No. 4 (1992), pp. 681-695. [J-Store]
- Nostrand, Richard L. "Greater New Mexico's Hispano Island," Focus, 42, No. 4 (Winter, 1992), pp. 13-19.

- Palka, Eugene J., Francis A. Galgano, and Mark W. Corson. "Operation Iraqi Freedom: A Military Geographical Perspective," Geographical Review, 95, No. 3 (July, 2005), pp. 373-399.
- Peach, Ceri, and Richard Gale. "Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs in the New Religious Landscape of England," Geographical Review, 93, No. 4 (October, 2003), pp. 469-490. [InfoTrack]
- Prorok, Carolyn V. "Transplanting Pilgrimage Traditions in the Americas," Geographical Review, 93, No. 3 (July 2003), pp. 283-307. [InfoTrack]
- Pyne, S. J. "Keeper of the Flame: A Survey of Anthropogenic Fire," in P. J. Crutzen and J. G. Goldammer (eds.), Fire in the Environment: The Ecological, Atmospheric, and Climatic Importance of Vegetation Fires. Chichester: John Wiley, 1993. Pp. 245-266.
- Robbins, Paul, and Julie T. Sharp. "Producing and Consuming Chemicals: The Moral Economy of the American Lawn," Economic Geography, 79, No. 4 (2003), pp. 425-451. [InfoTrack]
- Schnell, Steven M. "Creating Narratives of Place and Identity in 'Little Sweden, U.S.A.,'" Geographical Review, 93, No. 1 (January 2003), pp. 1-29. [InfoTrack]
- Steinberg, Michael K., and Matthew J. Taylor. "Public Memory and Political Power in Guatemala's Postconflict Landscape," Geographical Review, 93, No. 4 (October, 2003), pp. 449-469. [InfoTrack]
- Swearingen, Will D. "Geopolitical Origins of the Iran-Iraq War." Geographical Review, 78, No. 4 (October, 1988), pp. 405-416. [J-Store]
- Toth, Nicholas. "The First Technology," Scientific American, 256, No. 4 (April, 1985), pp. 112-121.
- Ueland, Jeff, and Barney Warf. "Racialized Topographies: Altitude and Race in Southern Cities," Geographical Review, 96, No. 1 (January, 2006), pp. 50-78.
- Wikle, Thomas A. "Cellular Tower Proliferation in the United States," The Geographical Review, 92, No. 1 (January, 2002), pp. 45-62. [InfoTrack]
- Willard, L.F. "The War of the Eggs (Brown vs. White Egg Preferences in New England)," Yankee, 48 (July, 1984), pp. 68-71; 152.
- Yellen, John. "Bushmen: Ancient Way of Life Disappears," Science 85, 6, No. 4 (May, 1985), pp. 41-48.