

**GEO 603**  
**Development of Geographic Thought**  
Fall 2020

Bob Wilson  
Department of Geography

Monday, 2:15-5:00pm  
Eggers 155

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**Office Hours:** Happy to meet with students via Zoom (email me to make an appointment)

**Overview**

This graduate seminar examines the development of geographic thought and changes in the discipline of geography from the early twentieth century to the present. It focuses on *continuities* in geographic thought over that time—the reoccurring debates and issues that geographers have wrestled with for decades. But the seminar also addresses *discontinuities*—the profound methodological and conceptual changes throughout the discipline’s twentieth and twenty-first century histories. As David Livingstone wrote, geography has always been a contested enterprise. This seminar will help you better understand what ideas geographers contested and what was at stake in past and current debates.

While this class will give you a firmer conceptual grounding for your MA or PhD research in geography and other disciplines, it will also to help you better understand the approaches of other geographers. Geography is a broad discipline that includes perspectives from the social sciences, natural sciences, and the humanities. You are probably already developing expertise in one of these three broad areas. In this course, you will need to do your best to understand how geographers using conceptual and methodological approaches far different from your own make sense of the world.

**Evaluation**

30% Seminar Attendance, Participation, and Leading/Fostering Discussion

20% Response Papers (4)

50% Final Seminar Paper about Sub-Field in Geography

Seminar Attendance, Participation, and Leading Discussion (30%)

Students are expected to attend all classes and come ready to participate in class discussions. I expect students to read the course texts critically, to take notes on the readings, to develop questions and comments based them, and to be willing to listen to and grapple with other students’ views.

You will also foster and lead discussion during one class. Later in the course, I will distribute a sign-up sheet and provide guidance on how to foster and lead a discussion successfully.

### Short Reading Response Papers (20% total)

You will write **four** 2-3-page reading response papers. Your first two response papers will be for readings assigned during the first half of the course; the other two will be for readings assigned in the second half. These response papers are an inducement to read the assigned material critically and carefully.

At the end of the syllabus, I have included some sample questions about the readings each week. You can use your short paper to answer one of these questions. Or you may write your own analysis. Either way, you need to critically engage with the readings not just summarize their arguments and key points.

Please load your response paper on the course Blackboard page before the class when we discuss those readings. Click on “Response Papers” on the left-hand side of the page then the file for that week’s readings (example: “Feminist Geography”)

### Seminar Paper (50%)

The final paper is based on a critical analysis of the development of a subfield related to your research (e.g., fluvial geomorphology, community geography, animal geography, etc.) or the development of a key concept in geography (e. g. landscape, place, etc.). You might also need to narrow your paper’s focus to some sub-set of your chosen field or concept. Research and writing this paper will provide you with a much deeper understanding of the literature directly related to your interests.

You must submit a two-page proposal with a short bibliography (8-10) sources no later than **Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**. Submit the final papers on Blackboard by **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Course Readings**

The required course readings are available via the course Blackboard web site.

### Optional Reading

Cresswell, Tim. 2013. *Geographic Thought: A Critical Introduction*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

- This text is optional but highly recommended. It’s much better written than most geography textbooks (this is one for upper-division undergraduate courses or graduate seminars). Cresswell provides superb overviews of many topics we’re studying.

I recommend you read the assigned material in order.

### **Topics**

\* Keep this syllabus handy. I might drop or add readings throughout the semester. \*

### **August 25<sup>th</sup> – Introduction:**

#### **A History of the Discipline, a History of Ideas, and Geographical Theory**

Andrews, Thomas, and Flannery Burke. 2007. “What Does It Mean to Think Historically?” *Perspectives*, January: 10–13.

Livingstone, David. 1992. *The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1-31.

- 1 - Should the History of Geography be X-Rated?

Cresswell, Tim. 2013. *Geographic Thought: An Introduction*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

- Introduction

## **September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Forging a Discipline, Evolution and Geographic Thought, and Environmental Determinism**

### The Geographical Experiment: Creating a Discipline in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Livingstone, David. 1992. *The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise*. Oxford: Blackwell.

- The Geographical Experiment: Evolution and the Founding of a Discipline
  - Only read p. 177-215.

Schulten, Susan. 2001. *The Geographical Imagination in America, 1880-1950*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 69-91.

- 4 - Creating the Science of Geography, 1880-1919

### Evolution, Geographic Thought, and Environmental Determinism

Semple, Ellen. 1911. *Influences of Geographic Environment, on the Basis of Ratzel's System of Anthropo-Geography*. New York: Henry Holt and Company.

