

Social Geography and Its Representation
(Cities, Cultures and the Political Geography of Difference)
Geog 652, Spring 2005
T R 12:30 – 2:18, Derby 1116

Instructor:

Prof. Marie Cieri

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Office Hours: W 11:30 – 1:30 or by appointment

Course Description:

Social geography is the study of social relations within specific spaces and places. This course will introduce students to basic concepts of social geography and will survey the complex ways that elements of human diversity such as race, class, gender, sexuality, age, education and culture of origin interact with and within built and natural environments. Through a number of case studies set in various locations, we will explore not only how human difference is expressed in space but also how it is affirmed and reinforced by spatial structuring. Particular emphasis will be given to various methods of geographic representation and how they are used by governments, planners, the media, law enforcement, marketers, tourism promoters, community activists, academics and artists to produce competing visions of how to think about and act upon space and place. Students will study and critique these techniques and employ some of them in producing their own representations of social geographies in the Columbus area.

Basic concepts of social geography will be drawn from *Urban Social Geography: An Introduction* by Paul L. Knox and Steven Pinch. Additional course readings will address how issues in social geography play out in specific spatial contexts. Ideas about representations of social geographies will be introduced and elaborated in a number of readings as well as through examination of alternative mapping projects, public art works and articles from the popular press. You will be expected to discuss readings in class and to make short oral and written reports. Assignments will include taking a walking tour of a neighborhood in greater Columbus to observe and report on its specificity as a site of social interaction; a personal mapping project of your own social geography; and a final project where you will produce an informed representation of the social space of a particular group of people living and/or working in a Columbus neighborhood.

Required Texts:

Knox, Paul and Steven Pinch. 2000. *Urban Social Geography: An Introduction*. 4th ed., Harlow and London, England, and New York: Prentice Hall.

All other required readings are either available through the library's electronic reserve service or will be distributed during class, as indicated below.

Please bring assigned readings to each class, as we will be referring to them frequently.

Assignments

1. Students are expected to come to every class with the readings read, thought about and in-hand. Though I will be presenting some short lectures during the quarter, most of the course will be conducted as a seminar, so in-class discussion involving *all* students is vital to everyone's learning experience. To help you keep up with the readings and to facilitate our discussions, I am requiring all students to email me the following **at least two hours before each class** (i.e., no later than 10:30 a.m. on class days):

Undergraduates: at least one *substantive* question or comment about the day's readings.

Graduate students: at least two substantive questions or comments about the day's readings.

These should be **brief**: no more than a few sentences each; one or two succinct sentences ought to be sufficient.

2. Each student will produce a mental map(s) describing his or her own social geography. A handout describing this assignment will be handed out in advance of the **April 12** due date.

3. Each student will take a walking tour of a neighborhood or another type of social space within Columbus and write a report of her/his observations. More information will be provided in a handout. The report is due **April 12**.

4. A short writing assignment based on a film we will view in class will be due **April 21**.

5. By **April 26**, all students should be able to tell me what their final project will be. A handout outlining the requirements for the project will be distributed before this date.

6. Each student will bring in at least two articles, essays, etc., describing various social geographies from different representational points of view by **May 10**.

7. Final projects are due no later than **5 p.m., Monday, June 6**.

Graduate students: In addition, on **May 24** you will lead discussion of the samples of social geographies brought in by students on May 10, and you may be asked to help lead some other class discussions during the quarter.

Evaluation

The way your grade will be calculated is based on whether you are an undergraduate or graduate student.

	<u>Undergrads</u>	<u>Graduates</u>
Class participation (including attendance, pre-class emails and participation in discussions)	35%	30%
Discussion facilitation		5%
Mental map assignment	10%	10%
Walking tour assignment	10%	10%
Written assignment based on film viewing	5%	5%
Representational articles assignment	5%	5%
Final project	35%	35%

Grading options for the course are A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D or E. Students will be evaluated according to their status as undergraduates or graduate students.

Policies

All assigned work will be due by class time on the date indicated. Late work will lose two percentage points per day.

Any academic misconduct, such as plagiarizing, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Accommodation will be made for any student with special needs on the basis of a disability. Please contact me and the Office of Disability Services, 150 Pomerene Hall, 292-3307 if you have a disability.

