

GEO 6118, CONTEMPORARY GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, period 4 and by appointment. I am very flexible, drop me an email if you need to meet during a different time period and I will work with you to make sure we can meet.

Course meets: Tuesday periods 2-3 (8:30-10:10) and Thursday period 3 (9:35-10:25) in Turlington 3006

Course description: GEO 6118 examines the identity, subject matter, and perspectives pervasive in the discipline of geography at large, with a special focus on what geographers at the University of Florida do. A couple of things to consider as we talk about readings and think about the discipline: [1] Geography is not an “exceptional” discipline because of its synthesis character but is so because, from its modern founding, it has struggled to find an identity consistent with the logic of the structure of the academy. Geography’s spatial-chorological and nature-society visions have never been adequately combined in an identity accepted beyond the bounds of the discipline. [2] Geography’s bridge between the sciences and humanities creates numerous, even unique, problems in regard to the structure of the discipline and its place within the division of knowledge, and historically fostered tensions in the practice of geography. [3] Geography’s ability to bridge disciplines, especially in the human-environment realm maintains its relevance in the restructuring of the academy that increasingly focuses on inter- and trans-disciplinarity, holding great promise for our discipline going forward.

Faculty Sessions: We are lucky to have our faculty come to our class to talk about their work and their views of the discipline. You will read three to four pieces the faculty choose and be prepared to discuss these as well as the particular work of the faculty. Submit questions for the faculty to me the evening before the faculty member comes to class.

UF Presenters: Dr. Keys (9/9), Dr. Smith (9/16), Dr. Binford (9/23), Dr. Southworth (9/30), Dr. Waylen (10/7), Dr. Thrall (10/14), Dr. Child (10/23), Dr. Goldman (10/28), Dr. McDade (11/4), Dr. Matyas (11/13), Dr. Golant (11/18), Dr. Mossa (12/2).

To get a sense of the diversity of our discipline look at the specialty groups and journals listed below (these will also be useful to you as the semester progresses, giving you clues as to where to look for academic inspiration).

Some of the specialty groups of the AAG.

Applied Geography, Biogeography, Cartography, Climate, Cryosphere, Cultural and Political Ecology, Cultural Geography, Developing Areas, Economic Geography, Energy and Environment, Environmental Perception and Behavioral Geography, Ethics, Justice, and Human Rights, Ethnic Geography, Geographic Information Science and Systems, Geographic Perspectives on Women, Geography Education, Geography of Religions and Belief Systems, Geomorphology, Hazards, Historical Geography, History of Geography, Human Dimensions of Global Change, Medical Geography, Military Geography, Mountain Geography, Paleoenvironmental Change, Political Geography, Population, Qualitative Research, Recreation, Tourism, and Sport, Regional Development and Planning, Remote Sensing, Rural Geography, Sexuality and Space, Socialist and Critical Geography, Spatial Analysis and Modeling, Transportation Geography, Urban Geography, Water Resources

Some of the journals that geographers publish in:

General Journals

Annals of the Association of American Geographers
 Focus
 Geographical Review
 Journal of Geography
 Landscape
 National Geographic Research
 National Geographic Magazine
 Professional Geographer
 Area
 Australian Geographer
 Australian Geographical Studies
 Canadian Geographer
 Canadian Geographic Geoforum
 Geographical Inquiry
 Geography
 Geographical Journal of RGS
 GeoJournal
 Institute of British Geographers. Transactions
 New Zealand Geographer
 New Zealand Journal of Geography

Human Geography

Economic Geography
 Environment and Planning D: Society and Space
 Geografiska Annaler. Series B.
 Human Geography
 Journal of Cultural Geography
 Journal of Historical Geography
 Journal of Political Ecology
 Political Geography
 Progress in Human

Region Based

Annals of Arid Zones
 Arctic
 Arctic and Alpine Research
 Australian Meteorology Magazine
 China Geographer
 Geographica Polonica
 Journal of Latin American Geography
 Polar Record
 Post-Soviet Geography
 Geography
 Urban Geography

Physical Geography

Atmosphere-Ocean
 Boundary-Layer Meteorology
 Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society
 Earth Surface Processes and Landforms
 Geografiska Annaler. Series A.
 Physical Geography
 Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences
 Journal of Biogeography
 Journal of Climate
 Journal of Climate and Applied Meteorology
 Journal of Hydrology
 Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics
 Meteorological Magazine
 Monthly Weather Review
 Physical Geography
 Progress in Physical Geography
 Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society
 Theoretical and Applied Climatology
 Weather
 Weatherwise
 World Meteorology Organization Bulletin
 Zeitschrift fur Geomorphologie
 Zeitschrift fur Meteorologie

Human Geography Allied

Annals of Tourism Research
 Asian and Pacific Migration Journal
 Demography
 Economic Development and Cultural Change
 Ekistics
 Human Ecology
 Journal of Regional Science
 Journal of the American Institute of Planners
 Land Economics
 Landscape and Urban Planning
 Nationalities Papers
 Population and Development Review
 International Journal of Population Geography
 International Migration Review
 Planning

Human Geography Allied, cont.

