



Geography 391: Geographic Theory and New Media

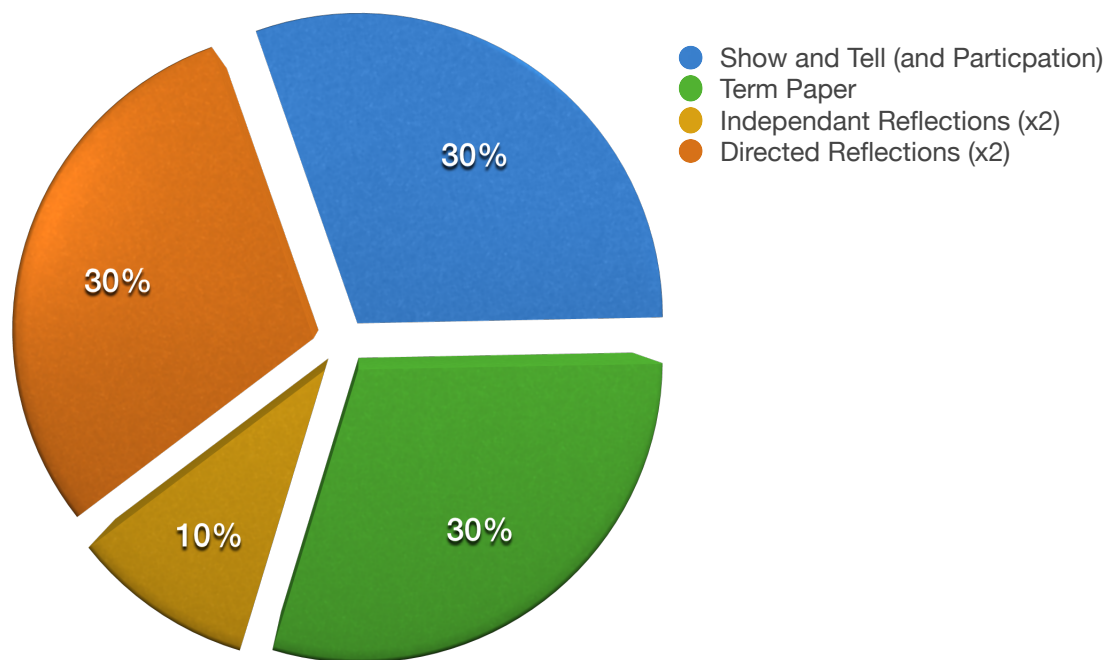
Instructor: Dr. Nicholas Lynch
Office: B316, David Turpin Bldg.
Phone: 250.853.3866
Email: nlynch@uvic.ca

Lecture Schedule:
Wednesday 6:30pm-9:20pm (Office Hours: Tues 1:30pm-4pm)
MacLaurin D111

Course Description:

This course offers a unique opportunity to explore key geographic concepts and theory through the complex lenses of new media. In particular, we will use media like sound, internet, music, video, and film to critically explore fundamental ideas in human geography. First, we explore what some academics call 'sonic geography' to interrogate how particular (sub)urban morphology, architecture and 'place' produces specific soundscapes. Second, we explore the geography of music and evaluate both its role in the growth of the creative economy, and the role of music/musicians in interpreting geographic ideas like 'landscape', 'home', and 'the city'. Third, we use video art and music video to explore new realms of the post-modern world - from Pink Floyd's drug induced anti-war musical film, the Wall, to Sigur Ros' take on post-industrial Iceland, to Tinariwen's views of the contemporary life-worlds of Malian Tuaregs. Fourth, we disentangle the mythologies of suburbia and rurality as presented by Hollywood film. Fifth, and last, we explore the ever changing world of place marketing by examining how new media sells contemporary urbanism.

Course Evaluation and Grading



Grade Scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100 %	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	0-49%

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

LECTURES and READINGS

All readings in this course are based on assorted journal/newspaper articles.

You are expected to retrieve these readings for each class, since the material in the readings will make an important part of exam content and will support lecture materials. Additionally, I will have certain journal articles available to download on the CourseSpaces system (*see below*).

