

Key Texts
Seminar On Social Theory in Geography
Mitch Rose

Course Description

We learn the history of geographic thought as a series of irruptions or epiphanies that suddenly challenge the discipline, forcing it to consider new questions made relevant through new ways of framing geographic events or phenomena. Yet, these episodes do not emerge from a vacuum. Indeed, they are often indicative of key philosophical and theoretical developments circulating elsewhere and specific socio-political contexts that make those developments relevant to the discipline. While Livington's book *The Geographical Tradition* provides a fascinating survey of some of the socio-political contexts that precipitated disciplinary shifts, this course looks at some of the theoretical developments that founded those new disciplinary trajectories. The aim of the course is to do two things: first it grounds students in some of the key works in social theory over the last fifty years. Second, it links those key texts to specific theoretical developments in the field. Thus, it explores the influence of Foucault on the work of Chris Philo and Felix Driver, The influence of Heidegger on Yi-Fu Tuan and Paul Cloke and the influence of the Cultural Studies movement on 'new' cultural geography. By the end of the course students should be familiar with a number of key texts in social theory as well as understand the ongoing influence those texts have had on Geography.

Learning Outcomes

- A familiarity with a number of key texts in modern social theory
- An understanding of how those texts have influenced the discipline
- The capacity to critically reflect on the relationship between social theory and geography

Learning Format

This module is a 20 week year-long module that covers an extensive range of social theory and geographic thought. The format is seminar and discussion driven. As a general rule, I expect students to bring to the module an ethic of patience and generosity. By this I mean the following:

An ethic of patience means an expectation that students will grapple with texts in a diligent and intentional manner. Many of the texts we encounter in theoretical modules will be unfamiliar, they will use difficult and arcane language and they will be describing concepts that are necessarily abstract. The learning format is designed to work through difficult texts *as a group* so as to try and understand their meaning collectively. Many of the authors listed are ones I have read and re-read several times and still find ambiguous, murky and strange. The key is not to be intimidated by them but to engage them as a group so as to try and get a better sense of their meaning and intention.

An ethic of generosity means a willingness to be generous to the text, that is, a willingness to read *with* the author and their specific project. While each of us as individuals may have already settled on a theoretical position for our work, it is important to not use that position to dismiss or pick-holes at other perspectives and their concomitant forms of research. Engaging generously means endeavoring to understand what an author is trying to achieve even if you personally think that ambition is misguided. Through this process I hope that we will come to appreciate the necessary limitations of all positions and the need to keep an open-mind in our various academic projects and engagements.

During the course of the semester two students will be asked each week to take responsibility for leading the discussion.

Assessment Strategies

2 x 5000 word essays (one each semester) on any topic of social theory or the relationship between social theory and geography

Schedule of Seminars

Week 1: Marxism

- Marx, K. and D. McLellan (2000). Karl Marx : selected writings. Oxford, Oxford University Press: The German Ideology (185-189), Wage Labour and Capital (248-268); Grundrisse (McL 345-365) Capital, Vol. I (McL 415-435, 443-483) Capital, Vol. III (McL 488-492).
- Sayer, D. and B. Dawson (1991). Capitalism and modernity : an excursus on Marx and Weber. London, Routledge Part 1

Week 2: David Harvey

- Harvey, D. (2006). The limits to capital. London, Verso.

Week 3: Cultural Studies

- Berger, J. (1972). Ways of seeing. London, Harmondsworth.
- Hall, S. (1997). Representation: cultural representations and signifying practices. London, Sage.
- Hoggart, R. (1958). The uses of literacy. London, Penguin.
- Mitchell, W. (1994). Power and landscape. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
- Thompson, E. P. (1978). The poverty of theory & other essays. London, Merlin Press: 'The poverty of theory.'
- Williams, R. (2005). Culture and materialism : selected essays. London, Verso. 'Base and superstructure in Marxist cultural theory.'