Regional Science and Urban Economics
 Regional Studies
 Social Science and Medicine D: Medical Geography
 Urban Affairs Quarterly
 Urban Anthropology
 Urban Studies

Physical Geography Related

Advances in Hydrosience
 Biological Conservation
 Bulletin of the Geological Society of America
 Canadian Journal of the Earth Sciences
 Catena
 Earth Science
 Earth Science Reviews
 The Ecologist
 Ecology
 Environment
 Environmental Ethics
 Environmental Pollution
 International Journal of Environmental Studies
 Journal of Glaciology
 Journal of Sedimentary Petrology
 Land Degradation and Development
 Mazingira
 Quarternary Research
 Water Resources Bulletin
 Water Resources Research
 Journal of Soil and Water Conservation
 Journal of the Soil Science Society of America
 Restoration Ecology
 Wild Earth

Technique/Approach/Philosophy

Antipode
 Applied Geography
 Cartographic Journal
 Cartographica
 Cartography
 Cartography and Geographic Information Systems
 Geographical Analysis
 Geoworld
 Imago Mundi
 ITC Journal
 Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing
 World Cartography

Grades and evaluation: DO NOT spend the semester worrying about your grade in this course! You will not enjoy the course and you will feel constrained rather than free to explore ideas that you are interested in.

Assignments:

Critical reading-you are asked to critically read research papers that are assigned to you and to write short evaluations of these papers. These will be graded for the quality of the writing as well as for the level of academic rigor in the papers. There is no word limit for these papers, they should be long enough to assess the “keys” below, no longer, no shorter. Write simply as writing is meant to communicate rather than to confuse. In other, sarcastic words, “eschew obfuscation!” (This is exactly the type of language you should try to avoid!). These papers make up ½ of your grade. These papers are due the date that the reading is assigned. All of the papers assigned for reading will be easily accessible via UF library electronic collections or will be put on electronic reserve.

Keys to critical reading research papers:

1. What are the research questions in the paper?
2. Identify the literature
 - a. Is it from geography?
 - b. What other disciplines is the author using?
 - c. Why these rather than another literature? (In other words, why are these readings appropriate?)
3. Methods
 - a. What methods are used?
 - b. Can these answer the questions asked?
 - c. Are other methods more appropriate?
4. Data and discussion/Evidence and narrative
 - a. Are the data (evidence) sufficient to answer the question?
 - b. Are they interpreted following rules of logic?
5. Conclusions
 - a. Given the above information are the conclusions reasonable?
 - b. Are other conclusions just as reasonable?

The **second assignment** you have is to select a “weaver” from each section below and complete an annotated bibliography of her or his major works. The weaver will be someone outside of our department. You should read and write about a minimum of 10 papers for the author you most identify with and five for the others. You can read more articles if you like. The bibliography should feature one to two paragraph summaries and evaluations of the works cited. Think about the qualities that make these authors well known and how their work may inform your work. You will be required to present the ten paper bibliographies at the end of the semester of your favorite geographer and link this person’s work to your own. Take the first few weeks to *google* and look these folks up. I need a list of who you will be working on by the end of the 5th week from each section. This assignment is ¼ of your final grade.

Weaver list (divided according to *Annals of the AAG* sections—there is considerable overlap in terms of these folks’ foci and there are people I have missed, feel free to ask me about adding new folks!):

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Environmental sciences

William Graf, James Burt, James Knox, Stanley Trimble, Glen MacDonald, Craig ZumBrunnen, Andrew Comrie, Brent Yarnal, Alan Taylor, Richard Chorely, Tom Veblen, Ray Bradley, X Sherman, Cort Wilmott, James Wood, Robert Dull, Julie Winkler, Lawrence Kalkstein, ...

Methods, Models, and Geographic Information Systems

Michael Goodchild, Robert McMaster, Ronald Eastman, Alan Murray, Donna Pequet, Alan MacEarchren, Morton O'Kelly, Mei-Po Kwan, Stephen Walsh, Barney Warf, Jack Dangermond, Eric Lambin, Peter Gould, Peter Haggett, B. Berry, Luc Anselin, Ruth DeFries, Mike Batty, Stan Openshaw, Stewart Frotheringham, Nick Chrisman, David Mark, Alan Wilson...

