GEOG 420
CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

DR. PAUL KINGSBURY
Office: 7140 RC Brown Hall
Email: kingsbury@sfu.ca  Phone: 778-782-3717
Office Hours: Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., and by appointment

Lecture
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m., WMC-2507

Tutorial
D101 Tuesday 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m., WMC-2523

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

Course Description
Radically modified since the 1980s by the spatial and cultural “turns” in the social sciences and humanities, cultural geography explores how, why, and where cultural forces and structures mediate people’s lives and worlds. Geographers have theorized “culture” using numerous approaches such as historical materialism, cultural studies, feminism, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, and post-colonialism. Empirically, cultural geographers have studied a wide-range of contexts including landscape, society, politics, the economy, the arts, the environment, identity, and technology. Beginning with the emergence of modern cultural geography during the 1920s, this course will explore the following interrelated themes and objects of analysis: ‘old’ and ‘new’ cultural geography; landscapes and texts; ideology, hegemony, and capitalism; cultural differences of race, class, gender, and sexuality; visual and digital cultures; cultural uneasiness; aesthetics and multiculturalism; paranormal cultures; soundscapes of wellbeing.

Course Evaluation
Participation: Students will be evaluated on Tutorial participation (preparation, discussion, and attendance (worth 10%)). Everyone is expected to read all of the scheduled material prior to the weekly tutorial meeting and participate in the discussion. Everyone will lead a tutorial discussion (worth 10%) and participate on the days he or she is not presenting on the readings. Credit will be given for clarity, rigor, and creativity. Presenters will take responsibility for generating and guiding the discussion.

Examination: 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 also 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 be able to recall the material prior to the Midterm.

Research Paper: You will complete a final research paper (11-13 pages) due November 29 (worth 30% of the grade). The research paper will draw on some of the theories, concepts, and arguments encountered during semester in order to examine a cultural geographic case study in British Columbia. Details will follow.
GEOG 420: Cultural Geography
Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University
Dr. Paul Kingsbury
Fall 2016

Tutorial Participation 10%
Tutorial Presentation 10%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 30%
Research Paper 30%
Total 100%

Final letter grades are then assigned according to the standard (%):  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellent Performance</th>
<th>Good Performance</th>
<th>Satisfactory Performance</th>
<th>Marginal Performance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90+ = A+</td>
<td>77-79.9 = B+</td>
<td>67-69.9 = C+</td>
<td>50-59.9 = D</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89.9 = A</td>
<td>73-76.9 = B</td>
<td>63-66.9 = C</td>
<td>&lt;49.9 = F (Fail)</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84.9 = A-</td>
<td>70-72.9 = B-</td>
<td>60-62.9 = C-</td>
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</table>

The following performance standards guide the grading in this class:

Excellent = A; Good = B; Satisfactory = C; Marginally Satisfactory = D; Unacceptable = F.

These follow the standards in the University Calendar:
(https://students.sfu.ca/calendar/2013/fall/student-info/grading-systems-policies/grading-systems-and-policies.html)

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

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Lecture: <em>Course Introduction</em></td>
<td>Tutorial: None</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Lecture: <em>Interpreting Landscapes as Texts</em></td>
<td>Receive Research Paper guide</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tutorial: James S. Duncan and Nancy Duncan</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>“(Re)reading the Landscape” (1988)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>Lecture: <em>Cultural Politics and Differences</em></td>
<td>Receive Midterm Exam study guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM (Usual class time and room)</td>
<td>Tutorial: None</td>
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Week 10 – November 8
Lecture: *Uneasiness in Culture*
Tutorial: Steve Pile
“A Distributed Unconscious” (2014)

Week 11 – November 15
Lecture: “District 9” (2009)
Tutorial: Movie Discussion

Week 12 – November 22
Lecture: *Paranormal Cultures*
Tutorial: Annette Hill
“Paranormal Cultural Practices” (2013)

Week 13 – November 29
Lecture: *Soundscapes of Wellbeing*
Tutorial: Paul Kingsbury
“Listen! It’s Alive” (2014)

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

FINAL EXAM December 9, Friday, 8:30am – 10:30am Location TBA

Tutorial Readings

Recommended Journals for the Research Paper:
ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies; Annals of the American Association of Geographers; Antipode; The Canadian Geographer; Cultural Geographies; Environment and Planning D; Gender, Place & Culture; Geoforum; Progress in Human Geography; Social & Cultural Geography; Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers. Also see: The International Encyclopedia of Human Geography (available online via SFU library).

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