

Department of Geography
University of Oregon

GEOG 343

Society, Culture, and Place

Spring 2002, T/Th 12-13:20 in MCK 125

Prof. Susan Hardwick

(541) 346-4557; susanh@oregon.uoregon.edu

GTF: Susan E. Hume

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide students from a variety of majors with a broad background on themes of interest to cultural geographers. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to important conceptual and theoretical ways of examining issues and places. Readings, lectures, and discussion topics centered in the case study approach will focus on such topics as migration processes and theories, conceptualization of place and landscape; issues related to place and identity; and 'ways of seeing' place and culture.

The instructional approach used to teach the class is grounded in collaborative learning and teaching. As such, students will be expected to participate in informed discussions that analyze and critique cultural geographic concepts, themes, theories, and perspectives as a basis for more advanced study in cultural and human geography. This course is a prerequisite for a number of 400/500 level geography classes including the *Geography of Religion, Culture, Ethnicity, and Nationalism, Political Geography,* and *Geography of Languages*.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To provide students in geography, anthropology, sociology, and related fields with an understanding of the tradition of scholarly work in cultural geography relating to cultural and social groups and the ways relationships between and among these groups (and players within these groups) are expressed on the landscape.
- To define, demonstrate, deconstruct, and critique various theoretical positions and methodologies used by cultural geographers interested in studying culture, place, identity, and landscape.
- To learn more about how spatial information, methods, and perspectives are useful in studying various topics at a variety of scales ranging from local to global.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students enrolling in this class are expected to participate in class discussions related to assigned readings, define and develop their own research project in cultural geography, write at least a ten page research paper or develop an annotated bibliography on this topic, and present an informal overview of their research findings to the class during the final two weeks of the term (100 pts). There will also be a midterm and final exam in the class, each worth 100 pts. Exams will consist of (1) brief definitions of concepts, themes, and theories; and (2) short essay questions.

REQUIRED READINGS:

A Place in the World? Place, Cultures, and Globalization, Doreen Massey and Pat Jess, eds. (Oxford: The Open University, 1995).