Goals of the Course, Requirements, and Expectations

This graduate level seminar is designed to give each student a broad education in the history and philosophy of geography. The philosophical roots of the discipline began in ancient times and include a number of important and interesting theories and practices that form the basis for today’s contemporary geography. The development of geographic “traditions” evolved from the ideas of philosophers and theorists whose work still influences the structural framework of our discipline today. Geographers study a wide-range of issues within this framework, which is diverse, crosses over, borrows from, and includes many disciplines, is explored at a number of scales—from the local to the global, and investigates problems that span from human/environment relationships to physical geographic phenomenon.

The “seminar” format provides an atmosphere for the exchange of ideas and opinions based on one’s ability to critically read, accurately articulate, and subsequently discuss the works of others. In order to develop an understanding of the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of our discipline, it is necessary for the student to “consume” reading material. The reading of textbooks, book chapters, and articles that cover both general and specific topics enables the student to gain more insight into how contemporary research is based on a long, and evolving theoretical thread. Importantly, most of the readings are from those geographers who are considered “key thinkers” in our discipline. Their work has contributed greatly to the development of geography and your familiarization with their writings will greatly enhance your own future scholarship.

I expect each student to complete the required readings for each week as your subsequent examination and critical analysis of them will invariably enhance and transform our class discussions. In addition, you are required to write a short paper each week pertaining to these readings and our subsequent discussions; indeed, this exercise will greatly improve your understanding of these concepts and expose to you new ideas that may eventually lead to the formation of your thesis topic.

Besides completing the reading assignments and preparing for each discussion, you will be required to complete the following:
1. Lead a minimum of two seminar discussions. Each student will volunteer (or be assigned) a class discussion which he or she will facilitate. A “team” of two or more students are responsible for preparing a detailed, critical analysis of the readings for that discussion, and lead the class through a discussion of these readings.

2. Hand in a two-page discussion paper at the end of each class period that outlines the readings and important aspects of each.

3. Hand in a detailed outline of your paper topic (this is due towards the middle of November).

4. Submit a 15- to 20-page term paper (due at 5 PM on Monday of Finals Week) outlining the historical and philosophical roots and development of a geographic topic that most interests you. The topic should be fairly specific and include the history and evolution of ideas, as well as support by citations from those who are considered the “key” geographers in the area you choose. You must have this topic approved by me beforehand.

**Grading**

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leading class discussions, participation and attendance:</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Outline</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 - 20 page Term Paper</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Grading Scale**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
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**Additional information**

1. Please consult the Class Schedule for relevant dates.

2. For assistance with writing, please consult the online resources of the UM Writing Center in the Mansfield Library.

3. All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php). Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated and will be dealt with as outlined in the Code.

4. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.
Required Texts: [Kindle or digital e-book versions preferred]


Class Schedule and Readings

Each listed reading is for the following week’s discussion. Each reading is posted on Moodle.

**Week 1 – Monday, August 31**  
*Introduction 1*

**Discussant/Lecture:** Kevin McManigal (Review of syllabus and expectations for the course)

**Week 2 – Monday, September 7 (No Class-Labor Day)**  
*Introduction 2*

**Required Readings (for this week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 1


**Begin reading:** Darwin, *The Origin of Species*.

**Week 3 – Monday, September 14**  
*Early Geographies*

**Required Readings (for this week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 2

**Discussant:** Tom Sullivan (Assign students as discussants for remainder of semester)
**Week 4 – Monday, September 21**

Emergence of Modern Geography

**Required Readings (for this week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*. Chapter 3

Darwin, *The Origin of Species*.


**Discussants:** Students

**Week 5 – Monday September 28**

Thinking about Regions

**Required Readings (for this week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 4


**Begin reading:** Camus, *The Stranger* and Sartre, *Nausea*.

**Discussants:** Students

**Week 6 – Monday, October 5**

The Quantitative Revolution

**Required Readings (for this week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 5


**Discussants:** Students

**Week 7 – Monday, October 12**

**Humanistic Geographies**

**Required Readings (for this week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 6


**Begin reading:** Marx, *Capital Volume 1: A Critique of Political Economy*

**Discussants:** Students

**Week 8 – Monday, October 19**

**Marxist Geographies**

**Required Readings (for this week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 7

Marx, *Capital Volume 1: A Critique of Political Economy*


**Begin reading:** Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison.*

**Discussants:** Students

**Week 9 – Monday, October 26**

**Feminist Geographies**

**Required Readings (for next week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 8


**Discussants:** Students

**Week 10 – Monday, November 2** Postmodernism

**Required Readings (for this week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 9


**Discussants:** Students

**Week 11 – Monday, November 9** Poststructuralism 1

**Required Readings (for this week):**

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 10

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*.


**Discussants:** Students

**Week 12 – Monday, November 16** Poststructuralism 2

**Required Readings (for this week):**


Discussants: Students

Week 13 – Monday, November 23

Relational Geographies

Required Readings (for this week):

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 11


Discussants: Students

Week 14 – Monday, November 30

More-than-human Geographies

Required Readings (for this week):

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 12


Discussants: Students

Week 15 – Monday, December 7

Geographies Exclusions

Required Readings (for this week):

Cresswell, *Geographic Thought*, Chapter 13


Discussants: Students

Week 16 – Monday, December 14

Finals Week

Final Paper Due on Monday, December 14 at 5 PM