

## Geography 689

### History of Geographical Thought

Fall 2001

Thursday 3:30-6:00 [Harvill 435D](#)  
Revised syllabus (Oct 23 2001)

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#### Instructors

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This graduate seminar will address the development of ways of thinking and doing research in the discipline of geography. We will ask what geographers study, what distinguishes geography from other academic disciplines, and familiarize ourselves with some of the most important writers and researchers on different geographical themes.

Different theories of knowledge have shaped the practice of geography, framing how we make certain claims about the world, and how we decide that certain of these claims are more valid than others. These theories both emerge from trends in society as a whole and in different strands of academia, as well as reflect the intellectual and personal development of geographical thinking in particular milieu. Geographers also select from an unusually wide range of methods in their research and work at scales ranging from the individual organism or person to the regional and global.

#### Goals of this course

As a core course for all graduate students in [Geography and Regional Development](#) this course has several goals.

We recognize that students enrolling in the course come from a variety of backgrounds – some of you already have degrees

in geography and will be familiar with some of the material, some have degrees in closely related disciplines, and others have only recently discovered geography as a field of interest. Some of you already have an M.A., and some of you are from countries other than the United States. Some already define themselves as physical or human geographers, others hope to focus on human-environment interactions or are primarily focused on learning geographic techniques.

All across the country you are joining hundreds of other new graduate students in studying geography, and many of these other students will be taking a similar seminar that introduces the history of geography and the range of contemporary approaches. What many of these courses share is the goal of orienting you to the discipline and the profession of geography and providing you with some ideas and a context for developing your own specific interests and research projects. Core courses usually help build a sense of community among students and you will often learn as much from each other as any reading or professor you encounter in the course. The course is intended to give you an opportunity to improve your critical reading skills, including the ability to analyze a piece of writing in depth and find and skim a wide range of literature, and the chance to get your writing and creativity moving in directions that will help you in subsequent courses, research proposal development, or future careers. One of our primary objectives is for you to get excited about geography as a discipline, or at least some part of it, and for you to begin to identify a set of traditions, scholars, ideas, and challenges that spark your interest and enthusiasm. Although one of the characteristics of geography is its overlap with many other disciplines and their approaches, one of the goals is for you to understand some of the distinctive concepts, debates, and people that have shaped the evolution and current frontiers of geography in the United States and elsewhere.

Rather than organize the course around traditional subspecialties (e.g. climatology, economic geography) we have tried to identify a selection of shared themes and debates that cross some, if not all, of the different issues studied by geographers. We have asked other faculty or graduate students in the department to attend some of the discussions and contribute their own insights and expertise.

#### Activities and expectations

The overview nature of this course, and the broad scope of geography, requires considerable reading, discussion, and synthesis. We have assigned several readings to be read before each class meeting and we will identify those that are to be read in depth, and those that should be skimmed. Every student is expected to attend class, to have done the reading, and to have prepared some comments, questions, or reflections about the readings for the week. In preparing to discuss the readings you should be able to summarize the main points of the reading and draw out the major issues and points of contention. Reading critically involves comparing and contrasting the readings and ideas to others in the class or your experience, looking up unfamiliar words in a dictionary, and evaluating which readings and authors seem to present better, more useful, or more coherent insights into the topics we are discussing. We do expect everyone to participate in discussions, and will sometimes ask you to write down a few ideas during class. In recognition of the busy and sometimes unpredictable nature of our lives you have two chances

during the semester to admit that you were unable to complete the readings for that week. We encourage you to discuss the readings and ideas among yourselves outside of class and with other students and faculty, and in some cases will ask you to prepare a group presentation or discussion for a class.

Other than doing the readings and preparing to discuss them, we also expect you to complete the following writing and research assignments:

1. A series of short definitions of key concepts (and example of their application) and identification of scholars important to geography as a whole or to your possible subfield(s). The [list of possible definitions](#) can be found on the course home page. Ten definitions/people of about 300 words each should be completed by 4 October.
2. A group or individual "poster" that shows the history of thought in a particular subfield of the discipline (e.g. economic geography, cultural ecology, climatology, GIS). This can be in draft form, but should be clear and large enough to post on the wall as a basis for a discussion and should include something like a family tree with key ideas, theories, people, and publications. Presentations on 8 November and 22 December
3. A term paper that provides a critical account of how a particular concept or issue has been examined by geographers. The first part of the paper (due 1<sup>st</sup> November should look at the history of thought on the issue, and the second part (due 10th December) at contemporary debates, challenges, and key authors.

Your grade will be assigned as follows:

Definitions - 20% of final grade

Poster - 10% of final grade

Term paper - 40% of final grade

Contributions to class discussions - 30% of final grade

### Readings

There are two books that we would like you to purchase for the class. They should be available from the university bookstore in paperback.

David N. Livingstone. 1992. **The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise.** Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Ron L. Johnson. 1997. **Geography and Geographers: Anglo-American Geography since 1945.** Boston: Edward

Arnold/Oxford University Press.

We will also be discussing a recent National Academy of Sciences report on Geography that can be read on-line:

National Research Council. 1997. **Rediscovering geography: new relevance for science and society.** Washington: National Academy Press. Available on-line at: <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309051991/html/index.html>

Optional book references that some of you may find useful (on reserve at the library) are:

John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. **Human geography: an essential anthology.** Oxford: Blackwell.