I will be specific about what pages to read and will highlight the most important sections during lectures: this should help you manage your reading during this course.

WEEK	Lecture Theme	Readings Required and Optional	Additional Items
1: J7 Welcome to Geog 391	Introduction to the course	No Readings	
2: J14 Media and Geography - Theoretical and Methodological Approaches	Lecture: Exploring Media and Method in Human Geography Key Themes: The linkages between media and geography; Media as Qualitative Method.	1. Crang, M. 2010. Visual Methods and Methodologies, [Coursespaces] 2. Goodchild, B, O’Flaherty, F., and Ambrose, A. 2014. Inside the Eco-home: Using Video to Understand the Implications of Innovative Housing, <i>Housing, Theory and Society</i> , 31(3): pp. 334-352.	
3: J21 Soundscapes and Sonic Geographies	Lecture: Exploring new but old geographies ~ Sound as media and as medium of geography. Key Themes: Soundscape	3. Smith, S,. 2000. Performing the (sound)world, <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> , 18: 615-637 4. Butler T (2007) Memoryscape: How audio walks can deepen our sense of place by integrating art, oral history and cultural geography. <i>Geography Compass</i> 1(3): 360–372	SHOW and TELL BEGINS: Sign up on Coursepaces

WEEK	Lecture Theme	Readings Required and Optional	Additional Items
<p>4: J28</p> <p>Geographies of Music: From the Creative Class to the Interpretation of Landscapes</p>	<p>Lecture: What is the Habitus of the ‘Hood... and other musings on the economic geographies of music.</p> <p>Key Themes: The Creative Economy; Habitus; Social location and media production.</p>	<p>5. Florida, R. and Jackson, S. 2010. "Sonic city: The evolving economic geography of the music industry." <i>Journal of Planning Education and Research</i>, 29(3), pp. 310-321.</p> <p>6. Harrison, L.M, 2012. Factory Music: How the industrial geography and working-class environment of post-war Birmingham fostered the birth of heavy metal, <i>Journal of Social History</i>, 44(1), pp. 145-158.</p>	<p>Reflection #1 DUE</p>
<p>5: F4</p> <p>Music Video and Video Art as an Unconventional Method in Human Geography</p>	<p>Lecture: Tear down the Wall! Musical Video as Geographic Commentary from Pink Floyd, Sigur Ros, and Tinariwen.</p> <p>Key Themes:</p>	<p>7. Butler, T. 2006. "A walk of art: the potential of the sound walk as practice in cultural geography." <i>Social & cultural geography</i> 7.6, 889-908.</p> <p>8. TDB</p>	<p>http://gizmodo.com/how-the-video-age-was-born-decades-before-youtube-1505795883</p>
<p>6: F11</p>		<p>Reading Week</p>	

WEEK	Lecture Theme	Readings Required and Optional	Additional Items
<p>7: F18</p> <p>Cities, Suburbs and Geography on Film</p>	<p>Lecture: Why the <i>Truman Show</i> is such a good film... and why <i>Divergent</i> isn't.</p> <p>Key Themes: Dystopia/Utopia in Film; Film narratives; Discourse analysis;</p>	<p>9. Ruddick, S. 2004. Domesticating Monsters: Cartographies of Difference and the Emancipatory City, in Lees, L. <i>The Emancipatory City: Paradoxes and Possibilities</i>. [COURSESPACES]</p> <p>10. Bonnet, A., 2000. 'Alternative Film' or 'Other' Film? In and against the West with Trinh Min-Ha, in Crang, M, Thrift, N, (eds.) <i>Thinking Space</i>. [COURSESPACES]</p> <hr/> <p>Optional: Dickinson, G. 2006. "The Pleasantville effect: Nostalgia and the visual framing of (white) suburbia." <i>Western Journal of Communication</i>, 70.3: 212-233.</p> <p>Duarte, Fábio, Rodrigo Firmino, and Andrei Crestani. "Urban Phantasmagorias Cinema and the Immanent Future of Cities." <i>Space and Culture</i> (2014): 1206331214533257.</p>	<p>Reflection #2 DUE</p>
<p>8: F25</p> <p>Cyber-Geographies: Neogeographies or Community Lost?</p>	<p>Lecture: What is Community on the Internet?</p> <p>Key Themes: Community; Digital Geographies</p>	<p>11. Graham, M. 2010. Neogeography and the palimpsests of place: Web 2.0 and the construction of a virtual earth. <i>Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie</i>, 101(4), 422-436.</p> <p>12. Bardzell, S, Odom, W. 2008. "The Experience of Embodied Space in Virtual Worlds An Ethnography of a Second Life Community." <i>Space and Culture</i> 11.3: 322-352</p>	

