

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPY 229: Place, Space, Culture, and Social Life



Course Instructor	Carolyn Prouse	Email: cpv@queensu.ca
Office	Mac-Corry D304	
Contact Time	2x 1.5hr lectures/week	Tel: 613-533-6000 ext. 78592
Format	In-person lecture and tutorial discussions, online course notes, local/virtual fieldtrips	
Potential Class Assessments	Field and film journals; book review; final project; take home exam/course reflection	

COURSE OVERVIEW

Space and place are central to how we experience the world. In this course we will be social geographers, examining how intersecting relations of power such as capitalism, ableism, heteronormativity, and colonialism produce place, and how we in turn are affected by the spaces we inhabit, engage, and consume. Our geographical interrogations will take us from favela tours in Rio de Janeiro to harm reduction organizing in our own backyard. We will consider collective responses to COVID-19 in Bolivia, and the makings of Caribbean identity in the restaurants of Scarborough. We will follow Wonder Woman to Egypt and witness the Mi'kmaq battling zombies on Turtle Island. Our course materials will include both academic literature and cultural artefacts like films, music videos, and novels that we encounter in our daily lives. While this is a lecture course wherever possible we will engage active learning in order to develop course concepts in meaningful ways. The course is divided into six modules: Place and Space; Carceral and Abolition Geographies; Nature and Embodiment; Geographical Imaginaries; Land(scape); and Borders.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain key theoretical approaches and concepts in social and cultural geography, including landscape, place, space, borders, and diaspora;
2. Describe how interlocking systems of power shape social geographies across the Global North and Global South;
3. Analyze cultural artefacts and case studies to explain how people make sense of their social and cultural worlds;
4. Communicate complex ideas in written, verbal, and visual form

COURSE TOPICS

Landscape, place, space, borders, diaspora, prison, abolition, harm reduction, Indigenous cosmologies, digital geographies, political ecology, embodiment, Orientalism, geographical imaginaries, memorialization, Afro-futurism, refugee camps

COURSE READINGS (a selected list subject to change)

- Orozco, Elva Fabiola. (2019). Mapping the trail of violence: The memorialization of public space as a counter-geography of violence in Ciudad Juárez. *Journal of Latin American Geography* 18(3): 132-157.
- Rosenberg, Rae & Oswin, Natalie. (2015). Trans embodiment in carceral space: Hypermasculinity and the US prison industrial complex. *Gender, Place & Culture* 22(9).
- Trotz, Alissa. (2011). Bustling across the Canada-US border: Gender and the remapping of the Caribbean across place. *Small Axe* 15(2): 59-77.
- Shabazz, Rashad (Nov 2021). Prince & Place: A primer on the geography of music. *Places Journal*.
- *Blood Quantum* [film]
- Liboiron, Max. (2021). *Pollution is Colonialism*. Duke University Press. [selections]
- Chariandy, David. (2017). *Brother*. Random House. [novel]
- Mountz, Alison. (2011). The enforcement archipelago: Detention, haunting, and asylum on islands. *Political Geography* 30: 118-128.
- Said, Edward. (1978). *Orientalism* (Introduction). Pantheon Books.
- Freire-Medeiros, Bianca (2009). The favela and its touristic transits. *Geoforum* 40: 580-588.
- Walia, Harsha (2021). *Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism*. Fernwood Publishing