

Spring 2018

GEOG 111
Human Geography of Global Issues: The Fundamentals

Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:20-2:50pm
Class Meeting Location: Art Commons 202

Instructor: I-Chun Catherine Chang
Office Hours: Mondays 6-7pm, Tuesdays 3-4pm, or by appointment
Office Location: Carnegie 104F
Email: ichang@macalester.edu

TA: Hannah Shumway
Office Hours: Wednesdays 7-9pm
Location: Geography Lounge
Email: hshumway@macalester.edu

Course Introduction

Human geography studies the dynamic development of our world. Across sub-disciplines that may focus on cities, politics, economics, cultures, population, or many other subjects, human geographers share some fundamental conceptual tools to understand our world and embrace similar approaches to producing geographic knowledge about it. In this course, we will together explore these epistemological and methodological bases of the discipline. We will start with the histories and various traditions of geography and advance to key geographic concepts such as space, time, place, scale, landscape, system, nature, development, globalization and risk. We will also survey approaches of practicing human geography and consider vital questions like what data to use, which methods to employ, and what analyses to perform. By bringing the “knowing” and the “doing” of human geography together, this course aims to help students appreciate that human geography is not a collection of geographical facts, but an intellectual institution always open to new perspectives and approaches, and constantly evolving with our societies.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Comprehend key concepts of human geography;
- Understand major methodological approaches deployed in human geography research;
- Analyze how human geography as an academic discipline changes over time along with our societies;
- Apply key concepts and major methodological approaches of human geography to examine the places around you;
- Analytically and critically assess the merits and drawbacks of major geographic concepts and methodologies;
- Think geographically and get ready for other geography courses!

Attendance

Attendance is required. This course focuses on student-oriented learning. You will learn through lectures, in-class discussions, workshops and various activities designed to help you understand major concepts of human geography and acquire basic geography research skills. Handouts and supplement materials will be distributed from time to time in class. *If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to catch up with the course materials. The instructor is not responsible for providing handouts for students who have been absent from class.*

Required Readings

The lectures, discussions, workshops and activities will make most sense if each week's readings are completed *before* the relevant lectures and activities. You are responsible for everything covered in lectures, activities and readings. It will be almost impossible to understand the required readings if you leave them to the last minute. This makes it strongly advisable that you not only attend all classes but also stay on top of each week's readings. It is easier to follow lectures, participate in activities and ask questions on an ongoing basis rather than succumbing to last minute anxiety.

There are two required texts for this course:

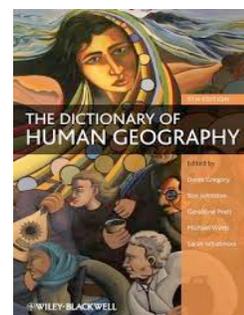
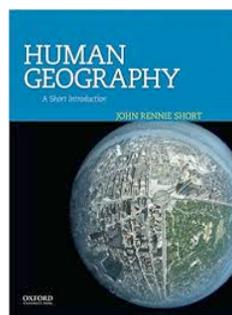
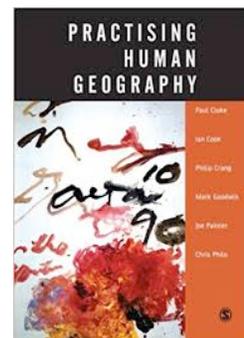
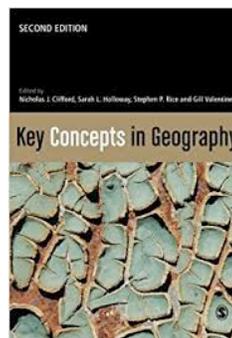
Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. 2014. *Key Concepts in Geography*, Sage.

Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. *Practising Human Geography*. Sage.

And two supplementary books:

Short, J. 2015. *Human Geography: A Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press.

Gregory, D., Johnston, R., Pratt, G., Watts, M. and Whatmore, S. 2009. *The Dictionary of Human Geography*, 5th Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.