WEEK	Lecture Theme	Readings Required and Optional	Additional Items
9: M4 Neo-Cartographies: The Politics of Geomatics	Lecture: Playing Propaganda with Mapping	13. Tsou, M, Leitner, M. 2013. "Visualization of social media: seeing a mirage or a message?." <i>Cartography and Geographic Information Science</i> 40.2: 55-60. 14. Warf, B, Sui, D. 2010. "From GIS to neogeography: ontological implications and theories of truth." <i>Annals of GIS</i> 16.4: 197-209.	
10: M11 Selling Place: Marketing, Advertising and Branding Geographies	Lecture: Marketing Palimpsests? Layers of meaning, layers of space, and the interpolated consumer.	15. Rofe and Szili, 2009, Name Games 1: Place Names as Rhetorical Devices, <i>Landscape Research</i> , 34(3), 361-370. 16. Lynch, N. 2014. "Divine Living: Marketing and Selling Churches as Lofts in Toronto, Canada." <i>Housing, Theory and Society</i> 31.2: 192-212.	SHOW and TELL ENDS TERM PAPER DUE ~ Hand in Option 1
11: M18 Student Paper Presentations	No Lecture	No Readings	Student Discussant Group 1 Reflection #3 DUE
12: M25 Student Paper Presentations	No Lecture	No Readings	Student Discussant Group 2
13: A1 Course Wrap Up	Reviews, Summaries	No Readings	TERM PAPER DUE ~ Hand in Option 2 Reflection #4 DUE (April 8)

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1- SHOW & TELL | Media Presentations and Participation (value: 30%)

That's right, in this course you will channel your inner-child and perform a Show and Tell. But this is not your average kindergarten style presentation. For this assignment, I will allot a period of time every week (starting in Week 3, ending Week 10) for students to present and discuss some form of media and topic that is of particular interest and that aligns with the course objectives. The aim of this assignment is to offer an 'open stage' where ideas, thoughts and critiques are free-flowing. But keep in mind, this is not merely a 'show'. The 'tell' part of this equation is very important and represents the emphasis here.

Assignment expectations:

- The weekly time slot will be 40mins in total;
- You are expected to present a *minimum* of twice in the entire term (there will be a *maximum*, but I will set this after the course starts);
- You must sign-up in advance (at least a week prior) on CourseSpaces. This will provide some level of organization to the process;
- Your total time for presentation is dependant on the weekly sign-up (but you will always have a *minimum* of 5 minutes). I will let you know your *maximum* allotted time length each week.
- You are expected to Show.... and..... Tell: i) show, play, present some media; and, ii) tell, argue, debate some aspect of the media that connects with the aims/objectives/topics in the course.
- The 'tell' portion must also be accompanied by a short written component: max 1 page (single spaced), provide a critical analysis of the piece that you will present. This is not a summary but instead offers a thoughtful 'deconstruction' of why this piece of useful, important in the context of the course, how it illuminates/contradicts/adds to our understanding of new media and geography.

N.B.: This assignment mark also evaluates your participation in the course. So: 15% of the mark is allotted for your SHOW and TELL presentation; 15% of the mark is allotted for your overall participation/presence in the course (including SHOW and TELL).

Assignment #2 - TERM PAPER | (value: 30%)

Final Paper DUE: March 16th *or* April 2nd (value: 30%)

This assignment will allow you to focus on thinking and writing about some of the themes and topics relevant to the course.