Ron J. Johnston et al. 2000. **Dictionary of Human Geography.** Oxford: Blackwell.

Ron F. Abler; Mel Marcus; and Judy Olson, eds. 1991. **Geography's inner worlds: Pervasive themes in contemporary American geography** New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Phil Cloke, Chris Philo & D Sadler 1991. **Approaching Human Geography: an introduction to theoretical debates.** London : Chapman.

Gary Gaile and Cort Wilmott. Eds. 1989. **Geography in America.** Columbus: Merrill.

Kenneth J. Gregory. 2000. **The Changing Nature of Physical Geography.** New York: Arnold/Oxford University Press.

Richard Peet. 1998. **Modern geographical thought.** Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

All remaining readings are articles or book chapters that are available as on-line reserves through the [POLIS online reserve system](#) or the UA Library by searching for the journal title and following an online link or through on-line subscription sites such as [EBSCO](#) host or [INGENTA](#). We have created and highlighted links to assist you in finding

these articles. If the link is to an on-line journal the name of the journal is highlighted, if to a scanned version of the paper on the password protected POLIS site the link is to the title of the paper. We will also put one copy of the set of readings in the Geography office for you to borrow and make personal copies. Please note that we may add readings to the on-line sites during the semester and will update the course schedule to reflect any new readings.

#### Schedule

8/23

#### Introduction

This week provides an introduction to the discipline of geography through several programmatic statements from different perspectives and time periods. We would like you to use these readings to reflect on your own ideas of Geography and its purpose.

In preparing for discussion please think about the following questions. What is geography in both the popular and academic senses, and what does it mean to be a professional geographer? What has brought you to it? What, at this point, do you see as some of the general roots and themes of the discipline and what makes it distinctive? What places do you care most about? Who has inspired you as a scholar, researcher or teacher?

**Readings** (please skim all of these and read at least three in enough depth to be able to summarize or discuss them):

David Harvey. 1984. ["On the history and present condition of geography: An historical materialist manifesto."](#) Professional Geographer 36.1: 1-11. (reprinted in John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. Human geography: an essential anthology. Oxford: Blackwell)

Ron L. Johnston. 1997. Pp 1-37 in Geography and Geographers: Anglo-American Geography since 1945. Boston: Edward Arnold/Oxford University Press.

Peter Kropotkin. 1885. [What geography ought to be.](#) Nineteenth Century. 18:940-956 (reprinted in John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. Human geography: an essential anthology. Oxford: Blackwell)

David A. Lanegran. 1992. [Communication.](#) Ch 9 in Ronald F. Abler, Melvin G. Marcus, and Judy M. Olson eds.. Geography's inner worlds : pervasive themes in contemporary American geography. New Brunswick, N.J. :Rutgers University Press

David N. Livingstone 1992. "Should the history of geography be X-rated?" pp. 1-31. in The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers

National Research Council. 1997. pp 16-27 Rediscovering geography: new relevance for science and society. Washington: National Academy Press. Available on-line at: <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309051991/html/index.html>

Carl O. Sauer. 1956. [The education of a geographer.](#) Annals of the Association of American Geographers 46: 287-299 also at: [http://www.colorado.edu/geography/giw/sauer-co/1956\\_teg/1956\\_teg\\_body.html](http://www.colorado.edu/geography/giw/sauer-co/1956_teg/1956_teg_body.html)

8/30

#### Early history and traditions of geographic thought - Geography, exploration and imperialism

Over a period of two weeks we will discuss just a few of the major figures and traditions in pre-twentieth century geographic thought, and the relationship between geography and the wider political world, especially of exploration and colonialism. The text by David Livingstone provides the core for your

reading, supplemented by articles that focus on the interrelated questions we have chosen to highlight. It would be helpful to try and read all the relevant sections of Livingstone before the first week's discussion as he interweaves these themes in interesting ways. In the first week we will focus on the geographic tradition and the process of exploration, colonialism, and imperialism (more generally on the relation between geographic thought and society and politics at large). Driver and Harley illustrate two perspectives on the role of geography and maps in the imperial enterprise, and Huntington and Semple wrote classic (and controversial) works from the perspective of environmental determinism. In the second week we will focus on the history of science, especially the scientific revolution and Darwinism (Stoddart), and its relationship to the past and present practice of geographic research. We have also included a couple of articles (Barnett, Rose) that question the whole enterprise of studying the history of geography and implicitly criticize the book by Livingstone. Sidaway reviews the important new field of postcolonial studies.

Questions to consider: What was (and is) the influence of Darwin and his ideas about evolution on geography? What was the role of geography in exploration, colonialism, and imperialism? What was the theory of environmental determinism and how did it both influence and reflect general ideas and policies in the nineteenth and early twentieth century? To what extent do these ideas influence the practice of geography and policy today?

#### **Readings**

(Please note that the long Livingstone reading covers material for both this week and next):

Ron L. Johnson, 1996. Pp 38-43 in *Geography and Geographers: Anglo-American Geography since 1945*. Boston: Edward Arnold/Oxford University Press

David N. Livingstone. 1992. pp. 32-259 in *The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers

#### *Other readings of interest:*

Felix Driver. 1992. [Geography's Empire: histories of geographical knowledge](#). *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. 10:23-40.

