



蘇州大學
Soochow University

GEO 232 Space, Place, Culture and Society

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course explores a number of key themes that are central to the practice of contemporary social and cultural geography. Through geographical, sociological, and cultural lenses, students will examine how spaces are constructed, experienced, and imbued with meaning, as well as how places shape social identities, interactions, and practices. Topics covered include post-structuralism, positionality, geopolitics, moral geographies, globalization, hybridity, knowledge, representation, decolonization, everyday life, nature, landscape, materials, affect, and mobility. A variety of local, national and international case studies will be used to illustrate how social inequalities are formed, and how identities are negotiated through social knowledges and categories such as class, gender, sexuality, disability, and race.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a critical understanding of geography and relevant theories, and become more aware of the multidimensionality of culture while enhancing the ability to analyze geography and society;
2. Enhance their capacity to reflect on their own social and cultural perceptions, making connections between academic literature and the broader world;
3. Foster the development of independent and self-directed learning skills, along with effective time management;
4. Cultivate skills in constructive criticism and analysis.

PREREQUISITES

N/A



GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Assignments	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Projects	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

David Sibley, Peter Jackson, David Atkinson, Neil Washbourne, *Cultural Geography: A Critical Dictionary of Key Concepts*, I. B. Tauris, 2005.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p>Topics: Topic 1: Course Introduction Topic 2: Space, Knowledge and Power Topic 3: Post-structuralism; Representation Topic 4: Positionality/ Situated Knowledge; Mapping/Cartography</p> <p>Assessments: Assignment#1</p>



Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Travel/Tourism; Space/Place Topic 6: Landscape; Environment Topic 7: Geopolitics; Governance Topic 8: Flexibility</p> <p>Assessments: Assignment#2 Project#1</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Difference and Belonging Topic 10: The Body, Identity and Gender Topic 11: (Dis)ability; Sexuality Topic 12: Moral Geographies</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm#1 Project#2</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Citizenship Topic 14: Heritage Topic 15: Borders and Boundaries Topic 16: Globalization; Postmodernism</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm#2 Project due</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Colonialism/Postcolonialism; Diaspora Topic 18: Hybridity Topic 19: Nature/Culture Topic 20: Socio-technical; Cyborg Cultures</p> <p>Assessments: Final Exam</p>

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning



and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.