

GEOG 8400, SP 2015

Seminar in Critical Human Geography

Professor Becky Mansfield
Mondays, 2:15-5:00, DB 1116

This seminar is organized as a writing workshop for students in critical human and human-environment geography. Each student will choose a paper-length work-in-progress on which to work over the course of the semester (e.g. a thesis chapter, grant proposal, or article manuscript). Each student will receive in-person and written feedback from the other students and from me. (It is best to have a single project on which you work over the course of the semester but other arrangements are possible.) The workshop is a valuable opportunity for each student to get feedback on their own work, and is also an opportunity to learn how to give and receive engaged and constructive feedback in person and in writing.

How it works:

Each week we will “workshop” the work-in-progress of two students. The two authors will upload a work-in-progress to Carmen at least a week before we will be discussing it (i.e. by the previous Monday). The work does *not* need to be complete, even as a draft (though it should be in a state where readers can figure out what’s going on!).

The workshop is organized as a discussion only, with no presentation. For the first 2/3 of the discussion the author of the work will remain silent. Everyone else will discuss the work, engaging with the ideas and arguments in addition to providing general comments on writing. For the last 1/3, the author can respond and participate.

Each student will also provide written comments for that week’s authors. These do not need to be lengthy, but should reflect careful engagement with the work.

In the two weeks before the AAG, each student will make a 20-minute presentation of their work. (Students going to the conference can use this as a practice session.)

At the end of the semester, each student will turn in a final draft of their written work.

Grades are based on:

(1) The progress each student makes with their own writing, (2) contributions to the in-class workshops, (3) written comments on each other’s work, and (4) the presentation.

Anyone who misses a class must still submit written comments on the two works-in-progress for that week. *Anyone who misses more than one class will have to make alternative arrangements with me.*

Carmen:

We will use the discussion boards in Carmen for all course activity. Post your work to a discussion, and provide comments by responding to that discussion.

SCHEDULE (DRAFT; to be adjusted based on final course enrollment)

- Jan 12 Introductions: Be prepared to describe your *research program* and the *specific work on which you will focus* this semester
*By Wed, January 14 at 5 pm: Post to Carmen a description (a few sentences) of the work-in-progress on which you will be focusing this semester.
- Jan 19 NO CLASS: MLK DAY
- Jan 26 Workshop (2 students)
- Feb 2 Workshop (2 students)
- Feb 9 Workshop (2 students)
- Feb 16 Workshop (2 students)
- Feb 23 Workshop (2 students)
- Mar 2 Workshop (2 students)
- Mar 9 Workshop (2 students)
- Mar 16 NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
- Mar 23 Workshop (2 students)
- Mar 30 Workshop (2 students)
- Apr 6 Workshop (2 students)
- Apr 13 Presentations (5 students)
- Apr 20 (AAG week) Presentations (5 students)
- Apr 27 No class meeting; work on papers for submission.
Final work is due to Carmen by Friday, May 1 at 10am.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

OSU COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES

A recent American College Health Survey found stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, death of a significant other and alcohol use among the top ten health impediments to academic performance. Students experiencing personal problems or situational crises are encouraged to contact the OSU Counseling and Consultation Services (292-5766; <http://www.ccs.ohio-state.edu>) for assistance, support, and advocacy. This service is free to students and is confidential.

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research and other educational and scholarly activities. The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expects that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and in this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) (oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the COAM. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal. If you have questions about this policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.