

**GEOG 701 GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT AND THEORY****FALL 2016 Tu 16:10 – 18:40**[Back to MP home page](#)**COURSE SYLLABUS****GEOG 701 GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT AND THEORY****FALL 2016****Tuesday 4:10 – 6:40pm, Room 1004 HN**

Instructor: Dr. Marianna Pavlovskaya  
Office location: HN 1003F (Hunter College)  
Office hours: Tu 3-4pm and by appointment  
Email: [mpavlov@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:mpavlov@hunter.cuny.edu) (See [Email rules](#))  
BlackBoard: <http://bb.hunter.cuny.edu>  
Syllabus page: <http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/~mpavlov/> and click on course link  
GEOG701 Geographic Thought and Theory

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course reviews the modern intellectual history and examines the diverse theoretical perspectives that constitute the field of the American human geography today. We will primarily focus on the key 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century developments such as (post)-positivism, Marxism, feminism, post-structuralism, and critical race theory while paying attention to their many contemporary intersections. We will read foundational texts illustrating these perspectives and engage with recent articles and books. We will specifically discuss how the key geographic concepts such as place, space, and time are employed to understand the processes of class, race, gender and sexuality as well as uses of nature. Students will learn to differentiate between theoretical frameworks while reading the literature and theoretically locate their own research. Students will lead discussions, write weekly response papers, a midterm paper and a final paper, and present their final paper in class at the end of the semester.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Creswell, Tim. 2013. Geographic thought: A critical introduction. Wiley-Blackwell. Available at Shakespeare & Co. bookstore (on Lexington Ave opposite of Hunter College). Also on reserve.

Other weekly required readings will be posted on blackboard or are available digitally via Hunter and CUNY libraries (see Internet resources). Logging into on-line databases would provide you with access to these readings (e.g. digital books and articles).

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The class meets once a week. Each session will begin with my short lecture to introduce a topic and/or presentation of the readings by the students assigned to lead the discussion. The rest of the class will be devoted to the discussion. Final paper presentations will take place during the finals week. You are expected to attend all classes, read the assigned literature and post weekly reaction papers.

The final grade consists of the following:

Reaction papers	15%
Class participation	25%
One midterm paper	20%
Final paper	35%

Short **reaction papers** (NO MORE THAN 300-500 words) will express your thoughts about weekly readings. Please do not summarize but discuss what you found to be most important, engaging, or troubling. All papers must be proofread and clearly written. They should be **posted to the discussion board on BB no later than 7pm Monday evening**. They will be read by all students. Posting a paper will earn 1 point each (0 if you do not post it). In the first two weeks, please also print your reaction papers and hand the hard copy in so that I can provide feedback.

**Class participation** and discussions are essential. You must read ALL the assigned readings and be ready to talk about them. Discussion leaders will briefly introduce the readings (5 min for all readings) to get the discussion going and formulate two questions for discussion.

One **midterm paper** is due in the middle of the semester. It is a short (max 7 pp.) paper that analyzes class readings to date.

**Final paper** is to help you to think about your research in relation to the many theoretical, philosophical, and epistemological perspectives in today's geography. It will include the analysis of the class readings as well as some literature from your research area. Max10pp.

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

CUNY and Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations. PLAGIARISM will not be tolerated and all university rules regarding its occurrences will be strictly followed.

#### EMAIL RULES

Please email questions regarding the course. I usually respond by the next day (excluding weekends). Please specify Geog701 in the subject line and sign your full name.

#### INTERNET RESOURCES

All students have personal e-mail accounts, BlackBoard and internet access. The current class schedule with the assigned readings and discussion schedule will be on Black Board: <http://bb.hunter.cuny.edu> (syllabus, course schedule, grades, discussion board, digital readings). With questions about your account please contact Student Helpdesk, [studenthelpdesk@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:studenthelpdesk@hunter.cuny.edu), 212-650-3624, Thomas Hunter Hall, 4th Floor.

While libraries provide access to many on-line publications, only articles and books published by academic press should be used as a source for your papers. This means that they went through a review process and their academic quality is guaranteed.

### **ADA Policy statement**

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230. If you need disability-related accommodations for your work in this course, please let me know.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change):**

### **Week 1. 8/30 Introduction and logistics. Theories and paradigms.**

Course overview. Scope of the course, organization, expectations, and assignment of discussion leaders. Paradigms and theories in contemporary geography.

