

Course Syllabus

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Summary

Course Title	Cultural Geography
Course No.	GEOG 16110
CRN	22604
Start/End Dates	January 26, 2021 - May 10, 2021
Term/Module	Spring 2021

Delivery Method	Number of Face-to-Face Meetings
Online	0

Course Description

Official Description: This course focuses upon the varied and changing cultural environments of the world. Through a synthesis of data from many disciplines (i.e., anthropology, ecology, earth sciences, history, etc.), major cultural differences and areal patterns are identified and analyzed.

Culture is what we humans do. Culture is material stuff (what you wear), social ideas (what you believe), everyday practices (your habits, how you get around), emotional responses (your use of emojis on Instagram), and much more! Consider that all cultural activities take place, they originate, occur, and generate effects somewhere. Geography is fundamentally concerned with the question of place and the relationships between people and environments. Consider the ways classrooms, bedrooms, and boardrooms each connote different types of contexts (geographies: spaces, places, areas) that inspire different types of culture (what humans do). Geographers study the way places are made through this intersection of context and culture.

Cultural geographers bring a place-based focus to the study of all kinds of human activity by considering, most basically, where does an activity occur and why? Or put differently, what is happening where? With what effects? A geographic approach reveals the complex ways geographical context influences culture (what people do), and in turn, what people do (e.g. drive car) shapes place (e.g. roads are built, emissions are generated, car culture takes shape, etc.). As people and places become ever more interconnected, there is an imperative to understand how our everyday lives affect - and are affected by - activities elsewhere.

In exploring why place matters, we will develop the capacity to think geographically: to investigate the relationship between people and place, from local to global scales.

Instructor

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Name	Jen Kitson
Email	kitson@rowan.edu
Phone	(856) 256-4817
Virtual Office Hours	Post questions and comments for the instructor to the Office Hours board (in Discussions Area). The instructor will respond within approximately 48 hours. For faster or more private correspondence, use email or phone.

Objectives

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Cultural Geography Course Objectives:

- **(1) A Sustainable World:** Students can communicate their understanding of sustainability through the geographic perspective in terms of social, economic and environmental contexts.
- **(2) The World in Spatial Terms:** Students can use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to describe connections between local and global communities and use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.
- **(3) Globalization:** Students can use geographic thinking to explain the costs and benefits of globalization and how their lives are part of a globalized society.
- **(4) Geographic Context:** Students will be able to apply geography to interpret the past, present and plan for the future within a cross-cultural context.
- **(5) Global Thinking:** Students will be able to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface to understand local/global connections for cultural, political, economic and environmental issues.
- **(6) The Geography of Human Culture:** Students can express their knowledge and understanding of the cultural characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations including the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface.

Rowan Core (General Education)

All first-year, non-transfer students who entered Rowan on or after Fall 2018 must complete the new general education requirements, known as Rowan Core. (Students who arrived before Fall 2018, and all new transfer students, are still following the existing general education requirements.) Students in Rowan Core must complete course requirements in six literacies: **Artistic, Communicative, Global, Humanistic, Quantitative** and **Scientific**.

Cultural Geography is a course that satisfies *global literacy*. All students in this course will be assessed on the following *Rowan Core Outcomes* for this literacy:

- **Core Outcome #2:** Students can express their knowledge and understanding of another culture.
- **Core Outcome #4:** Students can communicate their understanding of sustainability in social, cultural, ecological and/or economic milieus, both locally and globally.
- **Core Outcome #6:** Students can explain the costs and benefits of globalization

For details on the new Rowan Core requirements, please consult your advisor or the Undergraduate Catalog (<https://sites.rowan.edu/catalogs/>).

Prerequisites

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- None

Materials and Texts

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- Anderson, Jon. 2015 (2nd edition). *Understanding Cultural Geography: Places and Traces*. New York: Routledge. e-Book access to the 2nd edition is available through Rowan's Campbell Libraries (click on the URL listed below and enter in your Rowan credentials).
<https://search-ebscohost-com.ezproxy.rowan.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=970108&site=ehost-live>
- Copies of each assigned book chapter are also provided in PDF format (located in Canvas) along with any additional readings that are assigned outside of the textbook.

Schedule

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The following schedule is tentative and may be changed with prior notification from the instructor.

Weeks	Start Date	Readings, Activities & Assignments
1 & 2	01/26/21	Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing Cultural Geography • Knowing (Your) Place Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 • Chapter 4 Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 01 • Lecture 02 Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DQ 1 • DQ 2 Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 1 • Assignment 2 Quizzes/Exams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 1 • Quiz 2
3 & 4	02/09/21	Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Place of Race and Ethnicity

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place and the Body <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10 Chapter 13 <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 03 Lecture 04 <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Race the Power of An Illusion: V3 The House We Live In https://rowan.kanopy.com/video/race-power-illusion-0 (58 min) <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DQ 3 DQ 4 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment 3 Assignment 4 <p>Quizzes/Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 3 Quiz 4
5 & 6	2/23/21	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Global Sense of Place Place and Mobility <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Global Sense of Place (Doreen Massey) Chapter 8 <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 05 Lecture 06 <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Danger of a Single Story (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie) www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DQ 5 DQ 6 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment 5 Assignment 6 <p>Quizzes/Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 5

