

**Course Outline**

This class is an exploration into the evolution of geographic thought and current trends that characterize its content. Students will be exposed to the breadth of geographic thought as we examine both physical and human sides of the discipline. In the first half of the class, everyone will acquire a solid foundation of both physical and human geography. In the second half of the class, we split up into groups (human and physical) and discuss in detail key trends in topical areas.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Examine the roots and status of geographic thought across the twentieth century.
2. Analyze the philosophical underpinnings of contemporary geographic research.
3. Refine student abilities to critically examine geographic research.

**Grading:**

Mid-semester exam (50 percent)  
Final Exam (50 percent)

**OUTLINE**

Week I- Introduction to Class and Department

Week II - The Discipline of Geography - A Field of Study  
(Johnston, 38-61).

Week III - Early Historical Traditions in Geography  
(Johnson, 38-61).

Week IV - Relativism and Process vs. Environmental Change  
(Johnston, 102-208).

Week V - Structural Marxism and Mechanistic Materialism in Physical Geography  
(Johnston, 209-267).

Week VI - Relevance Studies (Johnston, 318-354).

Week VII - Poststructuralism and Postmodernism

Week VIII - Forum I – Human-Physical Interface: Barriers,  
Possibilities, Opportunities.

Week IX - MIDTERM

## **Human Geographers**

Weeks X & XI - The New Spatial Turn (Jones and Popke and O'Reilly articles)

Weeks XII & XIII – The Politics of Representation (Muzaini and Wilson articles)

Week XIV- Neoliberal Realities? (Kern, Anderson, and Fair and Astroff articles)

## **GIS and Physical Geographers**

Weeks X – XIV Readings to be determined based on student interests

### **Readings:**

#### *Human Geography*

##### **Texts**

Johnston, R.J., 2004. Geography and Geographers: Anglo-American Geography Since 1945 (New York: Edward Arnold).

##### **Articles**

Jones, Katherine and Jeff Popke, 2010. "Re-Envisioning the City: Lefebvre, Hope VI, and the Neoliberalization of Urban Space," Urban Geography, 31, 114-133.

Muzaini, Hamzah, 2013. "Scale Politics, Vernacular Memory and the Preservation of the Green Ridge Battlefield in Kampar, Malaysia," Social and Cultural Geography, 4, 389-409.

Wilson, David, 2013. "Chicago's South Side Blues-Scape: Creeping Commodification and Complex Human Response." In F. W. Twine and B. Gardener (eds.) Geographies of Privilege (London: Routledge) 71-94.

Kern, Leslie, 2010. "Selling the Scary City: Gendering Freedom, Fear, and Condominium Development in the Neoliberal City," Social and Cultural Geography, 11, 209-228.

Anderson, K., 1993. "The Making of Chinatown," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 83, 114-131.

Fair, D. and K. Astroff, 1995. "Black-On-Black Violence in South Africa," Journal of Communication, 23, 101-114.

O'Reilly, K. and M.E. Crutcher, 2006. "Parallel Politics: the Spatial Power of New Orleans' Labor Day Parades," Social and Cultural Geography, 7, 245-265.