Week 4: New Cultural Geography

- Cosgrove, D. (1984). Social formation and symbolic landscapes. London, Croom Helm. Chapter 1
- Daniels, S. (1989). Marxism, culture and the duplicity of landscape. New models in geography: the political economy perspective. R. Peet and N. Thrift.
- Duncan, J. and N. Duncan (1988). "(Re)reading the landscape." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 6: 117-126.
- Jackson, P. (1989). Maps of meaning: an introduction to cultural geography. London, Routledge. Chapters 1 and 2
- Mitchell, D. (1995). "The end of public space? People's Park, definitions of the public and democracy." Annals of the Association of American Geographers 35(1): 108-133.

Week 5: Post-colonialism

- Chakrabarty, D. (1997). Postcoloniality and artifact of history: who speaks for "Indian" pasts? The Subaltern Studies Reader: 1986-1995. R. Guha. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press: 263-294.
- Moore-Gilbert, B. J. (1997). Postcolonial theory : contexts, practices, politics. London, Verso. Chapter 1
- Said, E. W. (1979). Orientalism. New York, Vintage Books. Chapter 1
- Stoler, A. L. (1995). Race and the education of desire : Foucault's History of sexuality, and the colonial order of things. Durham, N.C. ; London, Duke University Press. Chapters 1 and 2

Week 6: Imperial Geographies

- Driver, F. (2001). Geography militant : cultures of exploration and empire. Oxford, Blackwell Publishers.
- Duncan, J. S. and D. Gregory (1999). Writes of passage : reading travel writing. New York, Routledge.
- Gregory, D. (1995). "Between the book and the lamp: imaginative geographies of Egypt, 1849-50." Transactions for the Institute for British Geographers 20: 29-57.

Week 7: Henri Lefebvre

- Lefebvre, H. (1991). The production of space. Oxford, Blackwell.

Week 8: Geography and trialectics

- Shields, R. (1991). Places on the margin : alternatives geographies of modernity. London, Routledge.
- Shields, R. (1999). Lefebvre, love and struggle : spatial dialectics. London, Routledge.
- Soja, E. (1988). Postmodern geographies: the reassertion of space in critical social theory. London, Verso. Introduction

Week 9: Gender

- Alcoff, L. and E. Mendieta (2003). Identities : race, class, gender and nationality. Oxford, Blackwell.
- Hartsock, N. C. M. (1985). Money, sex, and power : toward a feminist historical materialism. Boston, Northeastern University Press.
- Mulvey, L. (1989). Visual and other pleasures. Basingstoke, Macmillan.

Week 10: Feminist Geography

- McDowell, L. (1983). "Toward an understanding of the gender division of urban space." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **1**: 59-72.
- Nash, C. (1994). Remapping the body/land: new cartographies of identity, gender, and landscape in Ireland. Writing Women and Space: colonial and post-colonial geographies. A. Blunt and G. Rose. New York, Guilford: 225-250.
- Nash, C. (1996). "Reclaiming vision: looking at landscape and the body." Gender, Place and Culture **3**: 149-169.
- Rose, G. (1993). Feminism and geography: the limits of geographical knowledge. Minneapolis, Minnesota Press.
- Valentine, G. (1993). "(Hetero)sexing space: lesbian perceptions and experiences of everyday spaces." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **11**: 395-413.

Week 11: Foucault

- Foucault, M. (1972). Power/knowledge: selected interviews and other writings 1972-1977. New York, Pantheon Books.
- Foucault, M. (1995). Discipline and punish : the birth of the prison. New York, Vintage.

Week 12: Disciplining, gazing and the body

- Driver, F. (1985). "Power space and the body: a critical assessment of Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **3**: 425-446.
- Driver, F. (1997). Bodies in space: Foucault's account of disciplinary power. Reading Human Geography: The Poetics and Politics of Inquiry T. Barnes and D. Gregory. Santa Cruz, Arnold: 279-289.
- Matless, D. (1992). "An occasion for geography: landscape, representation, and Foucault's corpus." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **10**(1): 41-56.
- Matless, D. (2000). "Action and noise over a hundred years: the making of a nature region." Body and Society **6**(3-4): 141-165.
- Philo, C. (1992). "Foucault's geography " Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **10**(2): 137-161.

