



# GEOG2300 - Space, Place, & Identity

**Carleton University, Department of Geography  
& Environmental Studies**

Winter 2010

**GEOG 2300A: Space, Place, and Identity**

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## **Catalogue Description (from Academic Calendar)**

Cultural specifications of place and identity in geopolitics. Landscapes as artifacts of local, national and global identity. Diasporas, migrations and historical evolution of the meanings of location. Consumption and urban cultural spaces.

## **Course Overview (Instructor's additional description)**

This course will explore the interactions between, and reciprocal influences of, space, place, and associated social relations in the creation of individual and collective identity. Students will be asked to question and critically evaluate accepted notions of culture, place, mobility, power, social networks, landscape, and location, among other topics, in relation to their own constructions of identity - and representations of collective identity. This will involve discussions around fundamental concepts of human-environment relations focused on the themes of region, mobility, globalization, nature-culture relationships, and cultural landscapes. Topics will be presented and discussed through a mix of theoretical and applied approaches, with a diverse array of examples incorporated from Canada and beyond.

## **Prerequisites**

One (1.0) credit in Geography or Environmental Studies at the 1000-level, or second year standing.

## **Instructor**

**Gita J. Laidler, Ph.D.**

Office: A325 Loeb Building

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30 - 2:30pm, or by appointment

Email: [gita\\_laidler@carleton.ca](mailto:gita_laidler@carleton.ca)

Phone: (613) 520-2600 x2566

Website: <http://www.straightupnorth.ca/Sikuliriji/Teaching.html>

## **Teaching Assistants**

The Teaching Assistants assigned to this course are: Erica Drummond, Allegra Newman, Jocelyn Plane, and Carmelle Sullivan. They will be leading and facilitating Discussion Groups, introducing and marking assignments, marking quizzes/exams, and available to answer questions about course content and materials. They will provide you their contact information in the first Discussion Group, as well as posting it on WebCT.

## **Communications**

Wherever possible course content, supplementary materials, lecture outlines, readings, Discussion Group information and any additional information will be posted and communicated using **Carleton WebCT**. You are also strongly encouraged to use the online discussion tools to ask questions and receive feedback from the Instructor or TAs. However, please note that WebCT email will NOT be used for email communications, **ONLY the connect mail** accounts of the Instructor and TAs will be monitored for class correspondence, so please include the course number in the subject line of any course-related emails (i.e. GEOG2300 - subject of email). *We will do our best to respond promptly, but emails or WebCT discussion questions received beyond regular weekday hours (9am - 5pm) will be addressed on the next working day - so plan your correspondence accordingly.*

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## Lectures

**2 hours weekly**

Time: Fridays, 12:30 - 2:30pm

Room: Tory Building room 360

## Discussion Groups

**1 hour weekly**

Each student will select a Discussion Group that they will attend regularly for supplementary material, discussions, activities, and help with lecture material or assignments. Many of the assignments will be linked to Discussion Group activities, and discussions will aid in reviewing course material to prepare for in-class quizzes. All assignments are due in your selected Discussion Group, so **it is essential that you attend these meetings regularly**. Teaching Assistants will guide discussions, and be available for extra help during these times. Discussion Group numbers, times, and locations are listed below in chronological order.

Mondays 10:30 - 11:30am (Loeb C263) (A3)

Mondays 11:30am - 12:30pm (Loeb C263) (A5)

Mondays 12:30 - 1:30pm (Loeb C263) (A4)

Mondays 1:30 - 2:30pm (Loeb C263) (A6)

Mondays 2:30 - 3:30pm (Loeb C263) (A2)

Mondays 3:30 - 4:30pm (Loeb C263) (A1)

## Learning Objectives

This course is intended to help students:

1. learn about cultural geography approaches to understanding the relationships between space, place, and identity;
2. gain familiarity with some of the theoretical perspectives used to interpret landscapes, and society's place within them or role in shaping them;
3. learn about different theoretical, conceptual, and applied approaches used in conducting research on space, place, and identity;
4. reflect on the manifestations of identity in familiar spaces and places, as well as identify outside influences on personal perspectives of individual and collective identity; and,
5. identify the reciprocal influences of physical environment (natural or built), interpersonal relations, culture, personal and societal history, that impact how space(s) and place(s) contribute to the formation/representation of individual and collective identity (and their evolutions over time).

## Method of Instruction

- Lectures
- Audio/visual presentations
- Discussion group interactions, activities, and assignments

## Readings

Course Text: Domosh, Mona, Neumann, Roderick P., Price, Patricia L., and Jordan-Bychkov, Terry G. (2010) **The Human Mosaic: A Cultural Approach to Human Geography** (11th edition). New York: W.H. Freeman and Company.

*The course text is available at **The Carleton University Bookstore**, from the publisher directly (see notes under "Readings" and "Web Links" on WebCT), and on reserve at the MacOdrum Library. Supplementary readings or related materials will be made available online through WebCT or on reserve at the Library.*

The readings are meant to complement lecture materials, and in some cases provide more in-depth perspectives on topics presented in class and Discussion Groups. Be sure to complete required readings as suggested, in order to get the most out of class and Discussion Groups.