Class Schedule:

Tuesday, March 29

Introduction to the class.

Thursday, March 31

Knox and Pinch, "Social geography and the sociospatial dialectic," pp. 1-21.

Livingstone, David N. 2003. "A Brief History of Geography," in Alisdair Rogers,

Heather Viles and Andrew Goudie, eds., *The Student's Companion to Geography*, 2nd ed., pp. 275-283 [electronic reserve].

Neighborhood Design Center. 2003. *Columbus Neighborhoods: Progress and Promise*. Columbus, Neighborhood Design Center + basic 2000 Census information for Columbus [distributed during previous class]. **Start thinking about which neighborhood/social geography you will research this quarter.**

Tuesday, April 5

Knox and Pinch, "The culture of cities," pp. 52-74 and "Cognition and perception," pp. 294-307.

Dorling, Daniel and David Fairbairn. 1997. "The shape and content of maps," *Mapping: Ways of Representing the World*. Harlow, England: Addison Wesley Longman, pp. 23-43 [electronic reserve].

Thursday, April 7

No class today. Instead, you should work on the following two assignments, due by the beginning of class April 12:

Do a mental map of your own social geography (see handout).

Take one of the Columbus walking tours sponsored by the American Volkssport Association (<http://www.ava.org/index.htm>) or another organization that organizes walking tours. Write a short report of your observations (see handout).

In conjunction with the walking exercise, graduate students should read and be able to discuss the following in class (undergraduates are welcome to do this as well for extra credit):

de Certeau, Michel. 1984. "Walking in the City," in *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Berkeley, University of California Press, pp. 91-110 [electronic reserve].

Tuesday, April 12

Mental map due.

Walking report due.

Knox and Pinch, "Patterns of sociospatial differentiation," pp. 76-103.

Thursday, April 14

Woodward, David. 1992. "Representations of the World," in Ronald F. Abler, Melvin G. Marcus and Judy M. Olson, eds., *Geography's Inner Worlds*. New Brunswick, NJ, Rutgers University Press, pp. 50-73 [electronic reserve].

Dorling, Daniel and David Fairbairn. 1997. "Representing others," *Mapping: Ways of Representing the World*. Harlow, England: Addison Wesley Longman, pp. 65-81 [electronic reserve].

Tuesday, April 19

Hayden, Dolores. 1995. "Invisible Angelenos," and "Workers' Landscapes and Livelihoods," in *The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History*. Cambridge, MA, and London, pp. 82-96 and 98-137 [electronic reserve].

Undergraduates should read **at least one** of the following articles about research methods. **Graduate students should read all three:**

Valentine, Gill. 1997. "Tell me about...: using interviews as a research methodology," in Robin Flowerdew and David Martin, eds., *Methods in Human Geography*. Harlow, England, Longman, pp. 110-125 [electronic reserve].

Kearns, Robin A. 2000. *Being There: Research through Observing and Participating. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*. Ed. Iain Hay. South Melbourne, Vic. and Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp.103-121 [electronic reserve].

Ogborn, Miles. *Finding Historical Data. Key Methods in Geography*. Eds. Nicholas J. Clifford and Gill Valentine. London, Sage, pp.101-115 [electronic reserve].

Thursday, April 21

Knox and Pinch, parts of "Spatial and institutional frameworks: citizens, the state and civil society" and "Structures of building provision and the social production of the urban environment," pp. 143-164, 180-202.

Smith, Neil. 1996. "Class Struggle on Avenue B: The Lower East Side as Wild Wild West," in *The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City*. New York, Routledge, pp. 3-29 [electronic reserve].

Jackson, Nancy Beth. October 19, 2003. "Accessible, Affordable and Highly Diverse." *The New York Times*, p. RE5 [electronic reserve].

Film Showing: "Flag Wars"

Tuesday, April 26

Short writing assignment on Flag Wars due.

Final project topic due.

Knox and Pinch, part of "The social dimensions of modern urbanism," pp. 205-214.

Davis, Mike. 1990. "Fortress Los Angeles: The Militarization of Urban Space," in Michael Sorkin, ed., *Variations on a Theme Park: The New American City and the End of Public Space*. New York, Hill and Wang, pp. 154-180 [electronic reserve].