Other required readings and supplement materials will be posted on the course Moodle site. You should print out and read each week's readings in advance of their assigned date in the syllabus and bring them with you to class in order to facilitate your full class participation. Unless otherwise stated, audio or video clips used in class will also be available on the course Moodle site.

Producing a Positive Learning Environment

To give students the opportunity to think about human geography in all possible ways, we will have to work together to create a positive learning environment. For this to happen, I expect your cooperation in at least three ways:

- The first expectation is respecting the rights of other students to learn.
- The second is to acknowledge and respect the diversity of participants in this class. Discussion of controversial issues is encouraged. Even if you do not agree with the points of view of others, as citizens of this class we all share a responsibility for respecting all individuals as fair-minded persons. Diversity is a strength in our society at large and here at Macalester College. In this class you will be asked to maintain an open mind to the differences around you, and place positive values on that diversity.
- The third expectation is attendance and participation. You are expected to be present at the beginning of class and stay until the end, and to fully participate in class discussions and activities. You are asked to turn off your cell phone before entering the classroom and not to use electronic devices for activities unrelated to the course.

In return, I promise to be on time, to address your questions and concerns, to give you feedback on your performance, and to return graded materials in a timely manner. You can expect the TA and I reply your emails in 48 hours, and you are encouraged to meet with us and discuss your questions and concerns during our office hours.

Students with special needs

All of us learn in different ways and with varying degrees of success. If you know of any factors in your life that may hinder your abilities to learn up to your potential in this course, please notify me at once. You should also contact the Disability Services of Student Affairs (119 Weyerhaeuser Hall; Phone: 651-696-6220; Email: studentaffairs@macalester.edu), who have more expertise than I do in determining what special steps need to be taken to enable you to participate fully.

The Organization and Expectation of the Course and Student Work

The course comprises two parts. The first part is lectures and discussions on key concepts of human geography; the second part is the practicing human geography workshop, which focuses on how geographers construct geographical knowledge, including methods, methodologies, and the inherited politics of doing geographic research. By bridging these two parts together, we aim to provide you with a holistic understanding of human geography and human geography research.

Reflection papers on key concepts

We will learn eleven key concepts in human geography in this course: space, time, place, scale, social systems, landscape, nature, globalization, development, and risk. You are asked to write two short reflection papers on two concepts of your choice. Each of the reflection papers should not exceed 800 words. It should include a summary of the concept as you perceive it, an example

of how you can apply this concept to understand our society, a critical assessment of the merits and limitation of the concept, and any questions that might have arisen. The last day to turn in your first reflection paper is 02/08, and the last day to turn in your second paper is 03/06. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day.

Practicing human geography workshop reports

We will introduce various methods that human geographers use to construct knowledge, and you will be asked to practice them through four research activities in a small group setting. Details of the research activities will be provided in class. After each of the activities, you and your group-mates are asked to write a report on your findings not exceeding 800 words. Four reports in total are required; they are due a week after the date we do the activity. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day.

Response paper to a research lecture

Throughout the semester, we will have three guest lectures in class and will also provide you information about geography research talks on campus and in the Twin Cities area. You are asked to write a response paper to one of these research talks. The response paper should include a summary of the main points of the talk as you perceive them, comparisons across the different reading materials if supplied, a critical assessment of the merits and clarity of the talk, and any questions that might have arisen. The paper should not exceed 800 words. You can turn in your response paper any time during the semester, but the last day for submission is 04/24. Late assignment will be penalized 10% per day.

Take-home mid-term exam: research proposal

In order to help you apply the geographic concepts and learn how to construct geographic knowledge, you are asked to design a small study about Macalester. Details about and instructions for the proposal writing will be discussed in class. The proposal is due on 03/08, 5pm in Catherine's mailbox.

Research project, presentation and paper

We will first provide you feedback on your research proposal. Based on the content of your research proposal, we will assign you into small groups. Each group will be asked to write a new group research proposal by revising and integrating the individual ones. The group will conduct a study based on the group proposal in the second part of the semester, and report your research progress and findings in your research presentation (on 04/24) and final research paper (due on 04/30, 5pm, in Catherine's mailbox). Details about and instructions for the group proposal writing, presentation and research paper will be discussed in class. Late assignment will be penalized 10% per day.

