

Geography 3742 – Power, Place and Culture

University of Colorado, Boulder

Fall 2021 Online

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Course Description

Geography is primarily concerned with understanding the world and our place in it. However, the world as we know it is not absolute, prearranged, or even agreed upon; it is continuously remade through our everyday interactions with place, things and one another. Additionally, our understandings of the world are very much informed by our own positionalities and subjectivities in relation to the positionalities and subjectivities of others. Understanding global inequality, social justice and possibilities for change requires a careful consideration of how these interactions and relationships are shaped by power, place and culture. In this class we will follow some of the major historical, geographic and cultural phenomena that have shaped and continue to shape our world today. From Colonialism to Big Data, we will investigate the larger structures and institutions as well as the situated knowledge and practices that go into making our world.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify origins of contemporary power and inequality.
2. Define role of systems and institutions in making the world.
3. Examine relationships between space/place, data, maps and power.
4. Develop methodological skills for human geography research.
5. Conduct independent research, using counterdata and countermaps to better understand place, power and culture in Boulder, CO.

Required Texts

Readings will consist primarily journal articles, news pieces, videos or book chapters on Canvas. These will be listed in the calendar by author, year, and pages as needed. PDFs or links to videos and other online resources will be available in the modules tab.

Assignments

This is a writing intensive course. All assignments are designed to improve your skills in comprehension, writing, synthesis and reflection. Assignments must be turned in by 11:59pm on the due date. See course calendar for all assignment deadlines. Assignment guidelines and drop boxes can be accessed through the modules tabs in Canvas.

Discussion Posts (20% - 10 pts each)

There will be a total of six discussion posts. Discussion posts are designed to help you apply course concepts to films, real-world examples, your own experiences and current events as directed by the discussion prompts. For full points, you will also need to respond to a minimum of two classmates' discussion posts by 11:59 pm the following Monday. The lowest discussion post grade will be dropped.

Critical Response: Midterm Reflection (20% - 50 pts)

The Critical Response assignment asks you to engage with material from the first half of the class through a series of prompts. You should reference and cite readings, lectures and video clips from the first three weeks of class. See assignment guidelines for more information.

Final Project & Presentation (30% - 60 pts total)

The final project for this course asks you to conduct independent research on a topic of choice, preferably in Boulder, CO (but other places are ok if you are not based in Boulder this term). Using some of the methods we have sampled in discussion posts throughout the semester (Observation, Interviewing, Surveys, Image and Discourse Analysis), you will collect your own data and pair it with existing data from the city, university, or other sources (a list of suggestions will be provided later) to draw conclusions and build an argument about the topic and place of study. Your research will be assessed based on the following:

Project Summary (25 pts)

~1000-word summary of your project. In the summary you should describe your argument, what theories or literature you are drawing from to inform your research and argument, what you did (methods), your results, discussion of results and conclusion.

Presentation (25 pts)

In a 5–7-minute presentation, you will present your main ideas and research to the class. You should use power point or google slides to illustrate your ideas. Record and upload the presentation

Peer Comments (10 pts)

Watch and respond to 3 peers' presentations. Further guidelines will be provided prior to the last week of class.

Final Reflection (20% - 50 pts)

In lieu of a final exam, you will be given a series of prompts to help you reflect on your learning and experience of the course throughout the semester. You should cite course material (lectures, films, readings and assignments) in your responses. See assignment guidelines for more information.

Participation (10% - 10 points)

Participation will be assessed in three different ways:

1. *Furthering class discussion on discussion posts.* In addition to the 2 required comments on peer discussions, responding to questions from peers on your original post, or leaving further comments/questions on others' peer comments, or otherwise continuing to engage with others through the discussion posts will count towards your participation grade. *For full credit, do this for at least three out of the six discussions in addition to 2 or 3 below.*
2. *Ask questions or recommend articles and events using the Canvas Chat feature.*
3. *Schedule office hours to ask questions and discuss course material in further detail.*

Grades

The grade scale for this class is as follows:

Course Expectations

Deadlines

All assignments are due via Canvas by 11:59pm MT on the due date. With the exception of discussion posts, written assignments should be submitted as a PDF or Word Doc file to the appropriate Canvas dropbox. Links to assignment dropboxes, discussion posts and reading

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
94-100	90-93	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<60

quizzes will all be available in the weekly modules. Late assignments will lose 10% per day late.

Communication

Please email me (gabriella.subiasmith@colorado.edu) if you have any questions or concerns. If you have not received a response from me within 48 hours, please resend your email.

Reading

Make sure to stay on top of reading as you go through each of the modules. You will be held accountable for reading material in weekly assignments (Reading Quizzes, Discussion Posts and Map Journals).

Plagiarism

DON'T DO IT. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's ideas or words without proper citation. Make sure to cite all sources and do your best to paraphrase. "Self-plagiarism" is the act of re-using assignments from other classes without instructor permission. All assignments will be entered into the TurnItIn.com system via canvas and will be checked for plagiarism. If plagiarism is detected, you will receive a ZERO for the assignment and will be reported to the CU Honor Code.

Inclusivity

This course welcomes students from all backgrounds and walks of life to share their knowledge and experiences as part of the learning process. You will treat and be treated by others with dignity and respect, regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, age, national origin, religion, education, languages spoken, and other identities that you bring to the table. We will celebrate our diverse perspectives to facilitate a positive learning environment. *Remember:* Your experience of the world is valid and is important for how we understand each other both inside and outside of the classroom. Together, we can build a more inclusive and compassionate world.

Netiquette

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. I hope that we will all strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and will be courteous to fellow students and your instructor. Due to the nature of the online environment, there are some things to remember.

1. Always think before you write. It's easy for our tone to be misunderstood without facial expressions, body language, and gestures to back it up. Choose your words carefully to help get your ideas across.
2. Never use all caps. Semantically, this is the equivalent of yelling in the online world. Visually, it's difficult to read. Only use capital letters when appropriate.
3. Use appropriate grammar and structure. The goal here is to communicate your ideas clearly and effectively to a wide audience. Informal language (slang, jargon, idioms, etc.) might be confusing to some people. Additionally,
4. Treat people the way you would want to be treated (and the way you would treat them face to face!). Treat all with dignity and respect and you can expect that in return.
5. Respect others' time Throughout the semester you will be responding to the work of other students. Always remember that you are not the only person with a busy schedule, be flexible with others, and don't procrastinate! The key to successful collaboration is organization, communication, patience and determination to get things done.

Fall 2021 Class Calendar

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Part 1: Introduction			
Week 1	Introduction: Power(ful) Geographies and Making Places in the World	Cresswell 2008 Massey 2005 Hickox 2007 Castle 2018	Discussion 1
Week 2	Origins of Power and Inequality	Hall 1992 Polanyi 1957 Quijano 2000 Withers 1995	Discussion 2
Week 3	Power and inequality in the Modern World	McFarlane 1999 Koptiuch 1997 Durham Peters 1997 Newkirk 2018	Discussion 3 Critical Response
Part 2: Data and our World			
Week 4	Data, Maps and Power	Rose-Redwood 2012 Crawford et al 2014 Loukissas 2016 Borgman 2019 Chandler 2020	Discussion 4
Week 5	Data for a better world	Robertson and Travaglia 2015 Onuoha 2016 D'Ignazio 2017 Maharawal and McElroy 2018	Discussion 5
Week 6	Cartographic Justice	Monmonier 1991 Intro & Ch 9 Wood 2011 Kim 2015 Kidd 2019	Discussion 6
Week 7	Complicating the Map	Mattern 2021	Final Project Final Reflection