Brian Harley. 1988. [Maps, Knowledge, and Power](#). Pp 277-312 in Denis Cosgrove and Stephen Daniels eds. *The Iconography of landscape :essays on the symbolic representation, design, and use of past environments*. New York :Cambridge University Press.

Ellsworth Huntington. 1924. [Racial character and natural selection and the direct effect of environment on character](#). In E. Huntington, *The Character of Races as Influenced by Physical Environment, Natural Selection, and Historical Development*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 1-19; 286-300.

Alastair Rogers. 1996. [A Chronology of Geography](#). Appendix to John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. *Human geography: an essential anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Ellen Churchill Semple. 1911. [Influences of Geographic Environment](#). New York: H. Holt & Co. (Only Chapters 1, 2, and 3 available) <http://www.colorado.edu/geography/giw/semple-ec/semple-ec.html>

James Sidaway. 2000. *Postcolonial geographies - an exploration*. [Progress in](#)

[Human Geography](#) 24 4  
591-612

9/6

**Early history and traditions of geographic thought continued - Science and Darwinism in Geography**

This is a continuation of last week's discussion, with a focus on the history of science and the influence of Darwin on geography.

**Readings (UPDATE 8/30)**

[David N. Livingstone 1992. pp. 32-259 in *The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers] assigned for previous week.

David R. Stoddart. 1966. [Darwin's impact on geography](#). *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 56.3: 683-698.

Clive Barnett. 1995. *Awakening the dead: who needs the history of geography?*. [Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers](#), December 1995 (Vol. 20, No. 4), pp. 417-419.

C. McEwan. 1998. *Cutting power lines within the place? Countering paternity and eurocentrism in the 'geographical tradition'* [Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers](#), September 1998, vol. 23, no. 3, pp. 371-384(14)

Mona Domosh. 1991. [Toward a feminist historiography of geography](#). *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, New Series 16: 95-104, 484-490 (includes comment by Stoddart and response).

Gillian Rose. 1995. *Tradition and paternity: same difference?* [Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers](#), December 1995 (Vol. 20, No. 4) 414-416

[Cultural ecology newsletter on Jim Blaut](#) (S.Batterbury)

[Edward Said unofficial Web Site](#)

[Royal Geographical Society Web site \(deconstruct this!\)](#)

9/13

**Geographic methods - Preferences and perspectives**

The focus this week is on the wide range of methods in geography and why we are drawn to some ways of working and not others. It is an opportunity for you to reflect on your own styles and preferences for how you work, and to think about how this may influence your course of study and research projects.

We have assigned a range of readings on methods including a couple of reviews (NRC), and several reflective writings on the challenges of fieldwork (Nast), GIS (Goodchild), and physical geography (Bauer et al). In preparing for discussion please consider the following questions: What type of work do you enjoy most and accomplish well? What methods do you find less compelling and why? (Consider options that include collecting environmental data in the field, interviewing or observing people in rural/urban and local/international settings, library and archival research, statistical or lab analysis, computer modelling, interpreting texts or satellite images, creative writing and graphic design). How do we judge the quality of these different kinds of methods and data and decide on rules of evidence? What is the relationship between theory and methods? What is the role of GIS in contemporary geography?

**Readings :**

National Research Council. 1997. "Geography's techniques" pp 47-69 in *Rediscovering*

geography: new relevance for science and society. Washington: National Academy Press. Available on-line at: <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309051991/html/index.html>

Heidi Nast, Cindi Katz, Audrey Kobayashi, Kim England, Melissa Gilbert, Lynn Staehli, Vicky Lawson. 1994. [Women in the Field](#). The Professional Geographer. 46(1) Pp 54-103.

Dawn J Wright and Michael F. Goodchild, 1997. GIS: Tool or Science? [Annals of the Association of American Geographers](#), June97, Vol. 87 Issue 2, p346-373 (includes comment by John Pickles and response).

*Other readings of interest:*

Bernie Bauer, et al. 1999. Methodology in Physical Geography [Annals of the Association of American Geographers](#) 89 (4): 677-778 (and other papers in this issue on methods in physical geography).

Elsbeth Graham, 1999. Breaking out: The opportunities and challenges of multi-method research in population geography. [Professional Geographer](#), Feb99, Vol. 51 Issue 1, p76-90 (and others in this issue on methods in population geography)

Andrew P Vayda., 1983. [Progressive contextualization: methods and research in human ecology](#). Human Ecology, 11(3):265-281.

Phil Gersmehl and Dwight Brown. 1992. [Observation](#). Chapter 5 in R. F. Abler; M. Marcus; and J. Olson, eds. 1991. Geography's inner worlds: Pervasive themes in contemporary American geography New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

9/20

### Geography after 1945 - the quantitative revolution and behavioral geography

This week and the following provide a whirlwind tour through the major theoretical developments and debates in twentieth century geography, using the text by Johnston as a guide. We will return to many of the concepts later in the semester in greater depth, and we have indicated optional readings that provide much more depth on the various perspectives. In the first week we will focus on the emergence of quantitative approaches (Morrill) and models of spatial and social behavior, the so-called "quantitative revolution" and the emergence of a behavioral geography that drew on theories from economics and social psychology. We have listed several of the classic papers from this period as readings of interest (Berry, Nystuen, Schaefer and Wolpert). In the second week we will discuss the influences of Marxism, humanism, and postmodernism on the discipline of geography.

