

Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and
Resources

Department of Environment and Geography

GEOG 2640

Geographies of Culture and Inequality

Winter 2024, Tues/Thurs, 10:00-11:15.



University
of Manitoba

Instructor:

Andre G. Berezuk

Email: Andre.Berezuk@umanitoba.ca

Office: 212 Sinnott Building

Office Hours: Thursdays 11:50-13:50

Course Description:

While we often think of culture as something passed on from generation to generation, the reality is that culture is much more complex, and flexible, than we generally assume. Less a thing to be learned and passed on, more a set of values that are being continually shaped and contested, culture is the process through which we learn to make sense of, and use, the world around us. As such, culture is not just a shared set of values, but also the landscapes that have come to exist because of those beliefs (ie. churches, nation-states, shopping malls). This course serves as an introduction to the field of cultural geography, which is the study of how space is given meaning. We will explore the relationship between culture and landscape, focusing specifically on the production of inequality. From segregation to gentrification, from slavery to global capitalism, inequality is both produced spatially and culturally. Understanding the geography of inequality helps illustrate the roots of inequality, as well as possible solutions.

Goals and Objectives

The main goal of this course is to explain about the complex and concerning question of social inequality and how it would be entangled with culture aspects which are linked with environment, production and political issues. More than that, this course aims to analyze and teach about the collateral effects of inequality, poverty and low levels of quality of life as illiteracy, violence, migration processes, polarization, prejudices and radicalisms.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Have basic understanding about culture, inequality and development concepts, values, strengths and critical points;
- 2) Comprehend scenarios and panoramas of developing countries;
- 3) Understand the complex links between developed and developing countries and their role global inequality;
- 4) Analyze how the natural resources are impacted with the strengthening of inequality, poverty and cultures disrespect;
- 5) Rationalize the critical points of a modernity that does not take into consideration humanistic and sustainable goals.

Course Requirements

There are some requirements that students need to follow:

1. **Engage with the class** – respect your peers, but feel free to challenge their ideas. Respect is the key point of all socialization process and a fundamental pillar toward any trying of reflection.
2. **Remain focused in class** – if you use a laptop, use it only for class-related activities.

Like all courses, there is a significant amount of work required by students outside of the classroom time.

Class Schedule

	Days	Topic
9 th – 11 st JAN	TUE	Course introduction - concepts about Culture
	THU	What is Inequality? (text 1)
16 th – 18 th JAN	TUE	Cultural Geography and Landscape: some definitions (text 2)
	THU	
23 rd – 25 th JAN	TUE	Demographic trends and the question of the miserable and the rich (text 3)
	THU	
30 th – 31 st JAN	TUE	Environmental impacts and its linkage with Inequality (text 4)
	THU	
6 th – 8 th FEB	TUE	Global Warming and Inequality (text 5)
	THU	
13 rd – 15 th FEB	TUE	The access of potable water and water treatment (text 6)
	THU	
20 th – 22 nd FEB		Reading Week – No Classes
	THU	
27 th – 29 th FEB	TUE	Immigration and the search for dignity (text 7)
	THU	
5 th – 7 th MAR	TUE	Education, knowledge and equality (text 8)
	THU	
12 nd – 14 th MAR	TUE	Geopolitics and inequality (text 6 – pages 69 to 113)
	THU	
19 th – 21 st MAR	TUE	21 st Century and who would have access to Modernity
	THU	
26 th – 28 th MAR	TUE	Some thoughts (insights?) at the end – GCI 2023-2024
	THU	
2 nd – 4 th APR	TUE	Geographies of Culture and Inequality Seminars
	THU	

Required Readings

- 1) UNITED NATIONS. World Social Report 2020: inequality in a rapidly changing world – **Pages 2 to 15** - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/World-Social-Report2020-FullReport.pdf> - access on Dec 2023.
- 2) CRATE, S. A. Sakha and Alaas: Place Attachment and Cultural Identity in a Time of Climate Change. Anthropology and Humanism, Vol. 47, Issue 1, pp 20–38, 2022. anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/anh.12353
- 3) UNITED NATIONS – World Population Prospects - United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results. UN DESA/POP/2022/TR/NO. 3. - <https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/>
- 4) UNITED NATIONS – Environmental Justice Securing our right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment - **Pages 1 to 34** - 2022 <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-06/Environmental-Justice-Technical-Report.pdf>

5) Poverty and Climate Change: reducing the vulnerability of the poor through adaptation. <https://www.oecd.org/env/cc/2502872.pdf>

6) UNITED NATIONS. The state of water resources in the context of climate change. UNESCO, UN-Water, 2020: United Nations World Water Development Report 2020: Water and Climate Change, Paris, UNESCO. pp. 10-29 - https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/08/world_water_development_report_2020_water_and_climate_change.pdf

7) McAULIFFE, M. and A. TRIANDAFYLLIDOU, A. (eds.), 2021. World Migration Report 2022. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva. – Pages 1 to 57 (1 to 11 at minimum) - <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2022>

8) UNITED NATIONS. Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 10 – Transforming Education, 2023. <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-transforming-education-en.pdf>