Research Paper - Investigating Media Geographies

A more classic assignment, in this case you choose a particular topic that is of interest to you and produce a well crafted research paper. That is, you will investigate a unique issue dealing with any

of the above subject matter, explore the literature, and produce a well written and well argued critique and evaluation.

Assignment Requirements: (either option)

The assignment length is maximum approx. 8-12 pages, not including graphs, figures, maps etc.

Note about the due date:

You have two choices in terms of due dates. The first due date, March 16th, is for those of you who wish a more in-depth evaluation and want your papers back. The second, April 2nd, is for those of you who do not need a full review and just want the mark. For the latter, I will review your paper but not spend as much time offering editorial advice or academic feedback. Please note, you do not receive bonus marks for handing the assignment in at the first deadline, this is merely a way for me to be more efficient with my time and for you to have some control over the course schedule.

**Assignment #3 - Reflections (total value: 40%) | Independent reflection = 10%;
Directed reflections = 30%.**

In this assignment you are required to produce 4 critical reflections of the lectures/readings/videos. These reflections have specific time frames and mark allotments - see below.

The role of this assignment is to encourage an effective and consistent reading and writing strategy. That is, in advanced courses like these you need to stay on top of readings and keep your mind sharp in the writing process.

Your reflections are not intended to be summaries. Although you may briefly summarize a point or two from the materials, what I want from you is a well-thought out reflection of the issues at hand. You can select one or two issues that come up and discuss these in you reflections -- it is advisable to keep these to just a few and dig deeper. You also expected to integrate research and writing from other sources. A successful reflection makes use of other materials to make a point (e.g. citing and referencing other journal articles, books, news media, photos, etc).

Breakdown and expectations:

Independent Reflection #1 | Value 5%, DUE: Jan 28th
This is a choice of topics pertaining to week 1-3.

Directed Reflection #2: **Midterm** Reflection | Value 15%, DUE: Feb 18th
Several days prior to the due date, I will provide you with a set of questions pertaining to the lectures/readings up to the midterm.

Independent Reflection #3 | Value 5%, DUE: Mar 18th
This is a choice of topics pertaining to week 7-10.

Directed Reflection #4: **Final** Reflection | Value 15%, DUE: April 8th
Several days prior to the due date, I will provide you with a set of questions pertaining to the entire suite of lectures/readings.

Assignment Requirements:

For Independent Reflections - *max* page limit of 1.5 pgs. single spaced; you must use APA style only.

For Directed Reflections - *max* page limit of 3 pgs. single spaced; you must use APA style only.

Sources:

You must make use of sources from Geographic journals or books in your reflection. For Reflection 1 and 3, you should have a minimum of three sources; for Reflection 2 and 4, you should have a minimum of six sources.

COURSE POLICIES

“The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.”

1. The lectures are held three times weekly, and I will be available after each lecture to answer questions in person. You can also come see me during office hours. You may e-mail me in regards to emergencies or issues of confidential nature.
2. All cell phones should be turned off before class begins. If the use of a computer facilitates your learning, feel free to bring a laptop to class. I will not tolerate use of computers during lectures for personal purposes such as e-mail, surfing the Internet, watching videos etc.
3. Some instructors have strict no food policies in their classrooms. I do not mind if you eat snacks in class. Personally I find small snacks help keep me focused during long lectures. However, be sensitive to other students in the room. It is hard to concentrate if the person beside you is devouring a quarter quicken with fries...use your common sense in deciding what an appropriate snack is for the classroom.
4. Speak to me if due to a medical condition or family emergency you require extension of the deadlines for assignments. There is a late penalty of 1% per school day of your final course grade (to a maximum of 20%) for late assignments.
5. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with UVic's policy on plagiarism. Ask me if you are unsure whether you may be plagiarizing.
6. University can be a stressful experience. If you become overwhelmed by course work, feel free to speak to me about it. If necessary I also encourage you to take advantage of all the services UVic has to offer to assist you during your time here as a student.

Geography Department website: <http://geography.uvic.ca>
GEOGPLAN degree planning guide: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/moodle> [Log in as a guest]
Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield (philw@geog.uvic.ca)
Graduate Advisor: Dr. Dennis Jelinski (jelinski@mail.geog.uvic.ca)