**Readings :**

Ron L. Johnston, 1996. pp 50-174 in Geography and Geographers: Anglo-American Geography since 1945. Boston: Edward Arnold/Oxford University Press

David N Livingstone. 1992. pp. 304-346 in The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers

Richard Morrill. 1983. [Recollections of the Quantitative Revolution's Early Years](#), pp. 57-72 in Mark Billinge, Derek Gregory, and Ron Martin (eds.) Recollections of a Revolution: Geography as Spatial Science. New York: St. Martin's Press.

*Other readings of interest:*

Brian Berry. 1964. [Approaches to regional analysis: a synthesis](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers 54:2-11.

John D. Nystuen 1963. [Identification of some Fundamental Spatial Concepts](#). Papers of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters 48:373-84 (reprinted in John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. Human geography: an essential anthology. Oxford: Blackwell)

Frederick K. Schaefer. 1953. [Exceptionalism in American Geography: A methodological examination](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers 43: 226-249. (reprinted in John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. Human geography: an essential anthology. Oxford: Blackwell)

David Sibley. 1998 [Sensations and spatial science: Gratification and anxiety in the production of ordered landscapes](#). Environment and Planning A, 30: 235-246.

Julian Wolpert. 1964. [The decision process in spatial context](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers 54: 537-58.

9/27

#### Geography after 1945 – humanism, Marxism, feminism, and critical social theory

Reactions to the quantitative revolution and to wider changes in social thought included a focus on individual human views and actions (humanism - Ley, Tuan), on capitalism and power structures (Marxism - Peet), on the role of women and feminist perspectives (Domosh, McDowell), as well as the critical views of the postmodernists (Gregory). Sometimes collectively termed social theorists, geographic advocates of the different approaches argued vehemently

with each other and with the more quantitative practioners.

#### Readings:

Ron L. Johnson, 1996. Pp 175-317 in Geography and Geographers: Anglo-American Geography since 1945. Boston: Edward Arnold/Oxford University Press Johnson

#### Other readings of interest:

Derek Gregory. 1989. [Areal Differentiation and Postmodern Geographies](#). pp67-96 in D. Gregory and R. Wolford eds. Horizons in Human Geography London: Macmillan. (reprinted in John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. Human geography: an essential anthology. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 211-232)

David Ley. 1980. [Geography without human agency: a critique](#) (reprinted in John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. Human geography: an essential anthology. Oxford: Blackwell pp 192-210)

{Linda McDowell. 1997. Women/gender/feminisms: Doing feminist geography. [Journal of Geography in Higher Education](#), Nov97, Vol. 21 Issue 3, p381, 20p}

Richard Peet. 1998 [Radical Geography, Marxism and Marxist Geography](#). pp 67-111 in Modern Geographical Thought. Oxford: Blackwell.

Yi-Fu Tuan. 1974. [Space and place: Humanistic perspective](#). Progress in Geography 6:233-246 (reprinted in J. Agnew, D.N. Livingstone, and A. Rogers (eds.), Human Geography: An Essential Anthology. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 444-457).

10/4

#### Key concepts: Scale and globalization

At this point we have

completed our breakneck review of the general history of geographic thought. We now turn to a series of discussions of key geographic ideas and concepts that cut across many subfields of geography. Most of these concepts have been reviewed and debated over time and from several different perspectives and we have identified only a few of the many papers that relate to each concept. For most of the seminars we will discuss one concept in the first half of the seminar period and then shift to another (but often related) concept for the second half of the period.

This week we examine two complex and contested ideas - scale and globalization - with the help of Professor Sallie Marston who writes and teaches about these concepts. Scale issues lie at the core of geography and are important in all areas of the discipline. Globalization has become so widely used that its deeper geographical and historical meaning is obscured by the popular advocacy for and against globalization. We will try and unpack the ways in which geographers have used these ideas.

*Your definition papers all all due by today!*

#### **Readings :**

Sallie Marston. 2000. The social construction of scale. [Progress in Human Geography](#) 24(2):219-242.

William B. Meyer, Derek Gregory, Billie Lee Turner, and Pat Mc Dowell. 1992. [The Local-Global Continuum](#). Chapter 12 in R. F. Abler; M. Marcus; and J. Olson, eds. 1991. *Geography's inner worlds: Pervasive themes in contemporary American geography* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Eric Swyngedouw. 1997. [Neither Global nor Local: Glocalization and the Politics of Scale](#). In *Spaces of*

Globalization: reasserting the power of the local. Kevin Cox (ed.), Guilford Press. pp 137-166.

#### *Other readings of interest:*

Neil Brenner. 1998. [Between fixity and motion: accumulation, territorial organization and the historical geography of spatial scales](#). *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 16(5):459-481

Arturo Escobar 2001. [Culture sits in places: reflections on globalism and subaltern strategies of localization](#). *Political Geography* Volume 20, Issue 2, (February 2001)Pages 139-174

Anthony Giddens. 1999. [Runaway World. how globalisation is reshaping our lives](#). Profile, London

Global Policy Forum. 2001. [Web page on globalization](#). (includes some key online articles and lots of good links)

Richie Howitt. 2001. [The Scale Project Home Page](#). Department of Geography, Macquarie University, Australia.

