

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING



GPY 327- Geographical Imaginations

Course Instructors	Dr. Laura Jean Cameron	Email: cameron@queensu.ca
Offices	E301 Macintosh-Corry Hall	
Contact Time	Two 1.5 hour lectures per week	Phone: (613) 533-6420
Format	Lectures and discussions based on key texts, archives, fieldwork, art (film, music, creative writing, visual art), social media.	
Class Assessment	10% In-class participation (tutorials and lectures) 50% Active Assignments: (1) 10% Writing (2) 20% Archives (3) 20% Soundscape/walking 10% Research paper progress report 30% Research paper	

COURSE OVERVIEW

'Even on a Saturday morning I am a geographer. Geography is everywhere.' (Denis Cosgrove, 1989: 119)

This course takes a creative and critical approach to the role of geographic, cultural and historical imaginations in shaping landscapes, environments and society. Students will explore several major themes current within the sub-disciplines of historical and cultural geography. In addition, two other key objectives are to introduce students to many of the influential geographical imaginations that continue to light the creative fires in our discipline, and to help students discover their own. Lectures will be delivered by the instructor along with a host of invited guests from academic and non-academic communities. Discussion and participation are important and expected aspects of this course: be prepared to speak up, share ideas, and ask questions. Assignments will require students to stretch themselves creatively and intellectually. This is a challenging course and will require a considerable time commitment on your part for reading and writing, an essential practice in developing your geographical imagination and key to good historical-cultural geographical analysis.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this class will:

- Understand theories of power, discourse, place, materialism and representation and their relevance to contemporary geographic scholarship;
- Enhance critical thinking, writing, and research skills and demonstrate these skills in their class contributions and written submissions;
- Demonstrate familiarity with key issues and debates in contemporary historical and cultural geography by engaging with and citing course readings and other publications in their term paper and other assignments;
- Challenge taken-for-granted understandings of the world and share critiques through exercises and group discussions.
- Create new and potentially more inclusive spaces for geographical imaginations through experimentation and collaboration.

COURSE TOPICS

The course is composed of three overlapping sections: 'historical geography', 'senses and the field' and 'cultural geography'. We will spend some time at the beginning of the course becoming familiar with some important theoretical concepts such as 'geographical imagination', 'culture', 'nature', 'place', 'discourse', 'power', 'knowledge' and 'representation'. These theoretical building blocks will be crucial for understanding the material covered in the rest of the course. Next, the course will span a range of topics that contemporary historical and cultural geographers are interested in, including sonic and musical geographies; spectral geographies; and what David Harvey calls 'spaces of hope.'

SELECTED COURSE TEXTS & READINGS

Cameron, Laura. "Digging in the Dirt: Unnatural Histories and the 'Art of Not Dividing.'" *Distinguished Historical Geography Lecture*, 2010. Association of American Geographers (2010).

Cosgrove, Denis. *Geographical Imagination and the Authority of Images* (Stuttgart, Germany: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2006)

Cresswell, Tim. *Geographic Thought: A Critical Introduction*. Wiley-Blackwell (2013).

Davidson, Joyce, Bondi, Liz & Mick Smith. *Emotional Geographies* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2005).

Goheen, Peter. "Symbols in the Streets: Parades in Victorian Upper Canada," *Urban History Review*, 18:3 (1990): 237-243.

Lorimer, Hayden. "Caught in the Nick of Time: Archives and Fieldwork." *SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Geography* (2009) pp. 248-272.

Manguel, Alberto & Gianni Guadalupi. *The Dictionary of Imaginary Places* (Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2001)

Mitchell, Don. "Cultural Studies and the New Cultural Geography," Chapter 2 in *Cultural Geography: A Critical Introduction*. (Oxford: Blackwell, 2000), pp 37-65.

Parr, Joy. "A Walking Village Remade: Iroquois and the St. Lawrence Seaway," Chapter 4 in *Sensing Changes: Technologies, Environments, and the Everyday, 1953-2003* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010), pp. 79-101.