GEOG 325
GEOGRAPHIES OF CONSUMPTION

DR. PAUL KINGSBURY
Office: Robert C. Brown Hall (RCB) Room 7140
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Office Hours: Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., and by appointment

Teaching Assistant
Denis Dogah
Office: Academic Quadrangle 6026
Email: ddogah@sfu.ca
Office Hour: Friday 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Lecture
Thursday 2:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.,
RCB 8100

Tutorials
D101. Thursday 4:30 p.m. – 6:20 p.m., RCB 7102
D102. Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 8:20 p.m., RCB 5100
D103. Friday 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m., RCB 6100
D104. Friday 12:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m., RCB 6100

Required Texts
Journal articles (sent via course email list and available online on Canvas).

Course Description
Consumption is creatively destructive, conspicuous yet vague, complex but mundane, and as difficult to explain as it is impossible to avoid. Consumption ranges from the repetitive act of eating porridge to the visual joys of watching movies on widescreen plasma televisions. Under the aegis of “consumption studies,” researchers have used numerous theoretical frameworks in order to conceptualize consumption in terms of the interactions between people, objects, and society. These studies have produced lively and enduring interdisciplinary debates that have sought to clarify the interrelations between, for example: taste, need, value, aesthetics, commodification, pleasure, exchange, capitalism, and spectacle. The purpose of this course is not only to explore the diverse contexts of consumption, but also to understand the various theoretical approaches through which consumption can be understood. To consider the geographies of consumption we will explore the following related objects of analysis: commodity chains, the mall, food, pet-love, clothes, taste and class, art, and the paranormal.

Course Evaluation
Participation: Lecture attendance is mandatory and I encourage you to ask questions and make comments during class. Tutorial attendance is also mandatory and is assessed in terms of: 10% for participation and 10% for a twenty-minute presentation (individually or with partners) on the week’s reading that engages with its theoretical, empirical, and methodological dimensions, main arguments and research findings. Credit will be given for clarity, rigor, and creativity. Presenters will take responsibility for generating and guiding the discussion throughout the entire tutorial.
Examinations: The Midterm Exam (20%) will consist of essay questions that focus on the lectures and readings. This will take place during a regular class meeting. The Final Exam (30%) will consist of essay questions that focus on the lectures and readings. The Final will mainly address material after the Midterm, but given the nature of the course you should also know the material prior to the Midterm.

Research Paper: You will complete a research paper (30%) (10-12 pages) due by December 3 that will draw on the course’s theories, concepts, arguments, and methods in order to examine a case study in the Vancouver region. I highly recommend that you meet with me and/or the TA in the early stages of planning your paper. Details will follow shortly.

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<tr>
<td>Tutorial Presentation</td>
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<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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Final letter grades are then assigned according to the standard (%):

- **Excellent Performance**
  - 95-100 = A+
  - 90-94  = A
  - 85-89  = A-

- **Good Performance**
  - 80-84 = B+
  - 75-79 = B
  - 70-74 = B-

- **Satisfactory Performance**
  - 65-69 = C+
  - 60-64 = C
  - 55-59 = C-

- **Marginal Performance**
  - 50-54 = D
  - 0-49  = F (Fail)

SFU’s performance standards and the Departmental internal grading guidelines inform the grading in this class as follows: Excellent = A (“very small group of superior students… substantial originality and creativity”); Good = B (“gone beyond the normal expectations”) Satisfactory = C (“sound performance”); Marginally Satisfactory = D; Unacceptable = F.

Course Policies
The following guides this course, the students, and the instructor towards a positive, comfortable, and intellectually rewarding environment.

