Cultural Geography of the United States

Required books:
4. Zelinsky, Not Yet a Placeless Land (2011)

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 Access” in the syllabus. Go to the “Journals by Title” page and find it there.

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 2-3 articles or book chapter assignments per class meeting. COME PREPARED to lead and contribute to discussions.
**Course Grade:** Course grades will be assigned by the following point system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (3)</td>
<td>350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Projects (3)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
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- Summary of specific learning goals for the class:

  1. Be able to describe and understand the major themes and conceptual/theoretical frameworks defining the field of cultural geography, using the U.S. as an example.

  2. Be able to critically examine the sources and methodologies commonly employed in doing cultural geographic research.

  3. Develop abilities in conducting empirical field-based research in the local community that parallels work done in the field of cultural geography. Also develop the ability to summarize and present these findings in written and visual form.

  4. Develop a broad understanding of American patterns of language, religion, regional ethnic homelands, and race.

  5. Develop a background in reading and interpreting American vernacular landscapes and urban landscapes.

- Summary of learning activities for reaching these goals:

  1. Weekly in-class lectures/ extensive class discussion
  2. Weekly textbook and outside reading assignments
  3. Three short outside class writing/research projects that examine different aspects of American cultural geography. These also include opportunities to conduct local field work in the Gallatin Valley and Bozeman area.
  4. Assessment also done by three exams, including a comprehensive final.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING DATE</th>
<th>TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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| Aug 25 T     | Introduction to Cultural Geography  
Course Syllabus and Overview |
| 27 Th        | Themes in Cultural Geography: Part 1  
Reading: 1. Jordan-Bychkov “The Human Mosaic”  
(electronic reserve)  
2. Meinig, “The Beholding Eye” (electronic reserve)  
(ASSIGN PROJECT #1) |
| Sept 1 T     | Themes in Cultural Geography: Part 2  
Reading: 1. Norton, “Introducing Cultural Geography”  
(electronic reserve)  
2. Mitchell, “New Axioms for Reading the Landscape”  
(electronic reserve) |
| 3 Th         | Native American Cultural Geographies  
(online journal access)  
2. Thomas Vale, “The Pre-European Landscape of the United States” (electronic reserve) |
| 8 T          | Zelinsky’s “Not Yet a Placeless Land”: Part 1  
Reading: 1. Zelinsky text: 1-81  
(PROJECT #1 is due today!!) |
| 10 Th        | Zelinsky’s “Not Yet a Placeless Land”: Part 2  
Reading: 1. Zelinsky text: 82-163.  
15 T Zelinsky’s “Not Yet a Placeless Land”: Part 3

Reading: 1. Zelinsky text: 164-205
2. Carver, “American Regional Dialects” (electronic reserve)

17 Th Zelinsky’s “Not Yet a Placeless Land”: Part 4

Reading: 1. Zelinsky text: 206-270

22 T MIDTERM 1 today!

24 Th Geographies of Religion


29 T Geographies of Food

Reading: 1. Shortridge and Shortridge, “Food and American Culture” (electronic reserve)

Oct 1 Th No class: Complete assigned readings for next week

6 T Geographies of Fiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>Geographies of Race I</td>
<td>Reading: 1. Schein text: 1-21, 39-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Geographies of Race II</td>
<td>Reading: 1. Schein text: 95-155</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>Geographies of Race III</td>
<td>Reading: 1. Schein text: 157-76; 187-236</td>
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| 20    | T   | Vernacular Landscapes I                    | Reading: 1. Wilson and Groth text: 1-22
2. J.B. Jackson, “Westward Moving House” (electronic reserve)
3. J.B. Jackson, “Seeing New Mexico” (electronic reserve) |
| 22    | Th  | NO class today—work on assigned readings   |                                                                                              |
| 27    | Th  | Vernacular Landscapes II                   | Reading: 1. Wilson and Groth text: 85-108; 178-198; and 219-231                              |
| 29    | Th  | Vernacular Landscapes III                  | Reading: 1. Wilson and Groth text: 62-80
2. Jakle and Sculle, “The Tourist’s Roadside” (electronic reserve)
| Nov 3 | T   | MIDTERM 2 today!                           |                                                                                              |

PROJECT 2 ASSIGNED!

10 T  Cultural Homelands and Regional Place Identity I: Creating Large Regional Homelands in the East

2. Conforti, “Regional Identity and New England Landscapes” (electronic reserve)

12 Th  Cultural Homelands and Regional Place Identity II: Immigrants and Place-Making


17 T  Cultural Homelands and Regional Place Identity III: Examples from the West

Reading:
1. Arreola, “La Tierra Tejana: A South Texas Homeland” (electronic reserve)
2. Jackson, “Mormon Wests” (electronic reserve)
3. Toni Alexander, “Welcome to Old Times: Inserting the Okie Past into California’s San Joaquin Valley
Present,” JOURNAL OF CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY 26, 1 (2009): 71-100 (online journal access)

19  Th  Exploring Urban Landscapes I

Reading: 1. Hayden, “Urban Landscape History” (electronic reserve)

24  T  Exploring Urban Landscapes II

Reading: 1. Wilson and Groth text: 109-29

PROJECT #2 is due today!!
ASSIGN Project #3!!

26  Th  Thanksgiving Holiday!

Dec 1  T  Exploring Urban Landscapes III

Reading: Solnit atlas, 1-84

3  Th  Exploring Urban Landscapes IV

Reading: Solnit atlas, 85-150

PROJECT 3 is due today!

7  M  FINAL EXAM will be given Monday, December 7, 12-2