Huntington, Ellsworth. 1924. "Geography and Natural Selection: A Preliminary Study of the Origin and Development of Racial Character." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 14 (1): 1-16.

## **Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – Regions, Regional Geography, Historical Geography**

\*\* Note the day and date. We're meeting on the weekend (!).\*\*

### Challenging Environmental Determinism: Morphology of Landscape and the Regional Concept

Sauer, Carl. 1996 [1925]. "The Morphology of Landscape." In *Human Geography: An Essential Introduction*, edited by John Agnew, David N. Livingstone, and Alisdair Rogers. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

Livingstone, David. 1992. *The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise*. Oxford: Blackwell.

- "Historical Particularism and American Geography"

State of Geography ca. 1950s, Regional Geography, Historical Geography

James, Preston E. 1954. "Table of Contents" & "Introduction: The Field of Geography." In *American Geography: Inventory and Prospect*, edited by Preston James and Clarence Jones, 2–18. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.

Meinig, D. W. 1972. "American Wests: Preface to a Geographical Interpretation." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 62 (2): 159–84.

**September 9<sup>th</sup> – American Geography, Second World War, and the Cold War | Spatial Science and the Quantitative Revolution**

American Geography, the Second World War, and the Cold War

Barnes, Trevor. 2016. "American Geographers and World War II: Spies, Teachers, and Occupiers." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 106 (3): 543–50.

Barnes, Trevor. 2016. "American Geography, Social Science, and the Cold War." *Geography* 100 (3): 543–50.

Spatial Science and the Quantitative Revolution

Schaefer, Fred. 1953. "Exceptionalism in Geography: A Methodological Examination." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 43: 226–49.

Cresswell, Tim. 2013. *Geographic Thought: An Introduction*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

- 5 – Spatial Science and the Quantitative Revolution

Goodchild, Michael F. 2008. "Theoretical Geography (1962): William Bunge." In *Key Texts in Human Geography*, 9–16. SAGE Publications Ltd.

Gould, Peter. 1979. "Geography 1957-77: The Augean Period." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 69: 139–51.

**September 16<sup>th</sup> – Environment-Society Geography I (1950s-1970s): Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth, Traces on the Rhodian Shore, Human Ecology | Cultural Ecology**

Lowenthal, David. 2003. "Introduction to the 2003 Edition." In George Perkins Marsh, *Man and Nature*, xv–xxxiv. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Bendix, Jacob, and Michael A. Urban. 2020. "Nothing New under the Sun? George Perkins Marsh and Roots of U.S. Physical Geography." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.

William L. Thomas, Jr., ed. 1956. *Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Sauer, "The Agency of Man on Earth"

Williams, Michael. 2014. *To Pass on a Good Earth: The Life and Work of Carl O. Sauer*. Charlottesville, VA: The University of Virginia Press.

- 11 – “Man’s Role in Changing the Face of the Earth”

Wilson, Robert. 2005. “Retrospective Review: Man’s Role in Changing the Face of the Earth.” *Environmental History* 10 (3), 564-66.

Glacken, Clarence. 1967. *Traces on the Rhodian Shore: Nature and Culture in Western Thought from Ancient Times to the End of the Eighteenth Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press, vii-xii, 706-13.

Rajan, S. Ravi. 2019. “Clarence Glacken: Pioneer Environmental Historian.” *Environment and History* 25: 245–67.

Porter, Philip W. 1978. “Geography as Human Ecology: A Decade of Progress in a Quarter Century.” *The American Behavioral Scientist* 22 (1): 15–39.

### **September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Landscape, Cultural-Historical Geography, Humanistic Geography, and GeoHumanities**

Blankenship, Jeffrey D. 2018. “Midcentury Geohumanities: J. B. Jackson and the ‘Magazine of Human Geography.’” *GeoHumanities* 4 (1): 26–44.

Harris, Cole. 1978. “The Historical Mind and the Practice of Geography.” In *Humanistic Geography: Problems and Prospects*, edited by David Ley and Marwyn Samuels, 285–98. Chicago: Maroufa Press.

Tuan, Yi-Fu. 1977. *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, Introduction, Epilogue.

Lewis, Pierce F. 1979. “Axioms for Reading the Landscape: Some Guides for the American Scene.” In *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes*, edited by Donald W. Meinig, 11–32. New York: Oxford University Press.