Philip Kelly. 1999. The geographies and politics of globalization. [Progress in Human Geography](#) Volume 23, Number 3 (August 12, 1999)

Philip McMichael. 1996. [Globalization: myths and realities](#). *Rural Sociology* 61(1): 25-55.

Tim Unwin. 2000. A waste of space? Towards a critique of the social production of space [Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers](#) Volume 25, Number 1 (March 2000)

**10/11**

#### **Key concepts: Development and Sustainability**

Geographers have made significant contributions to debates about development



processes, and particularly to a) understanding the spatial dimensions of economic development and b) understanding how environments are transformed as development takes place. 'Sustainable development' once seemed a straightforward objective to modify over-zealous and destructive economic growth, but it has been heavily critiqued since the Rio conference (1992) since it has proven difficult to measure, and is 'all things to all people'. Read O'Riordan to identify the main lines of argument, or Bill Adams's new book if you plan to pursue further studies in this area. The main reading for the session is a contrast between a 'postmodern' approach - highly critical of mainstream development activity and discourses, and supportive of grassroots institutions (Escobar 1996) and Tony Bebbington's writing on modestly successful, pro-poor development work in the Andes. Escobar, an anthropologist, is a well-known exponent of the view that 'discourse', or shared ideas and arguments like progressive 'development', have material outcomes. Bebbington is insistent that some development work, whatever the discourse underlying it, is shaped and controlled by its recipients, to their benefit. Turner's article is an excellent example for the use of multiple methods in a development context (see geographical methods readings), showing how an argument about ethnic marginalization of herders may be illustrated with substantial data drawn from different sources. Harriss, [originally a geographer], surveys current work on rural development.

#### Readings:

Anthony Bebbington.  
Reencountering Development:  
Livelihood Transitions and  
Place Transformations in the  
Andes. [Annals of the  
Association of American](#)

[Geographers](#). Volume 90,  
Number 3 (September 2000)  
495-520

Arturo Escobar. 1996.  
[Constructing Nature. Elements  
for a poststructural political  
ecology](#). In Richard Peet and  
Michael.Watts Liberation  
Ecologies: environment,  
development, social  
movements. London:  
Routledge 46-68

Tim O'Riordan. 2000. [The  
sustainability debate](#). Chapter  
2, pp 29-62 in O'Riordan, T.  
Ed. Environmental Science for  
Environmental Management.  
Prentice Hall.

#### Other readings of interest:

Arturo Escobar, 1998 Whose  
Knowledge, Whose Nature?  
Biodiversity, Conservation,  
and the Political Ecology of  
Social Movements. Journal of  
Political Ecology  
[http://www.library.arizona.edu  
/ej/jpe/vol5~1.htm](http://www.library.arizona.edu<br/>/ej/jpe/vol5~1.htm)

John Harriss. 1997 [The making  
of rural development - actors,  
arenas and paradigms](#). Paper  
for anniversary symposium of  
the Dept for Rural Sociology  
of Wageningen University,  
June 1997

Richard Peet and  
Michael.Watts 1996.  
[Liberation Ecology:  
Development, Sustainability,  
and Environment in an age of  
Market triumphalism](#).  
Liberation Ecologies:  
environment, development,  
social movements. London:  
Routledge (first chapter)

Matt Turner. 1999. No Space  
for Participation: Pastoralist  
Narratives and the Etiology of  
Park-Herder Conflict in SW  
Niger. [Land Degradation &  
Development](#) 10(4), 345-364

Michael Watts and James  
McCarthy 1997 '[Nature as  
artifice, nature as artifact:  
development, environment and  
modernity in the late twentieth  
century](#)', in Lee, R and Wills,  
J (eds) Geographies of  
Economies. London: Arnold

Rutgers University Press.

*Other readings of interest:*

John Fraser Hart. 1982. [The highest form of the geographer's art](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 72.1:1-29.

J.B. Jackson. 1984. [Discovering the Vernacular landscape](#). pp 3-8 and 147-157. New Haven: Yale University Press. (reprinted in John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. Human geography: an essential anthology. Oxford: Blackwell pp 316-328)

Kent Mattewson. Series of review articles in [Progress in Human Geography](#) (A) 1999. Cultural landscape and ecology II - regions, retrospects, revivals.23 2 267-281 B) 1998 Cultural landscape and ecology, 1995-6 - of Oecumenics and nature(s) 22 1 115-8

Gillian Rose. 1992. [Geography as a science of observation: the landscape, the gaze and masculinity](#) from pp8-18 in Felix Driver and Gillian Rose eds. Nature and Science: essays in the history of geographical knowledge. Historical Geography Research Series Number 28. (reprinted in John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. Human geography: an essential anthology. Oxford: Blackwell pp 341-350)

[Some Articles on Carl Sauer](#)

10/25

**Key concepts: Regions and nation (Revised Oct 21)**

"Regional" geography is one of the classic traditions of the discipline yet, like many of the other core and cross-cutting concepts, the study of regional geography and the idea of the region has varied over time and investigator. After

10/18

**Key concepts: Landscape and culture**

Some geographers have proposed "landscape" as the unifying theme for the discipline of geography (Hart, JB Jackson) and it has become a particularly important and controversial concept in cultural geography. This week we will discuss different perspectives and scholars writing on ideas of landscape and on cultural geography, including related concepts such as sense of place, landscape as text, and the debate about the "new" versus "old" cultural geography.