Nature and Society

Harold Brookfield, Karl Butzer, B.L. Turner II, Karl Zimmerer, Paul Robbins, Diane Rocheleau, Oliver Coomes, Carl Sauer, Anthony Bebbington, Gilbert White, Robert Kates, Piers Blaikie, William Easterling, C. Gregory Knight, Jared Diamond, Susan Cutter, Diana Liverman, Bill Adams, Tim Bayliss-Smith, Eric Lambin, ...

People, Place and Region

Richard Peet, David Harvey, Neil Smith, Derek Gregory, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, James Blaut, Michael Watts, Doreen Massey, Susan Hanson, Brian Berry, Eric Sheppard, Luc Anselin, Richard A. Walker, Michael Johns, Jennifer Wolch, Geoff Hewings, William Beyers, James Harrington, Sally Marston, David Plane, Amy Glasmeier, Nigel Thrift, YiFu Tuan, Robert Sack, Michael Dear, Reginald Golledge, John Paul Jones, William Cronon, John Fraser Hart, John Agnew, William A.V. Clark, J. Nicholas Entrikin, Roger Downs, Lakshman Yapa, David Ley, Richard Florida, Jamie Peck, Eric Swyngedouw, John Pickles, Don Mitchell, Donald Meinig, Andrew Herod, Gordon L. Clark, Sarah Whatmore, Jim Duncan, Denis Cosgrove, Peirce Lewis, Alan Murray, Susan Hanson, ...

The **third form of evaluation** is the submission of questions for visiting faculty and participation in discussions. This is a "gimme" grade so don't let it slip. This is worth 1/4^h of your grade.

Course Schedule

SUPER IMPORTANT: CLASS BEGINS EARLY, WE ARE GOING TO NEED COFFEE AND PERHAPS THINGS TO NIBBLE, LET'S BE SURE WE DIVIDE THE TASKS FIRST THING IN THE SEMESTER!

****NOTE: BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THE ARTICLES LISTED BEFORE THE DATE THAT THEY ARE LISTED****

8/26-What kind of geographer are you? Why are you in geography? What has most impressed you in geography and why?—Everyone will pick from the list of specialty groups above and try to locate themselves in the discipline.

8/28-Syllabus and expectations

Readings for Tuesday the 9th (all of these are available electronically through the UF website):

Levia, D.F. and Underwood, S.J. 2004. Hydrological research and the status of physical geography journals: increasing the impact of physical geography in the academy. *The Professional Geographer* 56 (3): 345-349.

Turner, B.L., II. 2002. Contested Identities: Human-Environment Geography and Disciplinary Implications in a Restructuring Academy. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 92(1):52-74. (and responses in same volume directly following)

Thrift, N. 2002. The Future of Geography. *Geoforum* 33(3):291-298. (and responses, in *Geoforum* 33(4) pp. 4212-436, Essays by Johnston, Turner, and Clifford)

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9/2-Discuss Turner 2002 and critics, Thrift 2002, and Levia and Underwood 2004

9/4-Read and critique: Campbell, Lisa. 2007. Local Conservation Practice and Global Discourse: A Political Ecology of Sea Turtle Conservation. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 97(2):313-334.

9/9-Eric Keys Presents: Cultural and political ecology

On electronic reserve:

Vayda, A. 1983. Progressive Contextualization: Methods for Research in Human Ecology. *Human Ecology*. 11(3): 265-281.

Keys, Eric. 2005. Exploring Market Based Development: Market Intermediaries and Farmers in Calakmul, Mexico. *The Geographical Review*. 95(1):24-45.

Easily accessible through UF library:

Robbins, Paul. 2001. Tracking Invasive Land Covers in India, or Why Our Landscapes Have Never Been Modern. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 91(4): 637-659.

9/11- Read and critique: Simmons, Cynthia S.; R.T. Walker, E.Y. Arima, S.P. Aldrich, and M.M. Caldas. 2007. The Amazon Land War in the South of Pará. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 97(3):567-592.

9/16-Nigel Smith Presents: Sauerian geography, the Berkeley tradition

Papers: Available through jstor at the UF libraries website:

Sauer, C.O. 1941. The Personality of Mexico. *The Geographical Review*. 31:353-364.

Sauer, C.O. 1947. Early Relations of Man to Plants. *The Geographical Review*. 37:1-25.

Available in the edited volume *Land and Life* at the Marston Science Library Reserve desk. The above articles are in the same collection as well.

Sauer, C.O. 1961. Fire and Early Man. *Mitteilungen zur Kulturkunde*. 7:399-407.

9/18- Read and critique: Evans, T.P. and H. Kelley. 2008. Assessing the transition from deforestation to forest regrowth with an agent-based model of land cover change for south-central Indiana (USA). *Geoforum*. 39(2):819-832.