Meinig, D W. 1983. “Geography as an Art.” *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 8: 314–28.

Hawkins, Harriet, et al. 2015. “What might the geohumanities do? Possibilities, practices, publics, and politics.” *GeoHumanities* 1 (2): 211–32.

### **September 30<sup>th</sup> – Radical/Marxist Geography | Sexual Harassment and Sexism in Geography**

Gosse, Van. 2005. “A Movement of Movements.” In *The Movements of the New Left, 1950-1975: A Brief History with Documents*, edited by Van Gosse, 1–38. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hartman, Andrew. 2015. "The Sixties as Liberation." *A War for the Soul of America: A History of the Culture Wars*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 9-37.

Peet, J. Richard. 1969. "A New Left for Geography." *Antipode* 1 (1): 3-5.

Smith, Neil and Phil O'Keefe. 1980. "Geography, Marx, and the Concept of Nature." *Antipode* 12: 30-39.

Harvey, David. 1984. "On the History and Present Condition of Geography: An Historical Materialist Manifesto." *The Professional Geographer* 3: 1-11.

Mitchell, Don. 2008. "New Axioms for Reading the Landscape: Paying Attention to Political Economy and Social Justice." In *Political Economies of Landscape Change*, edited by J. L. Wescoat and D. M. Johnston, 29-50. AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer.

- This article was published decades after the emergence of radical/Marxist geography. I assign it here so you can compare and contrast a Marxist approach to landscape analysis with the approach of humanistic geographer Pierce Lewis.

Read the following articles/chapters in order:

\*\* Lots of articles/chapters here but they're all short—most are only a few pages long.

Mitchell, Don. 2014. "Neil Smith, 1954-2012: Marxist Geographer." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 104 (1): 215-22.

- Read the entire article if you have time. But pay close attention to highlighted paragraph p. 219 and the Acknowledgements section.

Kast, Monica. 2019. "University of Tennessee Professor Sexually Harassed Students for Years, Report Says." Aug. 20, *Knox News*.

Huber, Matthew T., Chris Knudson, and Renee Tapp. 2019. "Radical Paradoxes: The Making of *Antipode* at Clark University." In *Spatial Histories of Radical Geography: North America and Beyond*, edited by Trevor J. Barnes and Eric Sheppard, 87-116. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

- Read the entire chapter—it provides an essential perspective on the development of Marxist/radical geography in general and the radical geography journal *Antipode* in particular. Make sure to carefully read the section "Gender, Power, and the Radical Project" (p. 98-106)

Mansfield, Becky et al. 2019. "It's Time to Recognize How Men's Careers Benefit from Sexually Harassing Women in Academia." *Human Geography* 12 (1): 82-87.

Usher, Nikki. 2018. "Should we still cite the scholarship of serial harassers and sexists?" *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 7.

Leiter, Brian. 2018. "Academic Ethics: Should scholars avoid citing the work of awful people?" *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 25.

### **October 7<sup>th</sup> – Feminist Geography**

Borstelmann, Thomas. 2013. *The 1970s: A New Global History from Civil Rights to Economic Inequality*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University, 73-95.

Rodgers, Daniel T. 2011. "Gender and Certainty." *Age of Fracture*. Cambridge, MA.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 144-79.

Rose, Gillian. 1993. *Feminism and Geography: The Limits of Geographical Knowledge*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1-16.

Pratt, Geraldine. 2004. "Spatializing the Subject of Feminism." *Working Feminism*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 12-37.

Butler, Judith. 2011. "Your Behavior Creates Your Gender." Big Think.  
<http://bigthink.com/videos/your-behavior-creates-your-gender>

Butler, Judith. 1999 [1990]. "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire." In *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, 3-44. New York: Routledge. [selections: 3-11, 18-22, full paragraphs on 30, 33]

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 2016. "The Urgency of Intersectionality." TED 2016, December 7.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akOe5-UsQ2o>

Valentine, Gill. 2007. "Theorizing and Researching Intersectionality: A Challenge for Feminist Geography." *The Professional Geographer* 59.1: 10-21.

### **October 14<sup>th</sup> – Postmodernism and Social Constructivism | Critical Geography**

Ratner-Rosenhagen, Jennifer. 2019. "Against Universalism: 1962-90s." *The Ideas That Made America: A Brief History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 152-72.

