

GEOGRAPHY 200B:
CONTEMPORARY GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT II:
GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCE + DIFFERENTIATION

Instructor

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Course info

Time: Tuesdays, 10am – 1pm

Location: 575 McCone Hall

Office hours: Thursdays, 12pm – 2pm. Sign up via <https://calendly.com/btsummers>

Course Description

This graduate seminar provides an introduction to contemporary geographic thought, building upon the foundation laid in Geography 200A. We will examine geography as a domain of social analysis for understanding the human experience. Throughout the course, we will continually examine what constitutes the notion of geography as relational through several themes. Therefore, we begin the course by asking, “what is geography?” and “what does it mean to think geographically?” The first several weeks of the course are devoted to a diverse set of readings, primarily built around a core monograph and supplemental readings. While some of the texts will not necessarily be authored by geographers, we aim to *think geographically* about the ideas they raise and what a geographic perspective can bring. Our goal is to engage with contemporary human geography while also considering your own interests on a wide social scientific landscape. Later, we will examine the contributions, place, and developments of multiple generations of “Berkeley Geography,” both then and now, before devoting the last few weeks of the semester to developing a preliminary draft proposal. The research proposal identifies what you will do for your dissertation: (1) develop hypotheses/arguments, ie, circumscribe and articulate a problem or issue that is theoretically framed to generated both questions and claims; (2) determine and deploy appropriate methodologies; (3) incorporate data (evidence) and the means by which such relevant information is to be collected/generated. The proposal should function as both an exercise in thinking through your dissertation research and as a distillation of the course’s objectives. In other words, the proposal should be able to be identifiably “geographic,” as an open, searching, but grounded set of inquiries.

Course Assignments and Assessment

- (1) Prepare a short, one-page critical commentary on the week's core readings and circulate your commentary electronically by the Monday afternoon (absolutely no later than 12 pm) prior to the Tuesday class (20%).

- (2) Lead class discussion (which involves a short (10-15 minute) presentation of the key theoretical and conceptual issues. It will involve an outline or of framing the book/articles and posing a key set of questions or provocations (20%).
- (3) A written research proposal to be submitted at the end of the semester. During two of the final three course sessions, I will hold individual meetings with each student to discuss their proposals at length. ***For the last class, each student will discuss their proposals similar to a prospectus meeting*** (20%).
- (4) This course is a reading-intensive, discussion-based seminar therefore attendance and active participation are crucial and represent a large portion of your grade. Please notify me in advance of any planned absences (40%).

Reading List/Class Schedule

Week 1	Introductions
January 17	No readings assigned
Week 2	<i>Geography: The Discipline</i>
January 24	Harvey, David. 1984. "On the History and Present Condition of Geography: An Historical Materialist Manifesto," <i>Professional Geographer</i> , 36 (1): 1-11.
	Sauer, Carl O. 1956. "The Education of a Geographer." <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> , 46 (3): 287-99.
	Lowenthal, David. 1961. "Geography, Experience, and Imagination: Towards a Geographical Epistemology." <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> , 51 (3): 241-60.
	Barry, Andrew. 2015. "Geography and Other Disciplines: Genealogy, Anamnesis and the Canon." <i>Journal of Historical Geography</i> , 49: 85-93.
	Hawthorne, Camilla. 2019. "Black Matters are Spatial Matters: Black Geographies for the 21 st Century." <i>Geography Compass</i> 13 (11)
Week 3	History, the Empire, and Sovereignty
January 31	Lowe, Lisa. 2015. <i>The Intimacies of Four Continents</i> . Durham: Duke University Press.