Creswell Ch. 1 Introduction.

Creswell Ch. 2 Early geographies

Entries from TDHG (The Dictionary of Human Geography) on ontology, epistemology, and methodology.

### **Assignment for Week 2**

Examine on-line contents of the latest issues of these flagship US geography journals. Read research article abstracts. Do not worry if you do not fully understand what the articles are about (by the end of the class you should be able to do it well).

Annals of the American Association of Geographers,

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/raag20/current>

Urban Geography, <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rurb20/37/6?nav=tocList> .

Which paradigms (post-positivist, Marxist, Feminist, post-structuralist, critical race theory and maybe others) do the articles in each issue engage, in your opinion? A single article can straddle more than one paradigm. We will compare notes in class.

### **Week 2. 9/6 Paradigm shifts in geography. Geography and Empire.**

Creswell Ch. 3 The emergence of modern geography

Creswell Ch. 4 Thinking about regions

Creswell Ch 13 Geography's exclusions.

Johnston, R. J. 2003. Paradigms and Revolution or Evolution? (originally published in 1978). in Human geography: An essential anthology. eds J. Agnew, D. N. Livingstone, and A. Rogers, 37-53. United Kingdom: Blackwell.

Pavlovskaya, M. (2006) Theorizing with GIS: A tool for critical geographies? *Environment and Planning A* **38**, 2003-2020.

(Optional) Guba, Egon G. The alternative paradigm dialog. Ch.1 in: Guba, Egon G., ed. The paradigm dialog. Newbury Park, London, New Delhi: Sage Publications; 1990; pp. 17-30.

Heffernan, M. "Histories of Geography" in Key Concepts in Geography ed. Holloway, S.L., S.P. Rice, and G. Valentine. 2003. (BB)

Wilson, Bobby M. 1999. "Teaching Race in Geography: The Uses of Historical Analysis." *The Journal of Geography* 98 (4): 182.

(Optional) Pierpont, C. R. 2004. "The Measure of America: How a Rebel Anthropologist Waged War on Racism." *The New Yorker*, March 8. Written for a wide audience – not academic!

### **Week 3. 9/13 Spatial science and quantitative revolution**

Creswell Ch 5 Sp Sci and the Quant Rev

Cadwallader, Martin. 1996. The model-building approach. Chapter 2 in *Urban geography: An analytical approach*, 21-39. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.

- This is a chapter from a contemporary textbook that explains the scientific approach as used by geographers today.

Openshaw, S. 2003. A view on the GIS crisis in geography or, using GIS to put Humpty Dumpty back again. Originally published in 1991 in *Environment and Planning A*, 23, 621-8. Chapter 41 in *Human geography: An essential anthology*. eds J. Agnew, D. N. Livingstone, and A. Rogers, 675-85. United Kingdom: Blackwell.

- Argument for the GIS as the only viable identity for geography.

Fotheringham, Stewart. 2006. "Quantification, Evidence and Positivism." In *Approaches to Human Geography*, edited by Stuart Aitken and Gill Valentine, 237–50. London, GBR: SAGE Publications Inc. (US). <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/alltitles/docDetail.action?docID=10218185>.

#### **Overview of urban research that became classic in this tradition**

Take a look at these descriptions. How useful are they, in your opinion?

Knox, Paul. 1994. Urban structure: The CBD, sectors, and zones. And residential ecology. Pp. 92-103 and 212-216 in *Urbanization: An introduction to urban geography*. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ. This is an overview (from a textbook) of the various theories and models developed in the tradition of spatial science. Serves to illustrate what kind of science was produced in this tradition. Read it to just get a sense.

Basset, K. A., and John Rennie Short. 1980. The ecological tradition. Ch.2 in *Housing and residential structure*, 9-24. London: Routledge. This is an overview (from a textbook) of the various theories and models developed in the tradition of spatial science. Also for illustration purposes. Read it to just get a sense.

### **Week 4. 9/20 GIS and post-positivist geography today**

Goodchild, Michael. 2006. "Geographic Information Systems." In *Approaches to Human Geography*, edited by Stuart Aitken and Gill Valentine, 251–62. London, GBR: SAGE Publications Inc. (US). <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/alltitles/docDetail.action?docID=10218185>.

