

**GEOGRAPHY 4:
WORLD PEOPLES AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS**

Summer 2008: July 8 – August 15
T•W•Th 2:00pm – 4:30pm • 145 McCone Hall

Instructor

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Office hours TBA
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Course Description

In this course, we will make use of varied media—maps, art, music, film, the internet, and, of course, the written word—as we work to develop an analytical toolkit for investigating the relationships that may attain between places and peoples. Each week, as we examine a set of cultural phenomena in their historical-geographical contexts, we will also focus on some of the “ways of knowing” that were instrumental in the production of those cultural environments and to our interpretation of them. Our kaleidoscopic approach opens multiple windows onto some of the processes and patterns that have given shape to the changing relationships between human communities and the natural world. At the same time, it allows us to historicize and in some cases reassess the taken-for-granted notions we may have about these relationships.

Texts

I prefer students buy all the course texts, if you can afford them. There will likely be times we will read from those texts in class, and of course that will work best if students have the books. Nevertheless, students may avoid the expense of purchasing these books by visiting the Earth Sciences Library (McCone Hall), where one copy of each text will be available on two-hour reserve. The McNally atlas may be substituted with any atlas that allows you to study for our map quizzes, which will cover country names, major cities, and major land and water features (e.g., Atlas Mountains, Nile River). That said, I selected the McNally atlas specifically for its modest price. The Mitchell text is probably worth buying, at least for those who think they will want to major in Geography, and I cannot think of any good reason not to own a copy of Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*.

Reader: Available at Zee Zee Copy: 2431-C Durant Avenue

- *World Peoples and Cultural Environments* Reader

Books: Available at ASUC Bookstore at the south end of campus

- Mitchell, Don. 2000. *Cultural Geography: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford, UK, and Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell.
- Satrapi, Marjane. 2007. *The Complete Persepolis*. New York: Pantheon. (This is the single-volume edition; buying *Persepolis* and *Persepolis 2* separately would also be fine.)
- Rand McNally. 2007. *Quick Reference World Atlas*. U.S.: Rand McNally.

Grading

- Attendance and participation: 25%
- Midterm: 20%
- Short (6-8-pp.) paper: 25%
- Final exam: 30%

I will not record attendance each day, but we will have frequent in-class exercises that students will turn in and which will serve not only as evidence of participation but as proxies for attendance. Some of these in-class exercises will be ungraded map quizzes that will serve as practice for the map portion of the midterm and final examinations. I will also assign five short, weekly homework exercises; each student must have done three by the end of the semester. Some of these assignments will be individual homework projects, while others will encourage or require collaboration with your classmates. Grading for these three assignments will account for about three-fifths of the attendance and participation score. A short research paper will be due on the last day of class and will be worth 25% of the course grade. The midterm (20%) and the final (30%) will both be in-class examinations.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Week 1 (July 8-10):** *Key theme:* Introduction; defining our terms, defining the world
Regional foci: Europe; the world through the filter of Eurocentrism
Knowledge production: Historicizing our common-sense understandings of the relationship between place and culture
Multimedia content this week: To be determined
- Wednesday, July 9: **Map quiz (Europe)**
 - Sunday, July 13: **Weekly response due, 9 pm (#1 of 5 [just do three])**
- Week 2 (July 15-17):** *Key theme:* The imperial lens and postcolonial responses
Regional foci: Africa and the Global South
Knowledge production: Maps, countermaps, music
Multimedia content this week: film (part of *Rabbit-Proof Fence*; archival footage from colonial Africa; part of *Amandla!*), music
- Wednesday, July 16: **Map quiz (Africa)**
 - Thursday, July 17: **Research paper proposal due (5 of your 25 pts. for the paper)**
 - Sunday, July 20: **Weekly assignment due, 9 pm (#2 of 5)**
- Week 3 (July 22-24):** *Key theme:* Religion and gender
Regional foci: The Middle East; Algeria
Knowledge production: Religion, visual art
Multimedia content this week: film (part of *The Battle of Algiers*; if available, part of *Persepolis*)
- Wednesday, July 23: **Map quiz (Middle East)**
 - Sunday, July 27: **Weekly assignment due, 9 pm (#3 of 5)**
- Week 4 (July 29-31):** *Key themes:* Population growth and migration
Regional foci: South Asia; global slums
Knowledge production: Demography, street theater
Multimedia content this week: film (part of *Jarimari*; part of a *Nova* special on population; part of *Darwin's Nightmare*)
- Tuesday, July 29: **Midterm exam**
 - Wednesday, July 30: **Map quiz (South and Central Asia)**
 - Thursday, July 31: **3-page, detailed paper outline due (5 of your 25 pts. for the paper)**
 - Sunday, August 3: **Weekly assignment due, 9 pm (#4 of 5)**

Week 5 (August 5-7):

Key themes: Multicultural United States

Regional foci: United States and Latin America

Knowledge production: Landscapes, language, film

Multimedia content this week: film (part of *Border Brujo* and/or *Super Amigos*; part or all of *Chan Is Missing*; other TBD); music and literary arts (*corridos*; hip-hop and/or slam poetry)

- Wednesday, August 6: **Map quiz (Latin America)**
- Sunday, August 10: **Weekly assignment due, 9 pm (#5 of 5)**

Week 6 (August 12-14):

Key theme: A flat world? Geographies of justice in the internet age

Regional foci: The internet galaxy; China (and Tibet)

Knowledge production: The internet, mass media

Multimedia content this week: Navigating the online world of *Second Life*; possible inclusion of television coverage of the Summer Olympics in Beijing

- Wednesday, August 13: **Map quiz (East Asia)**
- Thursday, August 14: **Research paper due (15 of your 25 pts. for the paper);
Final exam**