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## Evaluation

<b>In-class quizzes (20%)</b>	
DUE January 29	Quiz #1 (5%)
DUE February 12	Quiz #2 (5%)
DUE March 5	Quiz #3 (5%)
DUE March 19	Quiz #4 (5%)
<b>Reflection papers (30%)</b>	
DUE February 1	Reflection Paper #1 (10%)
DUE February 22	Reflection Paper #2 (10%)
DUE March 15	Reflection Paper #3 (10%)
DUE March 29	<b>Practicing Geography Profile Paper (20%)</b>
refer to exam schedule	<b>Final Exam (30%)</b>

**In-class quizzes** - Quizzes will be multiple choice and short answer, and are designed to regularly evaluate, and provide feedback, regarding students' ability to understand and explain key concepts presented in class and in readings. These replace a standard mid-term exam.

1. **Quiz #1** - introducing cultural geography (Lectures/Readings Week 1-3)
2. **Quiz #2** - linguistic and ethnic geography (Lectures/Readings Week 4 & 5)
3. **Quiz #3** - political geography and sacred spaces (Lectures/Readings Week 6 & 8)
4. **Quiz #4** - agricultural and economic geography (Lectures/Readings Week 9 & 10)

**Reflection Papers** - Reflection papers are short assignments in which students are encouraged to reflect on their own perceptions of, and interactions with, spaces, places, and identity construction, through short essays and independent excursions/activities. *Be prepared to share some aspects of your reflections with others in Discussion Groups.*

1. **Transitions from space to place** - draw on your own experiences to describe how one particular space has, for you, become a place, and how you have learned to "read" this place
2. **Backpack geographies** - analyze the typical contents of your backpack to identify how items you purchase/use reflect your personal and cultural identity, global economies, transportation and production networks, and imagery of globalization
3. **Reading urban landscapes** - create a pamphlet/guide for a short interpretive walking tour of an Ottawa neighbourhood, street, or district that you find particularly interesting, support your interpretations of these urban landscapes through additional research into/reflection on your identified "points of interest" along the tour

**Practicing Geography Profile Paper** - A selection of journal articles will be provided by the Instructor as case studies that represent the kinds of cultural geography research undertaken by the various scholars profiled in the "Practicing Geography" vignettes of the course text. Students are asked to select 1 of these scholars, and their associated article, to critically examine how the author investigates and communicates their cultural geography research in relation to the 5 course themes of region, mobility, globalization, nature-culture relationships, and cultural landscapes.

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**Final Exam** - Students will write a short- and long- answer final exam designed to test your grasp of concepts, themes, and interconnections discussed, presented, and read throughout the course. The emphasis will be placed on developing essay-style responses to a selection of questions, and your ability to draw on a range of course materials (and assignments) to compose answers that reflect the complexity of issues related to space, place, and identity. Students will be responsible for all material provided as part of the course, but the emphasis will be on the second half of the course, and on making linkages between all topics covered.

As outlined in the Faculty Grading Guidelines please note that: "Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean."

Lateness Policy: Just as there is no lateness policy for most job-related deadlines, there will be a **no tolerance lateness policy** for this course.

- All assignments are due at the **start of Discussion Group sessions**, on the date indicated in the **Evaluation** section.
- Assignments must be handed in during the **Discussion Group in which you are registered**, otherwise they will not be accepted.
- **Late or missed assignments will not be accepted**, unless you have documented extenuating circumstances or you have previously requested academic accommodations (see relevant sections below).

**NOTE**: All assignments must be handed in directly to your Teaching Assistant (**email or drop box submissions will NOT be accepted unless pre-arranged with the Instructor**). Students assume all risk for lost or missing materials, so be sure to **keep a back-up electronic copy** of all assignments.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are reminded of the seriousness with which Carleton University treats academic dishonesty of any form, particularly plagiarism. Students should be familiar with the University's **Academic Integrity Policy** ([http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/ccms/wp-content/ccms-files/academic\\_integrity\\_policy.pdf](http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/ccms/wp-content/ccms-files/academic_integrity_policy.pdf)), and do not hesitate to speak with your Teaching Assistant or Instructor if you have any questions - BEFORE handing in the assignment in question.

Extenuating Circumstances: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with extenuating circumstances (i.e. out of your control). Any requests for deadline extensions for writing assignments must be made **to the Instructor IN PERSON** (i.e. during office hours or by scheduled appointment) at least **5 business days prior to the deadline**. In case of missed deadlines **due to unforeseen circumstance, an official medical note** (or other applicable formal documentation) must be provided **IN PERSON** (or by other agreed upon means) **within 5 days** of the missed deadline in order to negotiate new deadlines. Missed in-class quizzes must be accompanied by the same documentation, using the same protocol outlined above, and will result in the re-weighting of the remaining quizzes to account for missed quiz percentage. *With the proper documentation these accommodations will be considered, but will not be guaranteed. **If no documentation is provided, the resulting grade of a missed assignment or quiz will be zero.***

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Requests for Academic Accommodations: Please inform the Instructor if you have any accessibility or academic accommodation issues that may require alternative teaching or examination considerations. For **students with disabilities**, contact the Paul Menton Centre (613-520-6608, [http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad\\_accom.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html)) to obtain the necessary letters of accommodations. For **religious observances** or **pregnancy**, consult with equity services ([http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student\\_guide.htm](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm)), or an equity advisor (613-520-5622), to obtain the necessary letters of accommodation.