Gregory, Derek. 1989. "Areal Differentiation and Post-Modern Human Geography." In *Horizons in Human Geography*, 67–96. London: Macmillan.

Harley, Brian. 1989. "Deconstructing the Map." *Cartographica* 26 (2): 1-20.

Woodward, Keith, and John Paul Jones. 2008. "The Condition of Postmodernity (1989): David Harvey." In *Key Texts in Human Geography*, edited by Phil Hubbard, Rob Kitchin, and Gill Valentine, 125–31. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

Bondi, L., and Mona Domosh. 1992. "Other Figures in Other Places: On Feminism, Postmodernism, and Geography." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 10: 199–213.

## Critical Geography

Peak, Linda and Eric Sheppard. 2014. "The emergence of radical/critical geography." *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 13 (2), 305-327.

- Read p. 314-23.

Desbiens, Caroline, and Neil Smith. 1998. "Editorial: The International Critical Geography Group: Forbidden Optimism?" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 17: 379–82.

**\*\* You need to have completed two of the reading analyses by the Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> class. \*\***

### **October 21<sup>st</sup> – Physical Geography**

Gregory, K. 1985. "Chapter 3: Developments, 1950-1980." *The Changing Nature of Physical Geography*. London: Hodder Arnold.

Church, Michael. 2010. "The Trajectory of Geomorphology." *Progress in Physical Geography* 43 (3): 265–86.

Bendix, Jake, and Thomas Vale. 2014. "Placing the River in Context: James C. Knox, Fluvial Geomorphology and Physical Geography." *Geography Compass* 8: 325–35.

### Integration? – Among the Natural Sciences and Between Physical & Human Geography

\*\* Again, lots of reading here, but many of the articles/chapters are only a few pages long.

Lawton, John. 2001. "Editorial: Earth System Science." *Science* 292: 5524.

Mansfield, Becky. 2009. "Sustainability." In *A Companion to Environmental Geography*, edited by Noel Castree, David Demeritt, Diana Liverman, and Bruce Rhoads. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Robert, W, C William, and J Michael. 2001. "Sustainability Science." *Science* 292: 641–42.

Bennett, Drew E. 2013. "Geography and the Emergence of Sustainability Science: Missed Opportunities and Enduring Possibilities." *The Geographical Bulletin* 54: 99–112.

Harrison, Stephan, Doreen Massey, Keith Richards, Francis J Magilligan, Barbara Bender, Stephan Harrison, Doreen Massey, et al. 2004. "Thinking Across the Divide: Perspectives on the Conversations Between Physical and Human Geography." *Area* 36 (4): 435–42.

Lave, Rebecca, et al. 2014. "Intervention: Critical Physical Geography," *The Canadian Geographer* 58, 1: 1–10.

### **October 28<sup>th</sup> – GIS and Spatial Science**

Goodchild, Michael F. 1992. "Geographical Information Science." *International Journal of Geographical Information Systems* 6 (1): 31–45.



Openshaw, Stan. 1991. "Commentary: A View on the GIS crisis in Geography, or, Using GIS to Humpty-Dumpty Back Together Again." *Environment and Planning A* 23, 621-28.

Smith, Neil. 1992. "History and Philosophy of Geography: Real Wars, Theory Wars." *Progress in Human Geography* 16 (2): 257-71.

Schuurman, Nadine. 2000. "Trouble in the Heartland: GIS and Its Critics in the 1990s." *Progress in Human Geography* 24, 569-90.

Anne Knowles, ed. 2008. *Placing History: How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS Are Changing Historical Scholarship*. Esri Press.

- Richard White, "Foreword"
- Anne Knowles, "GIS and History"

Robinson, Jonnell A, Daniel Block, and Amanda Rees. 2017. "Community Geography: Addressing Barriers in Public Participation GIS." *The Cartographic Journal* 54 (1): 5-13.

**November 4<sup>th</sup> – Environment-Society Geography II (1980s-2000s):  
Political Ecology, Environmental Historical Geography, Animal Geography,  
and Guns, Germs, and Steel**

Robbins, Paul. 2011. *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Colten, Craig E, and Lary M Dilsaver, eds. 1992. *The American Environment: Interpretations of Past Geographies*. Latham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

- Preface
- Historical Geography of the Environment: A Preliminary Literature Review

Kates, Robert W., B. L. Turner II, and William Clark. 1990. "The Great Transformation." In *The Earth as Transformed by Human Action: Global and Regional Changes in the Biosphere Over the Past 300 Years*, edited by B L Turner II, William C. Clark, Robert W. Kates, Jessica T. Mathews, John F. Richards, and William B. Meyer, 1-17. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Wolch, Jennifer R, Kathleen West, and Thomas E Gaines. 1995. "Transpecies Urban Theory." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 13: 735-60.

