

## Cultural Geography

Academic Year: ( 2023 / 2024 )

Review date: 29-01-2024

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

## 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

In the ORDINARY CALL there are two possible assessment systems, depending on whether or not the continuous assessment is followed:

### SYSTEM A (FOR STUDENTS FOLLOWING CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT)

#### 1) CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- 1.1) Text presentations and discussions and active participation in class: 20 % of the course final grade.
- 1.2) Essay analyzing a specific cultural issue in its spatial manifestations (group exercise): 40% 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.

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In the EXTRAORDINARY CALL, the final grade will be calculated in accordance with the stipulations of point 2 of the above-mentioned Regulations on continuous assessment processes in undergraduate studies, approved by the Governing Council of the University in its session of 31 May 2011. In any case, a final exam on the contents of the course must be taken at this extraordinary call.

<b>% end-of-term-examination:</b>	40
<b>% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):</b>	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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- COSGROVE, D. Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape, Wisconsin University Press, [1984] 1998 edition.
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- FOUBERG, E. H, MURPHY, A. B, DE BLIJ, H. J. Human Geography. People, Place and Culture, 3rd. Ed., Wiley, 2011
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- McDOWELL, L. (Ed.) Undoing Place?: A Geographical Reader, Routledge, 1997
- OAKES, T. S., PRICE, P. L. (Eds.) The Cultural Geography Reader, Routledge, 2008

- SCHAMA, S. Landscape and Memory, Vintage, 1996
- SHURMER-SMITH, P. (ed.) Doing Cultural Geography, SAGE, 2002
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