Academic Honesty

It is necessary to remind everyone that academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Honesty and integrity is expected at all times. Cases of academic dishonesty will be handled according to the College's guidelines. You are responsible for learning about these policies (<http://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/>), so that you can meet the responsibility. By participating in this course, *you agree to submit your assignments in digital form if requested*, enabling the instructor to ensure they are not plagiarized from other materials available on the Internet and elsewhere.

Grading

Students taking the course on an A-F basis will be graded as follows:

- A – achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- B – achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- C – achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- D – achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
- S – achievement that is satisfactory (equivalent to a letter grade of at least C-).
- F – NC, signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit, or (2) is incomplete and with no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an “I”.
- I – Incomplete. A grade of incomplete may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor, if requested by the student, under the following conditions: (1) at least three-quarters of the required work for the course has been completed, (2) unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control (usually restricted to illness or family emergency) preclude completion of the remaining work for the course by the semester deadline, (3) the student is not on strict academic probation. Note that poor planning or having a lot of work to complete at the end of the term are not, in fairness to other students, considered circumstances beyond a student's control.

Grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

A 93-100%	B+ 87-89.9%	C+ 77-79.9%	D+ 67-69.9%	F 0-59%
A- 90-92.9%	B 83-86.9%	C 73-76.9%	D 63-66.9%	
	B- 80-82.9%	C- 70-72.9%	D- 60-62.9%	

Grade Allocation and Deadlines

Participation and attendance	10%	
1 st reflection paper on key concepts	10%	Last day for submission: 02/08
2 nd reflection paper on key concepts	10%	Last day for submission: 03/06
4 workshop reports	20%	1 week after the activity
Take-home midterm: proposal	15%	03/08 5pm in Catherine's mailbox
Response paper to research talk	10%	Last day for submission: 04/24
Research presentation	5%	04/24
Final research paper	20%	04/30 5pm in Catherine's mailbox

Course Outline and Readings

Any suggestions that will enhance the learning are welcome. Please note that the class schedule and readings may be subject to change. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes.

01/18: Course overview

Read this syllabus carefully and plan ahead for your writing assignments!

01/23 & 01/25: The Histories and Traditions of Geography

- Heffernana, M. 2009. History of Geography, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 3-20. (chapter 1)
- Richard, K. 2009. Geography and the Physical Sciences Tradition, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 21-45. (chapter 2)
- Johnston, R. 2009. Geography and the Social Sciences Tradition, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 46-65. (chapter 3)
- Blunt, A. 2009. Geography and the Humanities Tradition, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 66-82. (chapter 4)
- Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. Changing Practices of Human Geography: An Introduction, in *Practising Human Geography*. Sage, pp. 1-34. (chapter 1)

01/30: Key Concepts: Space, Time and Place

- Thrift, N. 2009. Space: the Fundamental Stuff of Geography, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 85-96. (chapter 5)
- Taylor, P. 2009. Time: From Hegemonic Change to Everyday Life, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 140-152. (chapter 8)
- Castree, N. 2009. Place: Connections and Boundaries in an Interdependent World, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 153-172. (chapter 9)

02/01: Practicing Human Geography Workshop: Official and Unofficial Sources of Geographic Data

- Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. Constructing Geographical Data, Official Sources and Non-official Sources, in *Practising Human Geography*. Sage, pp. 35-92. (part I, chapter 2 & 3)

02/06: Key Concepts: Scale and Social Systems

- Herod, A. 2009. Scale: The Local and the Global, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 217-235. (chapter 12)
- Katz, C. 2009. Social Systems: Thinking about Society, Identity, Power and Resistance, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 236-250. (chapter 13)