Diamond, Jared. 1997. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 9-32, 68-81, 85-92 (esp. p. 87).

Evenen, Matthew. 2006. "Twenty-First Century Magic." *Journal of Historical Geography* 32: 864-70.

**November 11<sup>th</sup> – Environment-Society Geography III (2000s-present):  
Environmental Historical Geography, First-World Political Ecology,  
Neoliberal Environmental Governance, and Populism-Authoritarianism &  
the Environment**

Wynn, G., C. Colten, R. M. Wilson, M. V. Melosi, M. Fiege, and D. K. Davis. 2014. “Reflections on the American Environment.” *Journal of Historical Geography* 43.

- Read p. 1-2, 5-17.

McCarthy, James. 2002. “First World Political Ecology: Lessons from the Wise Use Movement.” *Environment and Planning A* 34: 1281–1302.

Schroeder, Richard. 2005. “Debating the Place of Political Ecology in the First World.” *Environment and Planning C-Government and Policy* 37 (6): 1045–48.

Heynen, Nik, James McCarthy, Scott Prudham, and Paul Robbins. 2007. “Introduction: False Promises.” In *Neoliberal Environments: False Promises and Unnatural Consequences*, edited by Nik Heynen, James McCarthy, Scott Prudham, and Paul Robbins, 1–22. New York: Routledge.

Bakker, Karen. 2010. “The Limits of ‘Neoliberal Natures’: Debating Green Neoliberalism.” *Progress in Human Geography* 34 (6): 715–35.

McCarthy, James. 2019. “Authoritarianism, Populism, and the Environment: Comparative Experiences, Insights, and Perspectives.” *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 109 (2): 301–13.

Wilson, Robert M. 2019. “Authoritarian Environmental Governance: Insights from the Past Century.” *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 109 (2): 314–23.

**November 18<sup>th</sup> – Life Sciences and Human Geography | “Grievance Studies,”  
Critical Geography, and Social Theory**

Life Sciences and Human Geography

Castree, Noel. 2009. “Charles Darwin and the Geographers.” *Environment and Planning A* 41: 2293–98.

Plomin, Robert. 2018. *Blueprint: How DNA Makes Us Who We Are*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

- Prologue, 1 – Disentangling nature and nurture, 2 – How do we know DNA makes us who we are?, 3 – Nature of nurture.

“Grievance Studies,” Critical Geography, and Social Theory

Schuessler, Jennifer. 2018. “Hoaxers Slip Breastaurants and Dog-Park Sex into Journals.” *New York Times*, Oct. 4

Wilson, Helen. 2018. "Retracted Article: Human Reactions to Rape Culture and Queer Performativity at Urban Dog Parks in Portland, Oregon." *Gender, Place & Culture*.

Christensen, Joel P., and Matthew A. Sears. 2018. "The Overlooked Messages of the Sokal-Squared Hoax." *Inside Higher Ed*, Oct. 30.

Mouk, Yascha. 2018. "What an Audacious Hoax Reveals About Academia." *The Atlantic*, Oct. 5.

Chronicle Forum. 2018. "What the 'Grievance Studies' Hoax Means." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Oct. 9.

**You need to complete the remaining two reading analyses by the Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> class.**

**November 24<sup>th</sup> – No Class. Thanksgiving Break.**

**\*\* No class after Thanksgiving Break. Finish final papers. \*\***

**\*\* Final Papers Due Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> \*\***

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### **Response Questions**

The following questions are provided to help you analyze and discuss the course readings. However, you are not required to use these questions. Feel free to raise your own questions and formulate your own arguments about the material.

Whether you answer the questions I provided or not, I expect you to engage closely with the readings quoting and citing the authors we read to bolster your claims.

#### Forging of a Discipline and Environmental Determinism,

How did evolutionary ideas affect the development of professional, academic geography in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries?

#### Regional Geography

The conflicts over regional geography and spatial science hinged, in part, on idiographic and nomothetic approaches to research. What do those terms mean? Why does this matter? Do you think these tensions persist in geography, and perhaps, in the academy in general?