**Readings:**

Don Mitchell 1995. There's no such thing as culture: towards a reconceptualization of the idea of culture in geography. [Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers](#) . 20(1) 102-116

Peter Jackson, Denis Cosgrove, James Duncan, Nancy Duncan. 1995. Exchange: There's no such thing as culture? A debate on Mitchell D 1995 There's no such thing as culture: towards a reconceptualization of the idea of culture in geography [Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers](#) 21 572-581

Marie Price and Martin Lewis (1993). ['The Reinvention of Cultural Geography.'](#) Annals of the Association of American Geographers 83 (1), 1-17 and responses by Denis Cosgrove, James Duncan, and Peter Jackson in 83 (3), 515-22.

Les B. Rowntree. 1991. [The Cultural landscape concept in American Human Geography](#). Chapter 5 in R. F. Abler; M. Marcus; and J. Olson, eds. 1991. Geography's inner worlds: Pervasive themes in contemporary American geography New Brunswick:

pronouncements about the demise of regional geography in the second half of the twentieth century, a revival of interest in a "new" regional geography has produced a new set of proposals about how we might think about regions. Are the traditional regions (e.g. the Midwest, the Middle East) being replaced or reconceived as a result of new economic and cultural relations? What does it mean to be a regional geographer? Review these ideas through reading the sections on regional geography in our textbook and if possible a couple of the background readings (e.g. Pudup, Murphy).

There has also been a lively debate about the concept of nation and the role of the state/government in the context of contemporary rapid geopolitical transformations and rethinking of interpretations and approaches to political geography. What are some of the contributions of geographers to our understanding of politics and what is "critical geopolitics"? Insights into to geographic thinking on these issues are offered by the two review articles by O Tuathail.

#### Readings:

Ron L. Johnston, 1996. Pp 42-47, 236-249 in *Geography and Geographers: Anglo-American Geography since 1945*. Boston: Edward Arnold/Oxford University Press

David N Livingstone. 1992. pp. 260-303 in *The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers

Mary Beth Pudup. 1988. [Arguments within regional geography](#). *Progress in Human Geography*, 12.3: 369-390.

Gearóid Ó Tuathail. 1999. [Understanding Critical Geopolitics: Geopolitics and Risk Society](#). *Journal of Strategic Studies*. 22 (2/3),

107-124.

Gearóid Ó Tuathail and Fred Shelley. 2001. [Political Geography: From the "Long 1989" to the Millenium](#). Draft of review article forthcoming in Gaile and Wilmott: *Geography in America*.

#### Other readings of interest:

##### Regional Geography

John Agnew. 1999. Regions on the mind does not equal regions of the mind. [Progress in Human Geography](#) 23(1) pp. 91-96

Nicholas Entrikin 1997 Place and region 3 [Progress in Human Geography](#) 21(2):263-268.

Anne Gilbert. 1988. [The new regional geography in English and French Speaking countries](#). *Progress in Human Geography* 12:208-228.

Richard Hartshorne. 1939. "Conclusion: The nature of Geography." In R. Hartshorne, *The Nature of Geography: A Critical Survey of Current Thought in Light of the Past*. Lancaster, PA: Association of American Geographers, pp. 636-645.  
[http://www.Colorado.EDU/geography/giw/hartshorne-r/1939\\_ng/naturehome.html](http://www.Colorado.EDU/geography/giw/hartshorne-r/1939_ng/naturehome.html)

Alexander B Murphy. 1991. [Regions as social constructs: The gap between theory and practice](#). *Progress in Human Geography* 15.1: 22-35

Mary Beth Pudup. 1988. [Arguments within regional geography](#). *Progress in Human Geography*, 12.3: 369-390.

Ed Soja. 1985. [Regions in context: Spatiality, periodicity, and the historical geography of the regional question](#). *Environment and Planning D*, 3: 175-190.

Andrew Sayer. 1991. [The New Regional Geography and Problems of Narrative](#).

Environment & Planning D.  
Society & Space. 7 : 253-276

Kees Terlouw. Regions in  
geography and the regional  
geography of semiperipheral  
development. [Tijdschrift voor  
Economische en Sociale  
Geografie/Journal of  
Economic & Social  
Geography](#). February 2001  
(Vol. 92, No. 1), pp. 76-87

Nigel Thrift, N. 1990. [For a  
New Regional Geography](#) 1.  
Progress in Human Geography  
14 272-9 2. Progress in Human  
Geography 15 456-65

#### *Political Geography*

[The nationalism project](#) Web  
site  
[PUBLICATIONS of GERARD  
TOAL/GEARÓID Ó  
TUATHAIL](#), including  
Gearóid Ó Tuathail. 2000. [The  
Postmodern Geopolitical  
Condition: States, Statecraft,  
and Security at the Millennium](#).  
Annals of the Association of  
American Geographers, March  
2000

