

Geography 707: Development of Geographic Thought, Fall Semester 2005
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Course Description

“An analytical review of the evolution of geographic thought, in terms of concepts, methodologies and scholars, emphasizing the basic literature through a series of topics.” Well, that’s what the University Bulletin says, and technically speaking, it’s true, if vague. We will read and discuss a generous selection of what might now be called key texts in the recently burgeoning, disciplinarily based, English-language literature exploring the history and philosophy of geographic thought (and, not incidentally, the discipline of geography) since, at least, the Enlightenment. And I note that this temporal designation (correctly) suggests a primary focus upon Western traditions at least, and Anglo-American ones for the most part. The development of geographic thought (evolutionary or otherwise), like all intellectual endeavors, did not occur upon the head of a pin or within an ivory tower. Perhaps the primary lesson of the (post Wright?), (post-Glacken?), (post-Livingstone?) era in disciplinary historiography is that this development *took place* – and that we must explore the imbrication of geographical (ideas, discourses, praxis, controversy, critique, debate, what have you) with the stuff of everyday life in all its scalar permutations and interrelations. This means we will, in our ostensibly geographical peregrinations, bump into a broad range of intellectual, cultural, social, political, and economic concerns of the past 500 years (presumably the *topics* of the Bulletin). We will range from what might be considered core disciplinary concepts (e.g. nature, space, place, region, mappings), to questions and practices of ideology, mercantilism, empire, capitalism, industrialization, and so on.

Requirements

1. You are expected to attend and participate in all seminar meetings. Performance in seminar meetings, reflecting preparation and discussion participation, constitutes 60% of your grade. More specifically:
 - (a) Preparation (30%) includes a close and careful attention to the readings for the week and (for now) a weekly assignment in which you write a one page critical summary of the readings. This can include points that you find unclear or in need of further explication and should include one or two questions/discussion points for the group (which we may or may not use). The weekly assignments are due by 10:00 am on the days of seminar meetings. Either ‘hard copy’ form or e-mail is acceptable. I reserve the right to change these deadlines.
 - (b) Discussion participation (30%) is what it sounds like.
2. You will begin the discussion of one book or reading(s) (from the required readings) during the course of the semester. This will entail presenting the author’s intentions, as well as an overview of the book’s critical reception within and without disciplinary literatures, as well as starting off our conversation. (10%)
3. You will write three (5 pp., double-spaced) essays-as-thought pieces prompted by issues/ideas raised in readings/discussions, which also range beyond a simple summary of ideas already covered. These are successively due by each of the following three deadlines: October 7, November 4, and December 9 (30%)

Readings to be drawn from:

Marie-Noelle Bourget, Christian Licoppe, and H. Otto Sibum, Eds. 2002. *Instruments, Travel and Science* NY: Routledge.

**Felix Driver. 2001. *Geography Militant* Oxford: Blackwell.

Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze, Ed. 1997. *Race and the Enlightenment* Oxford: Blackwell.

Anne Marie Godlewska. 1999. *Geography Unbound* Chicago: U of Chicago Press.

Derek Gregory. 1994. *Geographical Imaginations* Oxford: Blackwell.

**David N. Livingstone. 1992. *The Geographical Tradition* Oxford: Blackwell.

**David N. Livingstone and Charles W. J. Withers, Eds., 1999. *Geography and Enlightenment* Chicago: U of Chicago Press.

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**John Pickles. 2004. *A History of Spaces*. NY: Routledge.

Karen Piper. 2002. *Cartographic Fictions: Maps, Race, and Identity* New Brunswick: Rutgers UP.

**Mary Louise Pratt. 1992. *Imperial Eyes* New York: Routledge.

**Susan Schulten. 2001. *The Geographical Imagination in America, 1880-1950*. Chicago: U of Chicago Press.

****Readings marked with an asterisk are books that you will be expected to own, or have access to (i.e. we will read extensively in them)**

Provisional Schedule:

August 30: Introduction

September 6; No Class

September 13: Livingstone, chapters 1,2,3,4

September 20: Livingstone and Withers, chapters 1,2,4,6

September 27: Livingstone and Withers, chapters 7, 9, 10, 13

October 4: Pratt

October 11: Pratt (continued)

October 18: Driver, chapters 1, 2,7,8,9

October 25: Livingstone, chapters 5, 6, 7

November 1: Rose, chapters 1,4,5,7

November 8: Schulten (selections)

November 15: Pickles (selections)

November 22: Thanksgiving

November 29: TBA

December 6: TBA

Note: It is more likely that the TBA dates will be “slotted” in and thus will change the timing of this schedule.