02/08: Practicing Human Geography Workshop: Imaginative Sources

Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. Imaginative Sources, in *Practising Human Geography*. Sage, pp. 93-122. (chapter 4)
Last day for submission: 1st reflection paper on key concepts

02/13: Key Concepts: Landscape and Nature

Gary, M. 2009. Landscape: The Physical Layer, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 265-285. (chapter 15)
Morin, K. M. 2009. Landscape: Representing and Interpreting, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 286-299. (chapter 16)
Ginn, F. and Demeritt, D. 2009. Nature: A Contested Concept, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 300-311. (chapter 17)
Haines-Young, R. 2009. Nature: an Environmental Perspective, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 312-330. (chapter 18)

02/15: Practicing Human Geography Workshop: Talking to People

Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. Talking to People, in *Practising Human Geography*. Sage, pp. 123-168. (chapter 5)

02/20: Key Concept: Globalization

Faulconbridge, J. R. and Beaverstock, J. V. 2009. Globalization: Interconnected Worlds, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 331-343. (chapter 19)
Clifford, N. J. 2009. Globalization: Science, (Physical) Geography and Environment, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 344-364. (chapter 20)

02/22: Practicing Human Geography Workshop: Observation, Participating and Ethnographies

Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. Observation, Participating and Ethnographies, in *Practising Human Geography*. Sage, pp. 169-204. (chapter 6)

02/27: Key Concept: Development

Wills, K. D. 2009. Development: Critical Approaches in Human Geography, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 365-377. (chapter 21)
Inkpen, R. 2009. Development: Sustainability and Physical Geography, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 378-391. (chapter 22)

03/01: Key Concept: Risk

- French, S. 2009. Risk: Mastering Time and Space, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 392-402. (chapter 23)
- Tobin, G. A and Montz, B. E. 2009. Risk: Geophysical Processes in Natural Hazards, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 405-424. (chapter 24)

03/06 & 03/08: Practicing Human Geography Workshop: Writing a Research Proposal

This is also your midterm take-home exam. You will apply the geographic concepts to design a small study about Macalester, supported by different data sources we have discussed in the class. Details about the proposal will be discussed in class.

Proposal due date & time: 03/08, 5pm in Catherine's mailbox

Last day for submission: 2nd reflection paper on key concepts on 03/06

03/13 & 03/15: Spring Break

03/20 & 03/22: Practicing Human Geography Workshop: Putting Your Proposal into Action

We will work together to revise your proposal into a workable plan! You will work on the research for the rest of the semester. We will discuss the details in class.

03/27 & 03/29: Guest Lecture & Practicing Human Geography Workshop

Guest Lecture& Readings: TBD

Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. Constructing Geographic Interpretations, Shifting and Sorting, Enumerating, in *Practising Human Geography*. Sage, pp. 207-284. (part II, chapter 7&8)

04/03 & 04/05: Guest Lecture & Practicing Human Geography Workshop

Guest Lecture& Readings: TBD

Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. Explaining, Understanding, in *Practising Human Geography*. Sage, pp. 285-335. (chapter 9&10)

04/10 & 04/12: Research Week

Not meeting in class. Catherine is away for the American Association of Geographers' annual meeting.

Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. Representing Human Geographies, in *Practising Human Geography*. Sage, pp. 336-363. (chapter 11)

04/17 & 04/19: Guest Lecture & Practicing Human Geography Workshop: the Politics

Guest Lecture& Readings: TBD

Bell, D. 2009. Relevance: Human Geography, Public Policy and Public Geographies, in Clifford, N., Holloway, S., Rice, S. and Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. Sage, pp. 427-437. (chapter 25)

Cloke, P., Cook, I., Crang, P., Goodwin, M., Painter, J. and Philo, C. 2004. The Politics of Practising Human Geography, in *Practising Human Geography*. Sage, pp. 364-375. (chapter 12)

04/24: Presentation on Research Findings

We will also do peer-feedback for your research after your presentation.
Last day for submission: response paper to research talk

04/26: Concluding the Course

We will also do course evaluation in class.

04/30: Research Paper Due

5pm in Catherine's mailbox.