11/1

#### **Key Concepts: Nature and Environmental change (Revised Oct 21)**

*First draft of term paper due  
today*

Ever since 19th century and  
early 20th century geographers  
became concerned with the  
influences of environment on  
society, members of the  
discipline have sustained a  
strong interest in nature-society  
relationships. This has taken  
many forms, and  
'environmental determinism'  
(see previous weeks) has  
largely given way to views that  
stress the 'transformation' of  
the natural world by human  
impacts. One interesting debate  
(Fitzsimmons, Smith &  
O'Keefe, O'Connor) uses  
Marxist concepts to argue that  
the natural world is  
transformed through human  
labor and struggle, that are  
integral to the capitalist  
system. Blaikie, while

sympathetic to these views,  
argues for an ecumenical  
approach - political ecology -  
that looks at nature-society  
relationships both historically,  
and at multiple scales. Recent  
work, including new volumes  
by Noel Castree and Bruce  
Braun (Remaking Reality,  
Routledge 1998 - see also the  
article by Demerit) goes  
further to challenge the whole  
notion of nature-society  
binaries, arguing that advances  
in genetic modification and  
biotechnology create hybrid  
entities to the landscapes and  
buildings of the regional and  
cultural geographers of old.  
While Bill Turner calls for  
mutual respect and  
understanding in the different  
subfields of geography  
concerned with nature /society,  
there still exists a gulf between  
those using Marxist analysis  
stressing political-economic  
driving forces of change  
(Redclift, O'Connor),  
post-modern views (concerned  
often with the way nature is  
represented or 'constructed',  
or incorporated into hybrids -  
in art, or even GMOs), and the  
many geographers still  
monitoring impacts and the  
transformations of nature as  
conservation and development  
policies are enacted. In sum,  
this is a flourishing, but  
contested subfield of the  
discipline - and one wedded to  
related work carried out by  
environmental anthropologists,  
environmental historians,  
sociologists and environmental  
scientists.  
One of the most active areas  
for geographers in  
environmental change research  
has focused on the issue of  
global climate change,  
engaging physical geographers  
in work on climate modeling  
and climate change detection,  
and human-environment  
geographers on the social  
causes of climate change,  
climate impacts and  
vulnerabilities. In a recent  
issue of the Annals, critical  
geographer David Demerit  
takes on the climate research

establishment, prompting a lively response from climate modeler Steve Schneider. The current state of climate change research is often represented by the IPCC reports and you can get a quick sense from looking at the executive summary of the most recent report.

#### Readings:

Piers Blaikie 1996. [Understanding environmental issues](#). In People and environment, edited by M. Stocking and S. Morse, pp. 1-30. London: UCL Press.

Bruce Braun and Noel Castree eds. 1998. [Chapter One of Remaking Reality](#). New York: Routledge.

David Demeritt. 2001. The Construction of Global Warming and the Politics of Science [Annals of the Association of American Geographers](#), Volume 91, Number 2 (June 2001) 307-337 and the response by Steve Schneider pp 338-348.

Margaret Fitzsimmons. 1989. [The Matter of Nature](#). Antipode 21:106-120.

IPCC Third Assessment Report - Climate Change 2001 WG I "[Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis](#)".

#### Other readings of interest:

**Simon Batterbury** & Tony Bebbington. [Special issue, 1999, Environmental Histories, access to resources and landscape change. Land Degradation and Development](#) 10(4) 279-

Piers Blaikie and Harold C. Brookfield, ed. 1987. Pp. 15-26 in [Land Degradation and Society](#). London: Methuen.

Bruce Braun and Noel Castree eds. 1998. [Chapter One of Remaking Reality](#). New York: Routledge

[IPCC Home page](#).

Michael Redclift. 1998 [Dances with wolves? Interdisciplinary research on the global environment](#). Global Environmental Change 8 3 117-182

Neil Smith and Phil O'Keefe. 1989. [Geography, Marx and the concept of Nature](#). Antipode 12:30-9 (reprinted in John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, D. and Alastair Rogers eds. 1996. Human geography: an essential anthology. Oxford: Blackwell)

Billie Lee Turner 1989. [The specialist-synthesis approach to the revival of geography: the case of cultural ecology](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 79(1):88-100.

Billie Lee Turner 1997 [Spirals, bridges and tunnels: engaging human-environment perspectives in geography?](#) Ecumene 4 (2): 196-217

James O'Connor 1997. [What is Environmental History? Why Environmental History?](#) Capitalism Nature Socialism 8(2) 3-29

11/8

**Key concepts: Equilibrium, Complexity and Systems (Revised Oct 23)**

*First set of intellectual biography poster discussions*

Physical geographers have been involved in important debates about theoretical approaches to climatology, biogeography and the functioning of earth systems that have very significant implications for the way we study and manage the environment. The assumption of equilibrium, in particular, has been questioned in ecology, geomorphology, and climatology in ways that have enormous implications for the way we manage rangelands and forest, and respond to climate change. This raises questions about the way in

which assumptions about the physical system and how they have changed over time affect the way we perceive and manage the environment. Equilibrium is also a key assumption in many models in human geography, and influences the types of policy recommendations that might be made about migration or consumer behavior, for example.