Thursday, April 28

Knox and Pinch, "Segregation and congregation," pp. 228-247.

Kleniewski, Nancy. 1997. "Immigrants and the City," in *Cities, Change, and Conflict: A Political Economy of Urban Life*. Belmont, CA, Wadsworth Publishing Company, pp. 141-166 [electronic reserve].

Tuesday, May 3

Laws, Glenda. 1993. "'The Land of Old Age': Society's Changing Attitudes toward Urban Built Environments for Elderly People," in *Annals of the Association of Geographers*, 83(4), pp. 672-693 [electronic reserve].

Lewin, Tamar. 2001. "Growing Up, Growing Apart," in *How Race Is Lived in America: Pulling Together, Pulling Apart*. New York, Times Books/Henry Holt and Company, pp. 150-169 [electronic reserve].

Canedy, Dana. 2001. "The Hurt Between the Lines," in *How Race Is Lived in America: Pulling Together, Pulling Apart*. New York, Times Books/Henry Holt and Company, pp. 170-187 [electronic reserve].

Thursday, May 5

Knox and Pinch, "Neighborhood, community and the social construction of place," pp. 249-275.

Guest speaker: Kristen Hassen on Columbus' Weinland Park neighborhood.

Tuesday, May 10

Due today: essays, articles, etc., you've found describing social geographies from different representational viewpoints.

Bunge, William. 1971. *Fitzgerald: Geography of a Revolution*. Cambridge, MA, Schenkman, pp. 1-2, 125-140, 239-246 [electronic reserve].

Barton, Craig Evan. 2001. "Duality and Invisibility: Race and Memory in the Urbanism of the American South," in Craig Evan Barton, ed., *Sites of Memory: Perspectives on Architecture and Race*. New York, Princeton Architectural Press, pp. 1-12 [electronic reserve].

Cartoon by Larry Feign (to be distributed during previous class).

Thursday, May 12

There will be no class today. Students should make an appointment with me anytime today or on Wednesday, May 11, to discuss progress they are making and/or issues they are encountering in doing their final projects.

Tuesday, May 17

Knox and Pinch, "Bodies, sexuality and the city" and part of "Urban change and conflict," pp. 308-328, 357-374.

Binnie, Jon. 1995. "Trading Places: Consumption, Sexuality and the Production of Queer Space," in David Bell and Gill Valentine, eds., *Mapping Desire: Geographies of Sexuality*. London and New York, Routledge, pp.182-199 [electronic reserve].

Thursday, May 19

Cieri, Marie. 2000. Interviews with Gail Snowden, Lily Yeh and Mary Ellen Beaver, in Marie Cieri and Claire Peeps, eds., *Activists Speak Out: Reflections on the Pursuit of Change in America*. New York and London, Palgrave/St. Martin's Press, pp. 103-118,

131-146 and 173-190 [electronic reserve]

Tuesday, May 24

Discussion of articles brought in by students. (Discussion will be facilitated by graduate students.)

Thursday, May 26

Fainstein, Susan S. and Dennis R. Judd. 1999. "Global Forces, Local Strategies, and Urban Tourism," in Dennis R. Judd and Susan S. Fainstein, eds., *The Tourist City*. New Haven and London, Yale University Press, pp. 1-17 [electronic reserve].

Mitchell, Don. 2000. "Geographies of Belonging? Nations, Nationalism, and Identity in an Era of "Deterritorialization". *Cultural Geography: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford and Malden, MA, Blackwell, pp. 259-283 [electronic reserve].

Tuesday, May 31

Riebsame, William E., ed. 1997. *Atlas of the New West*. New York and London, Norton, pp. 15-18, 32-38, 94-111.

Short, John Rennie and Yeong-Hyun Kim. 1999. "Part Three: Cultural Globalization and the City," in *Globalization and the City*. Harlow, Longman, pp. 73-108.

Thursday, June 2

Informal progress reports on final projects, and course wrap-up.

FINAL PROJECTS ARE DUE AT MY OFFICE ON MONDAY, JUNE 6, BEFORE 5 P.M.