Other readings TBA

### **Week 5. 9/27 Marxist geography and class**

Creswell Ch 7 Marxist Geographies

Pavlovskaya, M. Forthcoming in 2017. "Class" in *Wiley-AAG The International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology*. Edited by Richardson et al.

Engels, F. (1845) 1997. The great towns. From *The conditions of the working class in England*. Published in 1845.

- This is a piece by that Friedrich Engels who was an intellectual companion, colleague, co-author, and friend of Karl Marx. It shows what pushed both of them to see capitalism as

exploitation (as opposed to freedom, as is in case of neoclassical and neoliberal economics).  
Note how geographic the description of Manchester is.

(Optional) Wolff, R. D., and S. A. Resnick. 1987. Two different theories. Chapter 1 Two Different Theories, pp. 1-37 in *Economics: Marxian versus Neoclassical*, Baltimore/London: The John Hopkins University Press.

- This is the description of the differences between two major outlooks on economics – neoclassical and Marxist – written by post-modern anti-essentialist Marxists. Please note that post-modern Marxism is different from other strains of Marxism that essentialize class as a dimension of social experience. The discussion, however, is very good for understanding the paradigmatic divide between Marxism and the mainstream economics.

(optional) Harvey, David. *Social Justice and the City*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press; 1973. Introduction and Ch. 7.

- This is from David Harvey's first Marxist book. Note that he wrote it as an established "positivist" geographer, the author of a still cited book "Explanation in geography." It illustrates the paradigmatic shift.

D Mitchell. 2003. Dead labor and the political economy of landscape—California living, California dying. In *Handbook of cultural geography*.

- Marxist analysis of a landscape. Also see the context for the *Handbook of cultural geography* volume to get a sense of the scope of research that has roots in the humanistic tradition.

Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. 2002. "Fatal Couplings of Power and Difference: Notes on Racism and Geography." *The Professional Geographer* 54 (1): 15–24. doi:10.1111/0033-0124.00310.

**Week 6. 10/14 – Tuesday schedule (No class 10/4, 10/11) Humanistic geography and a sense of place**

Creswell Ch 6 Humanistic Geographies

(Optional) Tuan, Y.-F. 2003. Space and place: Humanistic perspective. From the original 1974 publication in *Progress in Geography* 6, 233-46. Chapter 28 *Human geography: An essential anthology*. eds J. Agnew, D. N. Livingstone, and A. Rogers, 444-57. United Kingdom: Blackwell.

Ley, David. 2003. Geography without human agency: A humanist critique. From the original publication "Geography without man: a humanistic critique" School of Geography research paper 24, Oxford University, 1980. Chapter 11 in *Human geography: An essential anthology*. eds J. Agnew, D. N. Livingstone, and A. Rogers, 192-210. United Kingdom: Blackwell.

- This is a seminal piece of the time. Focus on a general message. Instructively, pay attention that this text was edited to replace the outrageously gendered language that used to be the norm.

(Optional) Cloke et al. 2004, *Doing ethnography in Practising Human Geography*.

- Discussion of methodology – how it is different from the previous paradigms. They also talk about David Ley's *The Black Inner City* (see under recommended).

McKittrick, Katherine. 2011. "On Plantations, Prisons, and a Black Sense of Place." *Social & Cultural Geography* 12 (8): 947–63. doi:10.1080/14649365.2011.624280.

Jones, Phil. Performing the city: a body and a bicycle take on Birmingham, UK. *Social & Cultural Geography*, Dec2005, Vol. 6 Issue 6, p813-830, 18p, 1 map, 5bw; DOI: 10.1080/14649360500353046; (AN 19235667)

- An example of autobiography as a research method.

#### **Week 7. 10/18 Feminist geography and gender**

Creswell Ch.8 Feminist Geographies

McDowell, Linda. Making a difference: Geography, feminism and everyday life--an interview with Susan Hanson. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*; 1994, Vol. 18 Issue 1, p19, 14p

Monk, Janice, and Susan Hanson. 1982. On not excluding half of the human in human geography. *The Professional Geographer* 34, no. 1: 11-23. Excerpted version from *Feminisms in geography: Rethinking space, place, and knowledges*. eds Pamela Moss, and Karen Falconer Al-Hindi, 33-48. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. Susan Hanson and Jan Monk are among the first and influential feminist geographers.