9/23-Michael Binford Presents: Landscape ecology and remote sensing

9/25- Read and critique: Read and critique: Walsh, S.J.; J.P. Messina, C.F. Mena, G.P. Malanson, and P.H. Page. 2008. Complexity theory, spatial simulation models, and land use dynamics in the Northern Ecuadorian Amazon. *Geoforum*. 39(2):867-878.

9/30 Jane Southworth Presents: Land Use and Land Cover Change (LUCC)

10/2-Read and critique: Isard, S.A., R.J. Schaetzl, and J.A. Andresen. 2007, Soils Cool as Climate Warms in the Great Lakes Region: 1951-2000. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 97(3):467-476.

10/7-Peter Waylen Presents: Ecohydrology, and hydroclimatology

Todorovic, P. 1978: Stochastic models of floods. *Water Resources Research*. 14(2), 345-356.

P. R. Waylen, C.N. Caviedes and M.E. Quesada, 1996. 'Interannual Variability of Monthly Precipitation in Costa Rica.' *Journal of Climate*, 9, p. 2606-2613.

Poveda et al. (2001), Coupling Between Annual and ENSO Timescales in the Malaria-Climate Association in Colombia. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 109(5):489-493.

10/9-Read and critique: Garnsey, E. and H.L. Smith. 1997. Proximity and Complexity in the Emergence of High Technology Industry: The Oxbridge Comparison. *Geoforum*. 29(4):433-450.

10/14-Grant Thrall Presents: Economic, Business and Real Estate Geography

10/16- Read and critique: Thoms, C.A. 2008. Community Control of Resources and the Challenge of Improving Local Livelihoods: A Critical Examination of Community Forestry in Nepal. *Geoforum* 39(3):1452-1465.

10/21-Brian Child Presents: People and Parks

10/23-Read and critique: Bebbington, A., L. Dharmawan, E. Fahmi, and S. Guggenheim. 2006. Local Capacity, Village Governance, and the Political Economy of Rural Development in Indonesia. *World Development*. 34(11):1958-1976.

10/28-Abraham Goldman Presents:

10/30-Read and critique: Eifert, B., A. Gelb, and V. Ramachandran. 2008. The Cost of Doing Business in Africa: Evidence from Enterprise Survey Data. *World Development*. 36(9):1531-1546.

11/4-Barbara McDade Presents:

11/6-Read: Alexandros, P.G., G. Bigg. 2007. Environmental links to reduced cyclogenesis over the south-east Caribbean. *International Journal of Climatology*. 27(8):989-1001.

11/11- Veteran's Day, No class

11/13- Corene Matyas presents:

11/18-Stephen Golant Presents:

11/20-Weaver presentations

11/25- No class, Thanksgiving Holiday

11/27- No class, Thanksgiving Holiday

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12/2-Joann Mossa Presents:

12/4-Weaver presentations, evaluation

12/9-No class, this is made up by an end of term party.

Important reference articles:

Please have these read by the end of the third week of class. These are important reference articles to give you a broad, if sometimes contentious overview of our discipline:

Roberts, R. and J. Emel. 1992. Uneven development and the tragedy of the commons: competing images for nature-society analysis. *Economic Geography* 68 (3): 249-271.

Sheppard, E. 1995. Dissenting from spatial Analysis. *Urban Geography* 16: 297-xx.

Zimmerer, K. S. 1994. Human geography and the 'new ecology': the prospects and promise of integration. *Annals AAG* 84: 108-125.

Yarnal, B. R. G. Crane, A. M. Carleton, and L. Kalkstein. 1987. A new challenge for climate studies in geography. *Professional Geographer* 39: 465-73.

Willmott, C. J. 1981. On the validation of models. *Physical Geography* 2: 184-94.

Sayer, A. 1993. Postmodernity Thoughts in Geography: A Realist View. *Antipode* 25: 320-344.

Price, M. and M. Lewis. 1993. The reinvention of cultural geography. *Annals AAG* 83: 1-17.

Peet, J. R. 1985. The social origins of environmental determinism. *Annals AAG* 75: 309-333 [also responses to: *AAAG* 76: 281-283].

Massey, D. 1999. Space-time, science, and the relationship between physical and human geography. *Transactions, IBG* 25: 261-276.

Lewthwaite, G. 1966. Environmentalism and determinism: a search for clarification. *Annals AAG* 56: 1-23.

Kates, R. W. 1987. The human environment: the road not taken, the road still beckoning. *Annals AAG* 77: 525-534.

Kates, R. W. 1995. Labnotes from the Jeremiah experiment: hope for a sustainable transition. *Annals AAG* 85 (4): 623-640.

Johnston, R. J. 1978. Paradigms and revolutions or evolution? Observations on human geography since the second world war. *Progress in Human Geography* 2: 189-206.

Hanson, S. 1999. Isms and schisms: Healing the rift between the nature-society and space-society traditions in human geography. *Annals AAG* 89: 133-143.