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 6
7 & 8	03/09/21	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place and Capitalism Globalization, Past and Present <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7 Globalization Overview Handout (Film Guide) <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 07 Lecture 08 <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The End of Poverty https://rowan.kanopy.com/video/end-poverty (106 min) <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DQ 7 DQ 8 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment 7 Assignment 8 <p>Quizzes/Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 7 Quiz 8
9 & 10	03/23/21	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for the Midterm Exam <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midterm Exam - Part 1: Study Guide <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DQ 9 DQ 10 <p>Quizzes/Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midterm Exam (Parts 1 & 2)
11 & 12	04/06/21	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place and Nature Place and Climate <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 9 Online Article: Can Celebrities and Prime Time TV Make Americans Care About Climate Change? (Kate Sheppart, Huffington Post, 2014) www.huffpost.com/entry/years-of-living-dangerously-showtime_n_5113811 <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 9

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 10 <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years of Living Dangerously (Season 1, Episode 1) www.youtube.com/watch?v=brvhCnYvxQQ (58 min) <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DQ 11 DQ 12 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment 9 Assignment 10 <p>Quizzes/Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 9 Quiz 10
13 & 14	04/20/21	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography of Consumption & Sustainable Development Sustainable Wellbeing (Happy Planet) <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Article: Why We're Sometimes Kind Without Reason (Charles Montgomery) www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2013/11/why-were-sometimes-kind-without-reason/281556/?single_page=true <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 11 Lecture 12 <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't Panic - The Facts About Population (Hans Rosling) www.youtube.com/watch?v=eA5BM7CE5-8 (59 min) How Much Nature Do We Have? How Much Do We Use? (Mathis Wackernagel) www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M29BY86bP4 (16 min) The Happy Planet Index, (Nic Marks) www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1o3FS0awtk (17 min) <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DQ 13 DQ 14 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment 11 Assignment 12 <p>Quizzes/Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 11 Quiz 12
15	05/04/21	<p>Topics:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for the Final Exam <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Guide <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DQ 15 <p>Quizzes/Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam
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Assignment Outline

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Assignments

There will be 12 assignments worth 25% of your total grade in this course. These assignments are designed for you to apply concepts introduced in the weekly reading, lecture, and/or video through doing cultural geography using digital research and fieldwork in your own community. Detailed information is provided in the week in which each assignment is administered. Assignments must be submitted by their posted due date. Your lowest assignment score will be dropped.

Discussion Questions

There will be 15 discussions worth 20% of your total grade in this course. Detailed information is provided and can be found in the Weekly Overviews for the week in which each specific discussion is administered. Discussion Questions must be submitted by their posted due date. Your lowest assignment score will be dropped.

Quizzes and Exams

There will be 12 quizzes worth 25% of your total grade and 2 exams worth 30% of your total grade in this course. Detailed information is provided and can be found in the Weekly Overviews for the week in which each specific quiz/exam is administered. Quizzes and Exams must be submitted by their posted due dates. Your lowest assignment score will be dropped.

During all quizzes and examinations, students are permitted to use the following resources:

- Textbook(s) by specific title
- Handwritten or typed notes
- Notes on your computer
- Internet access or web sites of any kind other than the Canvas LMS system
- **No** use of mobile phones or other devices other than the device on which you will take the quiz/exam

Note: You cannot pause or stop the timer for the exam in the LMS once you start—even if you visit another page in the course or logout and close your browser. Once you click on **Take the Quiz**, the exam's timer is activated for the time specified above. Students must complete and submit the exam in a single sitting and within the allotted time once they click on, **Take the Quiz**. If your browser quits unexpectedly while taking an exam, you can resume the exam by clicking on the title of the exam in your course and clicking on **Resume the Quiz**. **Note:** The exam's timer will continue counting down even when your browser quits unexpectedly.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Each student is expected to work on this **individually** and within the confines of the University Academic Honesty Policy (see <http://www.rowanonline.com> for University policies and details).

Grading

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Late Work Policy

Please Note: Any work submitted after the due date will not be graded and will receive a score of zero. There will be **no exceptions** to this policy except in extenuating and/or documented circumstances. If a major life event of any kind is impacting your schoolwork beyond one (1) week, or you are having difficulty focusing and completing coursework, then such instances need to be communicated to the [Office of Student Life/Dean of Students](#) who will then notify your instructor if accommodations are warranted and need to be made. Their office is equipped to assist students undergoing major life events and can help during those difficult times. To request a meeting with the Vice President for Student Life & Dean of Students, email Martha Aderinto at williamsm@rowan.edu or call 856.256.4283.

Final Grade Breakdown

Grading Criteria/Assignment	Points/Percentage
2 Exams	30%
12 Quizzes	25%
12 Assignments	25%
15 Discussion Questions	20%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

A	93 and Up	C	74 – 76
A-	90 – 92	C-	70 – 73
B+	87 – 89	D+	67 – 69
B	84 – 86	D	64 – 66
B-	80 – 83	D-	60 – 63
C+	77 - 79	F	59 and Below

Rowan Online Standard Policies (addendum)

The current version of Rowan Online Standard Policies, which are an addendum to this syllabus, are found in the [Rowan Online Standard Policies Document](#).

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