Week 13: Phenomenology

- Heidegger, M. (1971). Building dwelling thinking. Poetry, language, thought. New York, Harper and Row: 143-162.
- Dreyfus, H. L. (1990). Being-in-the-world : a commentary on Heidegger's being and time, division I. Cambridge, MIT Press.

Week 14: Humanism and Post-phenomenological geography

- Buttner, A. (1976). "Grasping the dynamism of the lifeworld." Annals of the Association of American Geographers **66**(2): 277-292.
- Cloke, P. and O. Jones (2001). "Dwelling, place, and landscape: an orchard in Somerset." Environment and Planning A **33**(4): 649-666.
- Rose, M. (2006). "Gathering dreams of presence: a project for the cultural landscape." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **24**(4): 537-554.
- Rose, M. and J. Wylie (2006). "Animating landscape." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **24**(4): 475-479.
- Tuan, Y.-F. (1971). "Humanistic geography." Annals of the Association of American Geographers **66**: 266-76.
- Wylie, J. (2006). "Depths and folds: on landscape and the gazing subject." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **24**(4): 519-535.

Week 15: Derrida

- Derrida, J. (1982). Margins of philosophy. Chicago, University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1 and 10
- Derrida, J. (1988). Limited Inc. Evanston, Northwestern University Press.

Week 16: Deconstructive geographies

- Barnett, C. (1999). "Deconstructing context: exposing Derrida." Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers **24**: 277-293.
- Barnett, C. (2005). "Life after Derrida." Antipode **37**: 239-241.
- Dixon, D. and J. P. Jones (1996). "For a *supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* scientific geography." Annals of the Association of American Geographers **86**(4): 767-79.
- Gibson-Graham, J. K. (1996). The end of capitalism (as we knew it): a feminist critique of political economy. Cambridge, Blackwell.

Week 17: Deleuze

- Deleuze, G. (1983). Nietzsche and philosophy. New York, Columbia University Press. Chapters 1-3
- Deleuze, G. and F. Guattari (1987). A thousand plateaus: capitalism and schizophrenia. London, Athlone.
- Massumi, B. (1992). A user's guide to Capitalism and Schizophrenia. Cambridge, MIT Press.

Week 18: Non-Representational Theory

- Dewsbury, J. D. (2000). "Performativity and the event: enacting a philosophy of difference." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **18**: 473-496.
- Dewsbury, J. D., P. Harrison, et al. (2002). "Enacting geographies: editorial introduction." Geoforum **33**(4): 437-440.
- Harrison, P. (2000). "Making sense: embodiment and the sensibilities of the everyday." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **18**: 497-517.
- Rose, M. (2002). "Seductions of resistance: power, politics and a performative style of systems." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **20**(4) pp 383-400.
- Thrift, N. (1999). Steps to an ecology of place. Human Geography Today. D. Massey, Allen and Sarre. Cambridge, Polity Press: 295-321.
- Thrift, N. and J.-D. Dewsbury (2000). "Dead geographies - and how to make them live." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **18**: 411-432.

Week 19: Latour

- Latour, B. (1987). Science in action: how to follow scientists and engineers through society. Cambridge, Harvard University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5
- Latour, B. (1988). The pasteurization of France. Cambridge, Harvard University Press. Chapter 1

Week 20: Actory Network Theory in Geography

- Bingham, N. (2006). "Bees, butterflies and bacteria: biotechnology and the politics of nonhuman friendship." Environment and Planning A **38**: 483-498.
- Bingham, N. and N. Thrift (2000). New directions for travellers: on Michel Serres and Bruno Latour. Thinking Space. M. Crang and N. Thrift. London, Routledge: 280-301.
- Hinchliffe, S. (2001). "Indeterminacy in decisions: science, policy and politics in the BSE crises." Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers **26**(2): 182-204.
- Whatmore, S. (2002). Hybrid Geographies: Natures Cultures Spaces. London, Sage.