MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Earth Sciences

Geography 325
Professor Bill Wyckoff
Year: 2009
Semester: Fall

Office: Traphagen Hall 213
Telephone: 994-6914
Office Hours: T/Th 10-11:30
E-mail: bwyckoff@montana.edu

Cultural Geography of the United States

Required books:
1. Wilson and Groth, eds.: Everyday America
2. Zelinsky: Cultural Geography of the US
3. Nostrand and Estaville, eds., Homelands
4. Schein, ed., Landscape and Race in the United States

Additional required reading:

Readings on electronic reserve will be available through the Reserves Page for the class on the Library’s website and designated: “Electronic Reserve” in the syllabus.

Readings directly accessible through the Library’s electronic subscriptions to periodicals can be found by accessing the title of the periodical and the appropriate article. They are designated “Online Journal” in the syllabus.

Geography 325 is an intensive exploration of the ways in which cultural geographers look at America as a distinctive yet internally complex cultural entity. Through weekly readings, class discussions, and projects, the class will sample a rich and growing body of scholarship which represents some of the recent and major research themes in this important subfield. The course explores important aspects of settlement geography, the cultural landscape (both rural and urban), race, ethnicity, folk and popular culture, language, religion, and culture regions to illustrate the major concepts of cultural geography.

Course Requirements: As an upper division course, students are expected to be active participants and not passive observers. This means attending class, coming prepared to discuss assigned readings, taking an active role in class projects, and most importantly, cultivating a curiosity about the world around them! Class members will take three exams (two midterms + comprehensive final) and complete several short out-of-class research and writing assignments. Reading and actively responding to it are important class responsibilities and we will typically have several articles or book chapter assignments per weekly class meeting. COME PREPARED to lead and contribute to discussions.

Course Grade: Course grades will be assigned by the following point system:
Exams (3) 350
Short Projects (3) 150
Class Participation/Pop Quizzes 100
Total 600

### CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING DATE</th>
<th>TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 3 Th</td>
<td><strong>CONCEPTS IN CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASSIGN PROJECT #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 10 Th</td>
<td><strong>DEFINING CULTURE AND CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|              | **READINGS:**
|              | 2. Electronic Reserve: Mitchell, “New Axioms for Reading the Landscape” |
|              | 3. Electronic Reserve: Salter, “Cultural Geography as Discovery” |
|              | PROJECT #1 is due |
| Sept 17 Th   | **NATIVE AND EUROPEAN WORLDS** |
|              | **ORIGINS AND IDENTITY OF AMERICAN CULTURE** |
|              | **READINGS:**
|              | 2. Electronic Reserve: Mann, “America Found and Lost” |
|              | 3. ZELINSKY TEXT: 3-108 |
Sept 24  Th  STRUCTURE AND REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIES OF AMERICAN CULTURE

READINGS:

1. ZELINSKY TEXT: 109-185

2. HOMELANDS TEXT: 1-43

Oct 1  Th  CULTURAL GEOGRAPHIES OF LANGUAGE, RELIGION, AND FOOD

READINGS:

1. Electronic Reserve: Carver, “American Regional Dialects”


3. Electronic Reserve: Shortridge and Shortridge, “Food and American Culture”


Oct 8  Th  MIDTERM #1 (hour 1)

RACE AND LANDSCAPE I (hours 2-3)

READINGS:

1. SCHEIN TEXT: 1-94

2. EVERYDAY AMERICA TEXT: 199-218
Oct 15  Th  RACE AND THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE II

READINGS:


2. SCHEIN TEXT: 95-176 and 187-236

3. EVERYDAY AMERICA TEXT: 275-292

ASSIGN PROJECT #2

Oct 22  Th  FOLK AND POPULAR CULTURE I

READINGS:

1. Electronic Reserve: Rubenstein, “Folk and Popular Culture”


3. HOMELANDS TEXT: xiii-xxiii; 53-100

Oct 29  Th  FOLK AND POPULAR CULTURE II

READINGS:


2. HOMELANDS TEXT: 101-38; 155-209; 225-71
Nov  5    Th  
**FOLK AND POPULAR CULTURE III**

READINGS:
1. Electronic reserve: Jakle in Conzen, “Landscapes Redesigned for the Automobile”


PROJECT #2 is due!

Nov  12   Th  
MIDTERM EXAM #2 (hour #1)

**THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE I** (Hours #2-3)

READINGS:
1. EVERYDAY AMERICA TEXT: 1-22; 85-129

PROJECT #3 IS ASSIGNED

Nov  19   Th  
**THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE II**

READINGS:
1. Electronic reserve: Meinig, “Beholding Eye”

2. Electronic reserve: Jackson “Westward Moving House”


4. EVERYDAY AMERICA TEXT: 219-231; 237-54; 293-307
Nov  26  Th  THANKSGIVING BREAK!!

Dec  3   Th  THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE III

READINGS:

1. Electronic Reserve: Domosh, “Constructing New York’s Skyline”

2. Electronic reserve: Brooks, “Out for a Drive”


4. EVERYDAY AMERICA TEXT: 178-98

PROJECT #3 IS DUE TODAY!

10    Th  FINAL EXAM IS TONIGHT!