

Geography 606:03, Spring 2008

Geography Seminar: Geography, Space, and Social Theory

Meetings: Lucy Stone Hall, Tuesday 10:20 – 1:20, room B120

Instructor: Kevin St. Martin, Lucy Stone Hall, B-236, 732.445.7894, kstmarti@rci.rutgers.edu

Course Description:

This course will examine contemporary social theory relative to questions of space and geography. In particular, it will focus upon the “spatial turn” in social theory as well as the influences of social theory upon the discipline of geography. It is structured around several interrelated themes that emerge from the many intersections of geography and social theory. These include but are not limited to:

- The production of space (and scales)
- Geographies of difference: race and gender
- Subjectivity and space
- Knowledge spaces
- Postcolonial geographies of empire
- Critical cartographies
- Social nature

The course will be a readings seminar. Core readings for this year will include, but are limited to, the following (see the tentative course schedule below). These will be supplemented with articles and other readings.

- Said, E. *Orientalism*
- Lefebvre, H. *The Production of Space*
- Harvey, D. *The Condition of Postmodernity*
- Crampton, J. and S. Elden *Space, Knowledge, and Power.*
- Brown, J.N. *Dropping Anchor, Setting Sail: Geographies of Race in Black Liverpool*
- Rose, G. *Feminism and Geography.*
- Craib, R.B. *Cartographic Mexico: A History of State Fixations and Fugitive Landscapes.*
- Massey, D. *For Space.*

Throughout our readings we will focus upon the meaning of space, its contextualization in society and science, its fixing and alignment with hegemonic structures, and the many potentials that exist for its disruption and reconstitution as a site of difference and alterity.

Course Requirements and Format:

Students are expected to fully engage with the readings, enthusiastically participate in class discussion, and work toward integrating the material with their own research interests. In addition, students will be encouraged to suggest other themes for the course and/or contribute additional readings that match their research interests and fit into the broad topics of this course. We will, as a group, make decisions on course direction and readings during the first meeting.

Students will be expected to write brief (1-2 page) papers each week, lead discussion, and make presentations. Weekly papers should reflect upon the readings and their usefulness or relevance to each student's own work or interests. There will be a written (take-home) mid-term exam and a final project. The final project will be one of the following:

- Standard term paper (15-20 pages).
- Paper and presentation (departmental speaker series or conference).
- Research proposal.
- Paper for publication based on own research.

All students will be required to give at least one brief presentation of their reaction to the readings and will, each week, develop questions for discussion.

Regular attendance is essential.

Tentative Course Schedule for Spring 2008:

DATES	CLASS CONTENT READINGS (TENTATIVE)	ASSIGNMENTS
1/22	<p>Course Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course framework: the place of social theory in geography/the spatial turn in social theory • Goals and format of the course • Introductions and interests 	
1/29	<p>The Production of Space I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Marx, K. Readings TBA.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Selections from Harvey, D. <i>Spaces of Capital: Towards a Critical Geography</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Selections from Harvey, D. <i>The Limits to Capital</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Antipode</i> 20th anniversary symposium on D. Harvey's <i>The Limits to Capital</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
2/5	<p>The Production of Space II</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lefebvre, H. <i>The Production of Space</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Selections from Castree, N. and D. Gregory eds. <i>David Harvey: A Critical Reader</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
2/12	<p>The Production of Space III</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Harvey, D. <i>The Condition of Postmodernity</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions

	<p style="text-align: right;">Critical Responses:</p> <p>Deutsche, R. 1991. Boys Town. <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> 9:5–30.</p> <p>Massey, D. 1991. Flexible Sexism. <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> 9:31–57.</p>	<p>for discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations: TBA.
2/19	<p>Spaces of Difference: Race and Gender</p> <p>Rose, G. <i>Feminism and Geography: The Limits of Geographical Knowledge</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
2/26	<p>Spaces of Difference: Race and Gender</p> <p>Mohanty, C. <i>Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
3/4	<p>Spaces of Difference: Race and Gender</p> <p>Brown, J.N. <i>Dropping Anchor, Setting Sail: Geographies of Race in Black Liverpool</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
3/11	<p>Subjectivity and Space I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Foucault, M. <i>Discipline and Punish</i>.</p> <p>Selections from Crampton, J. and S. Elden <i>Space, Knowledge, and Power</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
3/18	<p>Spring Recess</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy life.
3/25	<p>Subjectivity and Space II</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Foucault, M. <i>The History of Sexuality</i>.</p> <p>Selections from Crampton, J. and S. Elden <i>Space, Knowledge, and Power</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
4/1	<p>The Metrics of Empire and Cartography I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Said, E. <i>Orientalism</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions

	<p>Selections from Bayoumi, M. and A. Rubin <i>The Edward Said Reader</i>. Selections from Harley, J.B. <i>The New Nature of Maps</i>.</p>	<p>for discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations: TBA.
4/8	<p>The Metrics of Empire and Cartography II</p> <p>Craib, R.B. <i>Cartographic Mexico: A History of State Fixations and Fugitive Landscapes</i>. Turnbull, D. <i>Maps are Territories, Science is an Atlas</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
4/15	<p>Social Nature</p> <p>Braun, B. <i>The Intemperate Rainforest: Nature, Culture, and Power on Canada's West Coast</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
4/22	<p>Social Nature</p> <p>Heynen, N., J. McCarthy, S. Prudham, and P. Robbins eds. <i>Neoliberal Environments: False Promises and Unnatural Consequences</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.
4/29	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Massey, D. <i>For Space</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common readings. • 1-2 page reaction paper. • Prepare questions for discussion. • Presentations: TBA.