#### Spatial Science and the Quantitative Revolution

Schaffer-Hartshorne debate, or more broadly the debate over regional geography and quantitative geography/spatial science, might seem like ancient history. But what was at stake in this dispute? Why might the key points of disagreement still matter today?

#### Environment-Society Geography I (1950s-1970s)

How did geographers' engagement with environment and society during the 1950s-1970s differ from the way geographers such as Ellen Semple and Ellsworth Huntington saw the relationship between the two in the 1910s and 1920s?

### Landscape, Cultural-Historical Geography, Humanistic Geography, and GeoHumanities

How did humanistic geography differ from 1960s and 1970s-era spatial science and quantitative geography? Why were humanistic geographers so critical of those approaches in geography?

### Radical/Marxist Geography | Sexual Harassment and Sexism in Geography

What factors contributed to the rise of radical geography? And relatedly, how was radical geography a product of the New Left?

Should we cite and discuss the work of geographers who are/were sexual harassers or sexists?

### Feminist Geography

How did Judith Butler's ideas about performativity and/or ideas about intersectionality affect and challenge feminist geography?

### Postmodernism and Social Constructivism | Critical Geography

What were the points of intersection and difference between postmodernism and feminism? Or, to be more specific, between postmodern geographers and feminist geographers?

### Physical Geography

Given geography's history, how could it contribute to Earth System Science and/or Sustainability Science? Should geographers be part of ESS or SS? What obstacles might make that integration difficult?

Is critical physical geography really something new? If so, what makes it new? What makes it critical?

### GIS

Is Geographic Information Science just spatial science 2.0?

There were fierce debates between GIS advocates and human geographers in general and critical geographers in particular during the 1990s. That has subsided since the early 2000s. Why is the situation calmer now?

### Environment-Society II (1980s-early 2000s)

Discuss the similarities and differences between two strands of environment-society geography from the 1980s-early 2000s: political ecology, environmental historical geography, animal geography, and Diamond's approach in *Guns, Germs, and Steel*.

Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel* is the most widely read environment-society book of the past thirty years. Yet many geographers loathe his work. Why do you think this is? Matthew Evenden thinks geographers are mistaken for not engaging with Diamond's work, and more importantly, for not reflecting on why his books are so popular and why most geographers struggle to find a non-academic audience for their work. Do you agree? Why or why not?

### Environment-Society Geography III (early 2000s-present)

What do geographers mean by the neoliberalization of nature and why do they—for the most part—see it as pernicious?

### Life Sciences and Human Geography | “Grievance Studies,” Critical Geography, Social Theory

Since the 1930s, human geography has largely divorced itself from the life sciences. Also, most human geographers, certainly critical geographers, see human behaviors and actions as culturally/socially constructed. But as Robert Plomin shows in *Blueprint*, fifty years of behavioral genetics research indicate that all aspects of human behavior, including personality and cognitive ability, are profoundly influenced by DNA.

- How should geographers respond to these insights? *Should* they respond to the findings of behavioral genetics? If the behavioral genetics are correct, do their findings challenge some bedrock assumptions in human geography?

Was the “Grievance Studies” hoax a valid expose of weak standards and poor scholarship in parts of the academy; a vicious attack on race, gender, queer, and fatness studies; or something in between? In your response, cite and discuss some of the assigned readings. You can find additional commentary about the hoax online.

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### Stay Safe Pledge

<https://provost.syr.edu/the-stay-safe-pledge-guidance-for-faculty-tas-and-instructional-staff/>

Syracuse University’s Stay Safe Pledge reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on the well-being of our community members. This pledge defines norms for behavior that will promote community health and wellbeing. Classroom expectations include the following: wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times, maintaining a distance of six feet from others, and staying away from class if you feel unwell. Students who do not follow these norms will not be allowed to continue in face-to-face classes; repeated violations will be treated as violations of the Code of Student Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

### Faith Tradition Services

Syracuse University does not set aside days for any religious holiday. Students must notify instructors by the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes and by the submission deadline for flexibly formatted classes when they will be observing their religious holiday(s). Please remind students in class of their obligations to do so. Students will have access to an online notification form through MySlice for two weeks beginning on the first day of class.

### Disability Syllabus Statement

Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. There may be aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion and full participation in this course. I invite any student to contact me to discuss strategies and/or accommodations (academic adjustments) that may be essential to your success and to collaborate with the Center for Disability Resources (CDR) in this process.

### Academic Integrity

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. Syracuse University students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice.