# GEOG 301: Cultural Geography (5 Credits)

Summer 2020 Full Term SLN 11707 Online

# **Meet Your Instructor**

Julian Barr (He/Him) jubarr@uw.edu

Office Hours: Fridays: 10am-12pm or by appointment Office Hours Zoom Meeting Link: https://washington.zoom.us/j/98273507232

# **Course Description and Objectives**

In this course we will be covering an overview of Cultural Geography with a survey of the various critical subdisciplines that make up modern cultural geographic research and focus on intersectional identity, oppression, and social justice. We will understand culture as inherently tied to identity and politics in our everyday life. The subdisciplines offer us specific understandings of black, latinx, and queer



culture and other aspects of identity that influence our understanding and everyday practices around culture. However, this course will try to understand these subdisciplines through popular culture and apply the concepts of cultural geography and its subdisciplines to film and television. This is achieved weekly as part of course content and discussion posts, but also through the major project of the quarter. The project of this quarter will be the creation of a class podcast, and each of you in small groups will create your very own podcast episode looking at a film or television show.

By the end of this course students will be able to...

- 1. Critically engage with the subdisciplines of cultural geography.
- 2. Analyze popular culture text using the concepts and theoretical frameworks of cultural geography.
- 3. Productively work in groups and be able to co-write and edit in a collaborative format.
- 4. Understand and put into practice the basic skills of researching, writing, recording, editing, and producing a podcast episode.
- 5. Write clearly and concisely about complex issues and research.
- 6. Deeply engage with concepts within the discipline of geography and scholarship examining issues at various geographic scales.

# **Text and Films**

All readings will be made available on Canvas.

All films and TV shows are available on Netflix or free elsewhere. A majority of you have Netflix accounts already, however for those that do not we have a course Netflix account. If you already have a Netflix account please use it, this should only be used if you do not have access already. Please note only 4 people can stream at the same time. Please do not change any settings or log-in information.

Class Netflix log-in information (Access starts Week 2): Username: jubarr@uw.edu Password: Geog301!

#### **Teaching Philosophy**

The teaching philosophy of this course is informed by an anti-racist critical pedagogy approach that highlights the struggles, and includes the voices, of the oppressed. I primarily draw on the *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (Freire 1970) for guidance. Critical pedagogy acknowledges that language and knowledge production is diverse and that we cannot privilege Eurocentric perspectives, which can be oppressive to students, especially those students learning English, students with disabilities, and students whose prior education was limited. Critical pedagogy tells us to create an environment of learning where the student and teacher are co-learners. So, I aim to be co-learners with all our students, and I am are here to listen to your uncertainties around learning and help you establish realistic goals for individual success.

#### Assignments and Grading Outline (100% Total)

- Film Discussion Posts (8 x 5% each= 40%)
- Project (60%):
  - Assignment 1: Podcast Response (5%)
  - Assignment 2: Topic/Film Proposal (5%)
  - Assignment 3: Podcasting Introduction (5%)
  - Assignment 4: Script Draft One (10%)
  - Assignment 5: Script Draft Peer Review (5%)
  - Assignment 6: Script Draft Two (10%)
  - Assignment 7: Audio Files (5%)
  - Assignment 8: Recorded Episode with Edited Script (15%)

## **Course Calendar**

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Film/TV*	Assignments Due**
1	June 22-June 28	-Course Introduction -Cultural Geo Intro	None	None
2	June 29-July 5	-Cultural Theoretical Foundations -Popular Culture	Back to the Future (1985)	-Assignment 1
3	July 6-July 12	-Place/Space -Urban Culture -Political Culture	Tales from the City (1993)	-Assignment 2
4	July 13-July 19	-Black Geographies	Candyman (1992)	-Assignment 3
			Or Horror Noire	
			(2019)	
5	July 20-July 26	-Latinx Geographies	<i>Gentified</i> (2020)	-Assignment 4
6	July 27-August 2	-Queer Geographies	To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar (1995)	-Assignment 5
7	August 3-August 9	-Feminist Geographies	One Day at a Time (2017)	-Assignment 6
8	August 10- August 16	-Class and Power	TBD	-Assignment 7
9	August 17-August 21	-Final Week	None	-Assignment 8 (Due 8/21)

\*Film and TV selections may change based on availability and course content development \*\*All assignments due by Sunday at 11:59 PM unless noted otherwise

## Weekly Course Structure

*Course Structure*. For Summer Quarter, this course will be fully online via Canvas due to the COVID-19 Outbreak. This course will not use live lectures and is intended to be completed on your own time every week. For each weekly module on Canvas you will find a set of readings, lectures, and an assigned film/television show available on Netflix. Most of the time, unless noted, you can go through the content in whatever order works for you, however I would suggest the film/ television show last. Then AFTER you go through that week's content you will need to complete a weekly Film Discussion Post, see below for more information. I will post the module for the week every Monday morning and you should complete everything by Sunday. You will not be able to proceed to the next module until the discussion post is completed. This makes sure

you will not fall behind and stay on track every week. Assignments are also to be completed by Sunday unless noted, see the course calendar for due dates.

*Film Discussion Posts.* Every week you will be posting two discussion posts. The first post is your response to a prompt based on that week's content. With the exception of week one, every week these posts will ask you to apply course concepts and readings to the film or television show for the week based on a prompt provided. Your first post should be 400-600 words, unless noted otherwise. Grading is based on completion of responding to the prompt and application of course concepts and reading.

The second post will be your response to two of your classmates. Your second post should be a brief 150-300 word post responding to two classmates, you have to name the classmates you're responding to. The response post is graded based on completion and effort in responding to your classmates. Discussion posts should be completed by 11:59 PM on Sunday.

## **Course Policies**

*Office Hours*. All office hours will be held via Zoom. Office hours will be one-on-one, and I will let students in one at a time to have private conversations. Please see the "Meet Your Instructor" section for time and Zoom meeting ID. I am also available by appointment, just email me and we will set up a time.

*Safe Space*. In this course we will discuss research tied to social problems especially issues of inequality and sometimes these issues will be controversial in nature. This classroom aims to be a safe space for both students and the instructor. Please be respectful to the instructor and your fellow classmates. This includes all interactions digitally via email, Canvas, and other platforms. Hateful speech and language directed toward a person or group of people will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, language that can be considered racist, sexist, xenophobic, islamophobic, ageist, homophobic, transphobic, derogatory toward immigration status, ableist, etc. If you are not sure if something might be offensive, then it is probably best to not say it. I want to encourage open discussion and communication in the digital classroom, but we also have to be respectful to each other. Any student deemed to be breaking this policy will be limited in their class communications.

*Film/Television Show Content*. In this course we will be watching films and television show that contain violence, profanity, and sexual situations. However, I would note that none of these films portray sexual violence. I will provide content warnings and if you need an alternative film or television show please email me and we can work out an alternative.

*Communication.* You are required to use your University of Washington email or Canvas for communication with the instructor and colleagues for this course. Please check your email and Canvas daily for messages about the course including any announcements or changes. Please feel free to communicate through email or Canvas at any time with questions, concerns, thoughts, etc. I will respond, however please give at least 48 hours (Monday-Friday). If after 48 hours you have not heard from me, please resend.

*Grading*. All assignment grades will be posted to Canvas as soon as possible. After carefully reading and taking time to consider the comments, if you have an issue with a grade, please feel free to contact the instructor 24 hours after you receive the grade. However, you are required to give a detailed written explanation of your concerns regarding the grade received and be specific. I will consider the request and re-evaluate your assignment. As the instructor I have every right to deny increasing the grade and I ask you to respect that decision. You must communicate grade concerns within two weeks of receiving the grade.

Course Grading Scale.

≧ 99% = 4.0	≧ 78% = 2.2
≧ 98% = 3.9	≧ 77% = 2.1
≧ 97% = 3.8	≧ 75% = 2.0
≧ 96% = 3.7	<b>≧</b> 74% = 1.9
≧ 95% = 3.6	≧ 73% = 1.8
≧ 93% = 3.5	≧ 72% = 1.7
≧ 92% = 3.4	<b>≧</b> 70% = 1.6
≧ 91% = 3.3	<b>≧</b> 69% = 1.5
≧ 90% = 3.2	≧ 68% = 1.4
≧ 89% = 3.1	<b>≧</b> 67% = 1.3
≧ 87% = 3.0	≧ 66% = 1.2
≧ 86% = 2.9	≧ 64% = 1.1
$\geq 85\% = 2.8$	≧ 63% = 1.0
≧ 84% = 2.7	$\geq 62\% = 0.9$
≧ 83% = 2.6	$\geq 61\% = 0.8$
≧ 81% = 2.5	$\ge 60\% = 0.7$
$\geq 80\% = 2.4$	<b>≧</b> 59% = 0.0
≧ 79% = 2.3	

*Late/Makeup Assignments*. I will accept late assignments with a penalty of 5 points per day for up to two weeks after the due date. If you know your assignment will be late please let me know before the due date. Remember, a late grade is always better than no grade. If you need an extension on a due date, please contact me before the due date if possible. Extensions are given on a case-by-case basis but usually granted for medical issues, family issues, and other life hurdles.

Academic Honesty. UW has guidelines on how to respond to suspected cases of academic dishonesty (i.e. cheating). These cases include plagiarism (using someone else's work or words without giving due credit, including that of other students past and present) in written assignments. You should familiarize yourself with these guidelines outlined in the Student Conduct Code (see http://www.washington.edu/cssc/for-students/academic-misconduct/).

I acknowledge that plagiarism can be understood differently in various cultures; however, we will be following the UW definition of academic dishonesty in this course. Always cite your work when using other people's ideas or words. I will discuss this more in class and give you instructions on avoiding plagiarism. If ever in doubt if something is considered plagiarism or cheating, please ask. Students caught cheating or committing plagiarism on an assignment or

exam will be given a reduced grade on the assignment the first time. The second offense will result in an automatic zero on the assignment and the third offense will result in a zero for the course. All incidents of plagiarism or cheating will be reported to administration.

*Religious Accommodations.* "Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at <u>Religious Accommodations Policy</u>. Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the <u>Religious Accommodations</u> Request form." However, if you do not feel comfortable with this form please meet with me and I will accommodate as needed.

## **Student Resources**

*Student Technology Loan Program (STLP).* "The Student Technology Loan Program allows students to borrow laptops, cameras, projectors, and other equipment for free. To be eligible for our program you must be enrolled for the current quarter at the Seattle campus." For more information including a list of equipment and reservation form please visit: https://stlp.uw.edu. The program is still operational Summer Quarter with some changes, for more information see announcements on there website.

*Writing and Learning Support Resources.* The Odegaard Writing and Research Center (OWRC) offers free, one-to-one, 45-minute tutoring sessions for undergraduate writers in all fields at the UW. They will work with writers on any writing or research project, as well as personal projects. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please see their website (https://depts.washington.edu/owrc). For Summer Quarter, all appointments are online.

*CLUE Writing Center.* "If you are an undergraduate student at the UW Seattle campus, we are available to work with you. We can be of help during any stage in the writing process, including: Starting, Drafting, Revising, Researching, and Polishing. We will not proofread or edit a paper for you, but we will either teach or help you learn how to find and correct errors in punctuation, usage, and grammar. Whether you need help talking through ideas, honing an outline you've been working on, evaluating a draft mid-composition, or looking through a final draft—we're confident we can help you write more efficiently and effectively." For more information please see the <u>CLUE Website</u>. For Summer Quarter, all appointments are online.

*English as an Additional Language*. Please let us know if English is an additional language for you so that together we can figure out how to make the course as manageable as possible for you. Also please consult this helpful guide from the UW Center for Teaching and Learning for resources.

*Disability Resources*. Your experience in this class is important. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations at your earliest convenience so I know your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

*Counseling Center*. The Counseling Center offers short-term, problem-focused counseling to UW students who may feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities of college, work, family, and relationships. Counselors are available to help students cope with stresses and personal issues that may interfere with their ability to perform in school. The service is provided confidentially and without additional charge to currently enrolled students. The Counseling Center is providing all services via secure Zoom. Please call 206-543-1240 during regular business hours to access services. Additional information can also be found by visiting https://www.washington.edu/counseling.

Library Resources.

- UW Libraries Search- find and get items from the UW Libraries and its SUMMIT partners.
- Borrowing information (Links to an external site.) learn about loan periods, check out policies, and more.
- UW GIS Resources- guide to geospatial data and GIS resources at UW
- Audio & Video- guide to media resources within the collection.
- Find It (Links to an external site.) guide to finding other types of information in the Libraries
- Ask Us (Links to an external site.) get in touch with UW librarians by phone, email, or 24/7 chat.
- Articles & Research Databases (Links to an external site.) browse a full list of UW Libraries databases by title.
- E-Journals (Links to an external site.) search for UW Libraries e-journals by title, title keyword, or subject.
- E-Newspapers (Links to an external site.) guide to electronic newspapers within the UW Libraries collection.

*COVID-19 Outbreak Resources*. For COVID-19 Outbreak resources, please see the COVID-19 Outbreak Resources document on the course Canvas page.

*Other Resources.* For a more extensive list of UW resources, please see the UW Resources for Students document on the course Canvas page.