

Cultural Geography

Academic Year: (2021 / 2022)

Review date: 04-06-2021

Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: History, Geography and Art Department

Coordinating teacher: GARCIA ALVAREZ, ANTONIO JACOBO

Type: Basic Core ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 1 Semester : 2

Branch of knowledge: Arts and Humanities

OBJECTIVES

CB2. Students are to professionally apply the acquired knowledge to their work and case-studies and get to develop skills regarding both the elaboration and advancement of sounding arguments and the resolution of problems within the field.

CB3. Students are to gather and interpret relevant data within their field as to be able to make statements, interpret and reflect on cultural and social issues having a scientific and ethic component.

CB4. Students are to both transmit information and ideas and tackle issues, as well as put forward solutions communicating them to both specialized and wider audiences.

CG1. Students are to know different meanings of the concept of culture and major approaches and trends developed within the Human and Social Sciences.

CE2. Students are to understand the differences among these diverse approaches in Anthropology, Philosophy, Sociology, History and Geography to the study of culture and cultural phenomena.

RA1. Students are to acquire advanced knowledge and understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects, along with working methods of the issues addressed in different fields within Cultural Studies

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

This subject is conceived as an introduction to Cultural Geography. The aim of the course is to provide a wide overview of the history and recent transformations within the field as to further an examination of contemporary theories and practices in Cultural Geography. The course is aimed at gaining understanding and critiquing the social and political processes giving rise to cultural practices as they manifested themselves in space and spatial contexts.

The course is divided into four major sections. In the first one, the main objects and theoretical-methodological approaches of this sub-discipline will be analyzed, with special emphasis on comparing the classical outlook to the recent conceptual evolution and trends, as well as on the close link of these trends with Cultural Studies. The three remaining sections shall focus on some of the core topics and issues of Cultural Geography, namely the study of nature and landscape; the interactions between culture, territory and identity in the context of globalization; and the spatial production of differences along the lines of class, race and gender.

1. THE OBJECTS OF CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY.

- Cultural Geography as a sub-field of Human Geography.
- Main objects, topics and approaches in classical Cultural Geography.
- Postmodern transformations: the New Cultural Geography and its relationship with Cultural Studies.
- Contemporary concerns: the study of geographical imaginations; maps as cultural objects; the production of space and its semiotics.

2. NATURE, LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

- Visions of nature, and nature-society relations in Western thought.
- Geographical approaches to the cultural study of the landscape.
- Cultural representations of landscape (from literature to cinema).
- Cultural landscapes (I): case studies.

3. CULTURE, TERRITORY AND IDENTITY IN A GLOBAL WORLD.

- Geographical experience: place, belonging and meaning.
- Territory and nation-state: cultural-cum-political identities and territorial ideologies.
- Globalization and deterritorialization: placelessness and non-places.
- Cultural landscapes (II): case studies.

4. SPACE, DIFFERENCE AND POWER. GEOGRAPHIES OF IN /EXCLUSION.

- The spatial construction of differences (sex, gender, race, etc.).
- A cultural politics of space: producing space, contesting power.
- The right to the city and spatial justice.
- Cultural landscapes (III): case studies.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

The course combines theoretical and practical sessions. Theoretical sessions present the basic contents of the syllabus and attempt to provide students with conceptual and methodological foundations of cultural-cum-spatial analysis. Theoretical sessions will be developed through classroom lectures by the teacher, while practical sessions will be focused on discussion activities, based on the reading and critical analysis of selected texts, as well as on the analysis of specific cultural issues in their spatial manifestations.

All in all, students shall prepare and hand in three types of assignments for the continuous assessment:

- preparing a discussion activity for its oral exposition, based on the reading and critical analysis of texts;
- an individual critical summary on one of the texts discussed in class;
- and a short essay (group project) providing an analysis on a specific cultural landscape.

Tutorials will be carried out through the procedures established by the university.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

SYSTEM A (FOR STUDENTS FOLLOWING CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT)

1) CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- 1.1) Student's text presentations and discussions and active participation in class: 20 % of the course final grade.
 - 1.2) Text commentary (individual exercise): 20 % of the course final grade.
 - 1.3) Essay analyzing a specific cultural issue in its spatial manifestations (group exercise): 20% of the course final grade.
- 2) END-OF-TERM EXAM: 40 % of the course final grade. In order to pass the course, one has to pass this exam.

SYSTEM B (FOR STUDENTS NOT FOLLOWING CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT)

If continuous assessment is not followed, the final exam will count 60% of the course final grade, so if the student receives therein a grade equal to or greater than 3,3 points (out of a maximum of 4 points), the subject will be passed.

% end-of-term-examination:	40
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):	60

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- ANDERSON, K., DOMOSH, M., PILE, S., THRIFT, N. (Eds.) Handbook of Cultural Geography, SAGE, 2003
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- BLUNT, A., WILLS, J. Dissident Geographies: An Introduction to Radical Ideas and Practice, Routledge, 2000
- COSGROVE, D. Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape, Wisconsin University Press, [1984] 1998 edition.
- COSGROVE, D. Apollo's Eye. A Cartographic Genealogy of the Earth in Western Imagination, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001
- DANIELS, S., DELYSER, D., ENTRIKING, N. J., RICHARDSON, D. Envisioning Landscapes, Making Worlds. Geography and the Humanities, Routledge.
- DUNCAN, J. S., JOHNSON, N. C., SCHEIN, R. H. (Eds.) A Companion to Cultural Geography, Blackwell, [2004] 2008 edition
- FOUBERG, E. H., MURPHY, A. B., DE BLIJ, H. J. Human Geography. People, Place and Culture, 3rd. Ed., Wiley, 2011

- GLACKEN, C. *Traces on the Rhodian Shore: Nature and Culture in Western Thought from Ancient Times to the End of the Eighteenth Century*, California University Press, 1976
- JACKSON, P. *Maps of Meaning. An Introduction to Cultural Geography*, Taylor & Francis, [1989] 2003 edition
- MITCHELL, D. *Cultural Geography. A Critical Introduction*, Blackwell, 2000
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- SCHAMA, S. *Landscape and Memory*, Vintage, 1996
- SHURMER-SMITH, P. (ed.) *Doing Cultural Geography*, SAGE, 2002
- WULF, A. *The Invention Of Nature. Alexander Von Humboldt's New World*, John Murray Publishers, 2015