Academic Honesty
I encourage you to consult the responsibilities of students and faculty in the SFU Teaching and Instruction Policies [http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/teaching.html]. Work submitted for grading in this class must be the student’s own. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable. I will not hesitate in taking the appropriate action against any form of cheating or plagiarism. You are responsible for understanding the procedures, ramifications, and meanings of academic honesty. To this end, please consult SFU’s Code of Academic Integrity and Good Conduct (S10.01) [http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student/s10-01.html] and Principles and Procedures for Student Discipline (S10.02) [http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student/s10-02.html]. Please contact me in a timely manner if you require further clarification about academic honesty. Also note, any student who cheats in this course risks (at the discretion of the Department Chair) receiving a FD Grade (Failed – Academic Dishonesty).
Excused Absences
If you are absent for a lecture and/or tutorial, you must: (1) notify me and/or the TA beforehand or in the 24 hours following the end of the lecture and/or tutorial; and (2) provide a written doctor’s or official note stating why you were incapacitated and/or unable to attend. If in doubt, contact me.

Conduct
Disruptive behavior in class will not be tolerated. To this end, arrive promptly for lectures and tutorials, do not eat and/or drink in class in a disruptive manner, switch off all electronic devices prior to class, do not sleep, read, or go online during class, avoid any other activities that cause distraction or disrespect to your colleagues and/or myself. From the instructor the student can expect: timely class start and dismissal; regular office hours and arranged office hours; organized and prepared lectures; answers to questions that arise in class, whether they are known or must be researched; assistance in learning the course material and in preparing for graded assignments; assistance in securing course materials; a professional and respectful demeanor; fair and confidential grading. From the student the instructor can expect: punctual and complete attendance for all lectures and tutorials; reading of all assigned texts; patience for dismissal; regular and informed participation; a willingness to ask questions; a method for taking and reviewing notes; a respectful and cooperative demeanor in the classroom; notification as soon as one is lost, confused or upset. In addition, from each other, all students can expect respect for one another.

Students with Disabilities
If you have any needs or conditions that must be or can be reasonably accommodated by the instructor, please see me privately in advance. I have experience in working with students with learning disabilities and special needs and want to ensure every student a complete opportunity to learn. I am, of course, bound to university rules on these matters. SFU also has a Centre for Students with Disabilities (http://students.sfu.ca/disabilityaccess.html).

COURSE SCHEDULE
Week 1 – September 10  Lecture: Introducing Geographies of Consumption
Tutorial: None

Week 2 – September 17  Lecture: Mapping Consumption
Tutorial: Leslie

Week 3 – September 24  Lecture: None (Instructor at MUFON Conference)
Receive (via email) and work on Assignment
Tutorial: None

Week 4 – October 1  Lecture: Commodity Chains
Tutorial: Cook et al.

Week 5 – October 8  Lecture: The Mall
Receive Midterm Exam study guide
Tutorial: Goss

Week 6 – October 15  Lecture: Food
Tutorial: Guthman

Week 7 – October 22  MIDTERM EXAM (Usual class time and room)
Tutorial: None

Week 8 – October 29
Lecture: Jiro Dreams of Sushi (2012)
Tutorial: Movie discussion

Week 9 – November 5
Lecture: Pet Love
Tutorial: Nast

Week 10 – November 12
Lecture: Clothes
Tutorial: Gökarsksel and Secor

Week 11 – November 19
Lecture: Taste and Class
Tutorial: Little

Week 12 – November 26
Lecture: Art Worlds
Receive Final Exam study guide
Tutorial: Cameron

Week 13 – December 3
Lecture: Paranormal Consumption
Tutorial: Bartolini et al.

RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Week 14 – December 11
FINAL EXAM (Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Location TBA)

Tutorial Readings

Recommended Journals for the Research Paper
ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies; Annals of the Association of American Geographers; Antipode; The Canadian Geographer; cultural geographies; Dialogues in Human Geography; Environment and Planning D: Society and Space; Gender, Place & Culture; Geoforum; Progress in Human Geography; Social & Cultural Geography; Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers; International Encyclopedia of Human Geography

Liaison Librarian for Geography: Julie Jones (email: jsj7@sfu.ca / tel.: 778-782-9704)