Help with assignments and course requirements: There are a variety of ways to get help if you are having difficulties with any of the course material, or managing to meet the requirements of a number of courses at once. The Instructor and TAs are here to facilitate your learning, so take advantage of your opportunities for interaction and ask for help when needed. You are especially encouraged to attend designated office hours if you need particular assistance. There are also a number of support services and resources on campus at your disposal, including: **The Student Academic Success Centre** ([www.carleton.ca/sasc](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc) to help you in achieving academic success in various aspects of your university program); **The Writing Tutorial Service** ([www.carleton.ca/wts](http://www.carleton.ca/wts) to help you improve your writing skills); and, **The MacOdrum Library** ([www.library.carleton.ca](http://www.library.carleton.ca) which offers library, research, learning, and IT support).

*In ALL cases, it is important to negotiate special arrangements well in advance of quiz or assignment deadlines.*

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## Scheduled Lectures, Readings, and Quizzes (Winter 2010)

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings*	Quizzes
<b>1</b>	<b>Jan 8</b>	Human Geography	Chapter 1	
<b>2</b>	<b>Jan 15</b>	Many Worlds	Chapter 2	
<b>3</b>	<b>Jan 22</b>	Population Geography	Chapter 3	
<b>4</b>	<b>Jan 29</b>	Speaking about Places	Chapter 4	<b>Quiz #1</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Feb 5</b>	Geographies of Race and Ethnicity <i>Guest Lecture** - Dr. Luisa Veronis</i>	Chapter 5	
<b>6</b>	<b>Feb 12</b>	Political Geography	Chapter 6	<b>Quiz #2</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Feb 19</b>	No Lecture - READING WEEK		
<b>8</b>	<b>Feb 26</b>	The Geography of Religion	Chapter 7	
<b>9</b>	<b>Mar 5</b>	Agriculture <i>Guest Lecture** - Ms. Erica Drummond</i>	Chapter 8	<b>Quiz #3</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Mar 12</b>	Geography of Economies	Chapter 9	
<b>11</b>	<b>Mar 19</b>	Urbanization	Chapter 10	<b>Quiz #4</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Mar 26</b>	Inside the City <i>Guest Lecture** - Dr. Fran Klodawsky</i>	Chapter 11	
<b>13</b>	<b>Apr 5</b>	One World or Many?	Chapter 12	

\*All chapters refer to those in the course text Domosh et al. (2010).

\*\*Guest lecturers and scheduled times are subject to change depending on availability.

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## Scheduled Discussion Groups and Assignments (Winter 2010)

Week	Date	Discussion Group Topic	Assignments
1	Jan 4	NO DISCUSSION GROUP	
2	Jan 11	Introduction to expectations for Discussion Groups & Assignments	Reflection Paper #1 assigned
3	Jan 18	<i>Geographies of cultural difference:</i> focus on Indigenous culture, knowledge, and identity	
4	Jan 25	<i>Shaping the human mosaic:</i> focus on gender	
5	Feb 1	<i>Photo slideshow &amp; discussion:</i> focus on examples from students' "space" to "place reflection	<b>Reflection Paper #1 DUE,</b> Reflection Paper #2 assigned
6	Feb 8	<i>Discussion of guest lecture:</i> focus on urban space, identity, and immigrant struggles to belong	Practicing Geography Profile Paper assigned
7	Feb 15	NO DISCUSSION GROUP - READING WEEK	
8	Feb 22	<i>Map discussion:</i> focus on examples from students' backpack geographies reflection	<b>Reflection Paper #2 DUE,</b> Reflection Paper #3 assigned
9	Mar 1	<i>Spaces and places of sacredness:</i> focus on media and photo examples	Help session for Profile Paper
10	Mar 8	<i>Debate:</i> Can biofuels save the planet?	Help session for Profile Paper
11	Mar 15	<i>Small group discussion:</i> focus on examples from students' reading urban landscapes tour	<b>Reflection Paper #3 DUE</b>
12	Mar 22	<i>Profile paper work session</i>	Help session for Profile Paper
13	Mar 29	<i>Course review/exam prep/help session</i>	<b>Profile Paper DUE</b>
14	Apr 5	NO DISCUSSION GROUP - LAST LECTURE	

*The instructor reserves the right to modify the topics and schedule during the term.*

*As you are probably aware, there is a risk of a flu pandemic this flu season. In the event of a pandemic flu outbreak we may need to modify the course delivery and/or deadlines and/or assignments as they are currently outlined in this syllabus.*

*Specific details will be provided to you if this becomes necessary.*