Gill Valentine, "Theorizing and Researching Intersectionality: A Challenge for Feminist Geography," *The Professional Geographer* 59, no. 1 (February 1, 2007): 10-21.

Oswin, Natalie. 2008. Critical geographies and the uses of sexuality: deconstructing queer space. *Progress in Human Geography* 32, no. 1: 89-103.

Shabazz, Rashad. 2014. "Masculinity and the Mic: Confronting the Uneven Geography of Hip-Hop." *Gender Place and Culture* 21 (3): 370–86. doi:10.1080/0966369X.2013.781016.

Katz, Cindi. 1998. "Excavating the Hidden City of Social Reproduction: A Commentary." *City & Society* 10 (1): 37–46. doi:10.1525/city.1998.10.1.37.

Wright, Melissa W. 2014. "The Gender, Place and Culture Jan Monk Distinguished Annual Lecture: Gentrification, Assassination and Forgetting in Mexico: A Feminist Marxist Tale." *Gender, Place & Culture* 21 (1): 1–16. doi:10.1080/0966369X.2014.882650.

#### **Week 8. 10/25 Urban spaces and scales**

Creswell Ch. 11 Relational geographies

Massey, D. 1993. "Power-geometry and a progressive sense of place." Ch.4 in *Mapping the Futures: local cultures, global change*. Jon Bird, Barry Curtis, Tim Putnam, George Robertson, and Lisa Tickner, eds. Pp. 59-69. London: Routledge.

Neil Smith. 1992. Contours of a Spatialized Politics: Homeless Vehicles and the Production of Geographical Scale. *Social Text*, No. 33 (1992), pp. 54-81.

Vance, J. E. 1991. Human mobility and the shaping of cities. Ch.5 in *Our Changing Cities*. ed J. F. Hart, 67-85. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University.

Gordon, David M. Capitalist development and the history of the US cities.

- This is a Marxist account of the development of the internal structure of the city from the class relations perspective. It contrasts with liberal explanations that prioritize technological innovation in transportation as a driving force.

S. Mackenzie, "Building Women, Building Cities: Towards Gender Sensitive Theory in the Environmental Disciplines," in *Life Spaces: Gender, Household, Employment*, ed. C. Andrew and B. Moore Milroy (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1988)

- Feminist account of urban development

Woods, Clyde. 2009. "Les Misérables of New Orleans: Trap Economics and the Asset Stripping Blues, Part 1." *American Quarterly* 61 (3): 769–96.

Weber, R. 2004. Extracting value from the city: Neoliberalism and urban redevelopment. Chapter 8 in *Spaces of Neoliberalism: Urban Restructuring in North America and Western Europe*. eds N. Brenner, and N. Theodore, 172-93. Blackwell Publishing.

Smith, N. 2004. New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as Global Urban Strategy. in *Spaces of Neoliberalism: Urban Restructuring in North America and Western Europe*. eds N. Brenner, and N. Theodore, 80-103. Blackwell Publishing.

#### **Week 9. 11/1 Post-structuralism**

Creswell Ch. 9 Post-modernism and beyond

Creswell Ch. 10 Toward post-structuralist geographies

Gibson-Graham, J. K. 1996. Class and the Politics of Identity. Chapter 3 in *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy*. 46-71. Basil Blackwell.

Paul Robbins and Brian Marks. 2009. Assemblage Geographies. In *SAGE Handbook of Social Geography*, eds. Susan Smith, Rachel Pain, Sallie Marston, J.P. Jones III. pp. 176-94. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Morrow, Oona, and Kelly Dombroski. 2015. "Enacting a Postcapitalist Politics through the Sites and Practices of Life's Work." In *Prekarious Worlds*, edited by Katie Meehan and Kendra Strauss, 82–98. University of Georgia Press.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.wexler.hunter.cuny.edu/stable/j.ctt189tsnq.9>.

#### **Week 10. 11/8 Post-colonial geographies, new empires**

Gregory, Derek 2010 Seeing Red: Baghdad and the event-ful city. *Political Geography* 29 266-279.

Sundberg, J., 2004. "Identities-in-the-Making: Conservation, Gender, and Race in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala," *Gender, Place and Culture*, 11(1), pp. 44-66.