#### **Readings:**

Ken J. Gregory. 2000. [The Changing Nature of Physical Geography](#) (excerpt). New York: Oxford University Press.

Colin E. Thorn and M. R. Welford. 1994 [The Equilibrium Concept in Geomorphology](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 1994, vol. 84, no. 4, pp 666-684 (and responses by Gomez, Rhoades, Phillips etc)

Ian Scoones. 1999. [New ecology and the social sciences: What prospects for a fruitful engagement?](#) Annual Review of Anthropology 28:479-507.

Karl Zimmerer. 1996. [Ecology as cornerstone and chimera in human geography](#). Chapter 6 pp 161-188 in Carville Earle, Martin Kenzer and Knet Mathweson, eds. Concepts in Human Geography. Rowman and Littlefield, Maryland.

#### *Other readings of interest*

Karl Zimmerer. 2000. The Reworking of Conservation Geographies: Nonequilibrium Landscapes and Nature-Society Hybrids. [Annals of the Association of American Geographers](#). 90(2):356-392.

Will Graf and Pat Gober. 1992. [Movements, Cycles and Systems](#). Chapter 11 in R. F. Abler; M. Marcus; and J. Olson, eds. 1991. Geography's inner worlds: Pervasive themes in contemporary American geography New

Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

11/15

#### **Key concepts: The "new" economic geography (Revised Oct 23)**

This week we will take advantage of visiting geographer Amy Glasmeier to discuss a set of important debates about the relationship between geography and economics, and about approaches to understanding economic processes and patterns. Have geographers missed the boat when it comes to the "new" economic geography or are the economists appropriating our ideas? How do economic geographers variously understand the issues of economic restructuring, labor, and location?

#### **Readings:**

Ash Amin and Nigel Thrift. 2000. Intervention What Kind of Economic Theory for what Kind of Economic Geography? [Antipode](#) 32(1):4-9 and responses in 33(2)

(Hot off the press) [Geographies of Global Economic Change](#) conference at Clark University Oct 12-14 2001 with many good papers. Please review those by Glasmeier, Angel, Peck, and any others that look interesting to you.

Trevor Barnes. 2001. Rethorizing Economic Geography: From the Quantitative Revolution to the "Cultural Turn" [Annals of the Association of American Geographers](#) Volume 91, Number 3 (September 2001) pp. 546 - 565.

Ron Martin. 199. Critical survey. The new 'geographical turn' in economics: some critical reflections. [Cambridge Journal of Economics](#) 23(1): 65-91

11/22

**Thanksgiving****11/29****Applied geography, ethics, and public policy (Revised Oct 23)***Second set of intellectual biography poster presentations*

While few deny that public institutions or community organizations are viable objects for social scientific inquiry (Keeley & Scoones), debate has raged for decades over geographers have any obligation or need to engage more with the policy community than they already do. This reflects, in part, a 'disciplinary insecurity', viewed against more directly 'applied' disciplines like economics and social policy. 'Big science' - e.g. the 'global change community' - has seen some incorporation of geographical research and concepts, as have urban studies, store and utilities location, and resource mapping in particular (now through GIS). Many radical geographers would deem their work as applied, since it involves grass-roots change and social restructuring (Harvey). Martin argues that the failure of economic geographers to work with industry and planners has meant their role has not been taken over by high profile economists like Paul Krugman. Read a selection of pieces and see if you find the arguments for greater relevance and application to be valid ones. We will also review some discussions about ethics in geography especially as they relate to professional interactions and to questions about social justice and racism.

**Reading:**

David M Smith.  
1999. Geography and ethics:  
how far should we go?  
[Progress in Human Geography](#)  
23(1) pp. 119-125

Ron Martin 2001 Geography and public policy: the case of the missing agenda. [Progress in Human Geography](#) 25(2):189-210.

David Harvey. 1974. [What kind of geography for what kind of public policy?](#) Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers 63:18-24.

Diana Liverman 1999. Geography and the Global Environment. [Annals of the Association of American Geographers](#).89(1): 107-124

National Research Council. 1997. Chapter 6 in Rediscovering geography: new relevance for science and society. Washington: National Academy Press. Available on-line at: <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309051991/html/index.html>

*Other readings of interest*

Audrey Kobayashi and Linda Peake. "Racism out of place: Thoughts on whiteness and an antiracist geography in the new millennium." [Annals of the Association of American Geographers](#), Jun 01, 2000, Vol. 90, Issue 2, p392.

Michael Dear. 2001. The politics of geography: hate mail, rabid referees, and culture wars. [Political Geography](#). vol. 20, no. pp. 1-12

Matt Hannah and Ulf Strohmayer. 2001. Anatomy of debate in human geography [Political Geography](#). vol. 20, no. 3, pp. 381-404  
Pulido, Laura. "Rethinking environmental racism: White privilege and urban development in Southern California." [Annals of the Association of American Geographers](#). Mar 01, 2000, Vol. 90, Issue 1, p12.

Alan M Hay.1995. Concepts of equity, fairness and justice in geographical studies. [Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers](#) 20 500-508

Antipode on professional  
geography and the corporate  
university. [Antipode](#) 32(3) July  
2000.

**12/6**

**Last class and wrap up**

*Final version of term paper due December  
10th*