	Hart, Gillian. 2018. "Relational Comparison Revisited: Marxist Postcolonial Geographies in Practice," <i>Progress in Human Geography</i> , 42(3): 371-94
Week 4	On Love and Theft...
February 7	Bhandar, Brenna. 2018. <i>Colonial lives of property: Law, land, and racial regimes of ownership</i> . Duke University Press. Harris, Cheryl I. 1993. Whiteness as property. <i>Harvard law review</i> , 1707-91.
Week 5	Development and the (re)Production of Space
February 14	Smith, Neil and David Harvey. 2008. <i>Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space</i> . 3rd ed. University of Georgia Press. Hart, Gillian. 2001. "Development Critiques in the 1990s: Culs de Sac and Promising Paths." <i>Progress in Human Geography</i> 25 (4): 649–58.
Week 6	Disastrous Presence and Presents
February 21	Nixon, Rob. 2011. <i>Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor</i> . Harvard University Press. Pulido, Laura. 2016. Flint, environmental racism, and racial capitalism. <i>Capitalism Nature Socialism</i> , 27(3): 1-16. Dillon, Lindsey. 2014. Race, waste, and space: Brownfield redevelopment and environmental justice at the Hunters Point Shipyard. <i>Antipode</i> , 46(5): 1205-1221. Woods, Clyde Adrian. 2006. "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?: Katrina, Trap Economics, and the Rebirth of the Blues." <i>American Quarterly</i> 57(4): 1005–18. Murphy, M. 2017. "Alterlife and decolonial chemical relations." <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 32(4): 494-503.
Week 7	NO CLASS
February 28	<i>No readings assigned</i>
Week 8	Infrastructure and the Forgotten Spaces
March 7	

Woods, C., 2017. *Development arrested: The blues and plantation power in the Mississippi Delta*. Verso Books.

Mbembé, Achille. 2004. Aesthetics of superfluity. *Public culture*, 16(3): 373-405.

Cowen, Deborah. 2010. A geography of logistics: Market authority and the security of supply chains. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 100(3): 600-620.

Week 9 Abolition Geographies

March 14 Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. 2022. *Abolition Geography: Essays Towards Liberation*. Verso Books.

Week 10 Berkeley Geography Then...

March 21 Sauer, Carl. 1941. "Foreword to Historical Geography," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 31 (1): 1-24.

Walker, Richard. 2001. Industry builds the city: The suburbanization of manufacturing in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1850–1940. *Journal of Historical Geography*, 27(1): 36-57.

Hart, Gillian. 2006. "Denaturalizing dispossession: Critical ethnography in the age of resurgent imperialism." *Antipode* 38(5): 977-1004.

Pred, Allan. 2001. Unspeakable Spaces racisms past and present on exhibit in Stockholm, or the unaddressable addressed. *City & Society*, 13(1): 119-159.

Watts, Michael J. 2004. Antinomies of community: some thoughts on geography, resources and empire. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 29(2): 195-216.

Week 11 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

March 28 No readings assigned

Week 12 Berkeley Geography Now...

April 4 Sayre, Nathan. 2005. Ecological and geographical scale: parallels and potential for integration. *Progress in Human Geography*, 29(3): 276–290.

Kosek, Jake. 2010. "Ecologies of Empire: On the New Uses of the Honeybee," *Cultural Anthropology*, 25(4): 650-678.

Chari, Sharad. 2021. "The ocean and the city: Spatial forgeries of racial capitalism." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 39(6): 1026–1042.

Hsing, You-tien. 2006. "Land and territorial politics in urban China." *The China Quarterly*, 187: 575-591.

Lewis, Jovan. 2020. "Subject to labor: Racial capitalism and ontology in the post-emancipation Caribbean." *Geoforum*.

Fields, Desiree. 2018. "Constructing a new asset class: Property-led financial accumulation after the crisis." *Economic Geography*, 94(2): 118-140.

Wilmott, Clancy. 2016. "Small moments in Spatial Big Data: Calculability, authority and interoperability in everyday mobile mapping." *Big Data & Society*, 3(2), <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951716661364>

Summers, Brandi T. 2021. Reclaiming the chocolate city: Soundscapes of gentrification and resistance in Washington, DC. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 39(1): 30-46.

Week 13	The Proposal
April 11	<i>The Art of Writing a Proposal prepared by the Social Science Research Council</i> (https://www.ssrc.org/publications/the-art-of-writing-proposals/)
	"How to get published in an academic journal: top tips from editors by the Higher education network" (https://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/jan/03/how-to-get-published-in-an-academic-journal-top-tips-from-editors)
Week 14	Individual Proposal Meetings
April 18	One-on-one meetings scheduled with Brandi
Week 15	Individual Proposal Meetings
April 25	One-on-one meetings scheduled with Brandi
Week 16	Workshop
May 2	Proposal presentations