Varsanyi, Monica W. 2011. "Neoliberalism and Nativism: Local Anti-Immigrant Policy Activism and an Emerging Politics of Scale." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 35 (2): 295–311. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2427.2010.00958.x.

Harvey, D. 2003. Accumulation by dispossession. Ch. 4 in *The New Imperialism*. Oxford University Press.



**Week 11. 11/15 Critical GIS and critical quantitative research**

Crampton, J.W. and Krygier, J. (2006) An introduction to critical cartography. *ACME: An international e-journal for critical geographies* 4, 11-33. Contemporary sketch of critical cartography.

Pavlovskaya, M. 2017 “Qualitative GIS” in Wiley-AAG *The International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology*. Edited by Douglas Richardson, Noel Castree, Michael F. Goodchild, Audrey Kobayashi, Weidong Liu, and Richard A. Marston. John Wiley & Sons.

Brown, M. and Knopp, L. (2008) Queering the map: The productive tensions of colliding epistemologies. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 98, 40-58.

Mattingly, D.J. & Falconer-Al-Hindi, K., 1995. Should women count? A context for the debate. *Professional Geographer*, 47(4), p.427.

Carter, P.L. (2009) Geography, race, and quantification. *The Professional Geographer* 61, 465-480.

Sheppard, Eric. 2014. “We Have Never Been Positivist†.” *Urban Geography* 35 (5): 636–44. doi:10.1080/02723638.2014.916907.

**Week 12. 11/22 Nature and society**

Creswell Ch. 12 More than human geographies

Jody Emel, Chris Wilbert, and Jennifer Wolch 2002 *Animal Geographies*.

Whatmore 2002 Ch 6 Transgressing Objectivity: the monstrous topicality of ‘GM’ foods in *Hybrid Geographies: Nature, culture, spaces*.

Pulido, Laura. 2000. “Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California.” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90 (1): 12–40. doi:10.1111/0004-5608.00182.

Wilson, Helen F. 2016. “On Geography and Encounter Bodies, Borders, and Difference.” *Progress in Human Geography*, May, 309132516645958. doi:10.1177/0309132516645958.

**Week 13. 11/29 Geoweb, surveillance, (in)security, militarization**

Davis, M. 2000. *Fortress L.A. From The City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*. 1990. In *The City Reader*. eds R. LeGates, and F. Stout, 193-96. London and New York: Routledge.

Katz, Cindi. 2008. “Cultural Geographies Lecture Childhood as Spectacle: Relays of Anxiety and the Reconfiguration of the Child.” *Cultural Geographies* 15 (1): 5–17. doi:10.1177/1474474007085773.

Graham, Stephen D. N. 2005. “Software-Sorted Geographies.” *Progress in Human Geography* 29 (5): 562–80. doi:10.1191/0309132505ph5680a.

Dobson, J.E. and Fisher, P.F., 2003. Geoslavery. *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine*, Spring, pp. 47-52.

- An example of the insiders’ critique of surveillance potential of GIS.

Crutcher, Michael, and Matthew Zook. 2009. "Placemarks and Waterlines: Racialized Cyberscapes in Post-Katrina Google Earth." *Geoforum* 40 (4): 523–34.  
doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2009.01.003.

**Week 14. 12/6 (No class on 11/24) Enacting other worlds: The politics of possibility**

Elwood, Sarah, Victoria Lawson, and Eric Sheppard. 2016. "Geographical Relational Poverty Studies." *Progress in Human Geography*, July, 309132516659706.  
doi:10.1177/0309132516659706.

Snyder, Robert and Kevin St. Martin. 2015. A Fishery for the Future: The Midcoast Fishermen's Association and the Work of Economic Being-in-common. In *Making Other Worlds Possible: Performing Diverse Economies*.

Amanda Huron 2012 *The Work of the Urban Commons: Limited-Equity Cooperatives in Washington, D.C.* Earth and Environmental Sciences Program, City University of New York Graduate Center. Read ch.2, Ch8 is recommended.

McKittrick, K., 'Plantation Futures,' *Small Axe: A Caribbean Platform for Criticism*, 3 42, November 2013.

**Week 15. 12/20 Final paper presentations. Final papers are due in my mailbox after the class.**