Grading

Component	Date (Due)	Percent of Final Grade
Questionnaire	Thursday, 1 st February 2024	20%
Essay #1	Friday, 1 st March 2024	20%
Essay #2	Friday, 29 th March 2024	20%
Final Presentation (Oral presentation)	Tuesday, 2 nd April 2024 Thursday, 4 th April 2024	20%
Final Presentation (Report)	Tuesday, 9 th April 2024 Thursday, 11 th April 2024	20%

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

Grading: The grading scheme for this course is represented as followed:

Letter Grade	Percentage out of 100	Final Grade Point
A+	90-100	4.5
A	80-89	4.0
B+	75-79	3.5
B	70-74	3.0
C+	65-69	2.5
C	60-64	2.0
D	50-59	1.0
F	Less than 50	0

Assignment Submission: Assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment unless other arrangements are made.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized 5% for every 24 hour period that it is late. The instructor will not accept assignments after 1 week of delaying. However, exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be granted by the Course Instructor.

Missed Tests: Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor's letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Class Communication

You are required to obtain and use your University of Manitoba email account for all communication between yourself and the university. All communication must comply with the Electronic Communication with Student Policy: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/electronic_communication_with_students_policy.html.

Student Support and Conduct

Students Accessibility Services

The University of Manitoba is committed to providing an accessible academic community. Students Accessibility Services (SAS) (<https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/accessibility>) offers academic accommodation supports and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g., mental illness, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation.

520 University Centre
(204) 474-7423
Student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca

Writing and Study Skills Support

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers services that may be helpful to you as you fulfill the requirements for this course. Through the ALC, you may meet with a study skills specialist to discuss concerns such as time management, reading and note-taking strategies, and test-taking strategies. You may also meet one-on-one with a writing tutor who can give you feedback at any stage of the writing process, whether you are just beginning to work on a written assignment or already have a draft. Writing tutors can also give you feedback if you submit a draft of your paper online. (Please note that the online tutors require 48 hours, from Mondays to Fridays, to return your paper with comments.)

All Academic Learning Centre services are free for UofM students. For more information, please visit the Academic Learning Centre website at umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/

You can also talk to a member of the Academic Learning staff by calling
204-480-1481 (Fort Garry campus)
204-272-3190 (Bannatyne campus)

Student Counselling Centre

Student Counselling Centre (SCC) offers individual, couple or family counselling in individual and groups formats. Please phone: 204-474-8592 or visit SCC at 474 University Centre.

Relevant UofM Policies and rules

Students should take notice of the following policies and rules:

Policy on Respectful Work and Learning Environment

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/566.html

Inappropriate and Disruptive Student Behaviour

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/279.html

Accessibility Policy for Student with Disabilities

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/281.html

Withdrawal from class

http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/leave_return/695.html

Using Copyrighted Material

Please respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course. I have ensured that the content I use is appropriately acknowledged and is copied in accordance with copyright laws and university guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are made available for private study and research and must not be distributed in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to a learning management system (such as UM Learn) or any website (e.g., Course Hero, Chegg, etc.), unless an exception to the Copyright Act applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website (<http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/>) or contact um_copyright@umanitoba.ca.

Traditional Territory or Land Acknowledgment

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Academic Integrity

Please refer to these specific course requirements for academic integrity for individual and group work in this course:

- I. Unless otherwise stated, complete your assignments, quizzes, tests, and exams by yourself with no help from your class peers, family members, or from tutors that are not approved by the instructor. If you are in need of assistance, please contact the instructor immediately for support and/or to arrange for approved supports.
- II. Do not share course materials (e.g., notes, exam questions, assignment instructions, article) that have been created by the instructor or were authored by another person. Unpermitted sharing of such materials with your peers or with note-sharing companies, such as One Class, Course Hero, or Chegg (or other similar websites), is a violation of Copyright Law.
- III. Group members must ensure that a group project adheres to the principles of academic integrity. This means that all students are required to check that all sourced material has been cited and referenced.
- IV. Students should review specific instructions concerning study groups and individual assignments.
- V. Do not submit lab reports or other types of assignments already graded in another course.

Plagiarism or any other form of cheating in examinations, term tests or academic work is subject to serious academic penalty (e.g. suspension or expulsion from the faculty or university). Cheating in examinations or tests may take the form of copying from another student or bringing unauthorized materials into the exam room (e.g., crib notes, pagers or cell phones). Exam cheating can also include exam personation. (Please see Exam Personation, found in the Examination Regulations section of the General Academic Regulations). A student found guilty of contributing to cheating in examinations or term assignments is also subject to serious academic penalty.

To plagiarize is to take ideas or words of another person and pass them off as one's own. In short, it is stealing something intangible rather than an object. Plagiarism applies to any written work, in traditional or electronic format, as well as orally or verbally presented work. Obviously, it is not necessary to state the source of well-known or easily verifiable facts, but students are expected to appropriately acknowledge the sources of ideas and expressions they use in their written work, whether quoted directly or paraphrased. This applies to diagrams, statistical tables and the like, as well as to written material, and materials or information from Internet sources. To provide adequate and correct documentation is not only an indication of academic honesty but is also a courtesy which enables the reader to consult these sources with ease. Failure to provide appropriate citations constitutes plagiarism. It will also be considered plagiarism and/or cheating if a student submits a term paper written in whole or in part by someone other than him/herself, or copies the answer or answers of another student in any test, examination, or take-home assignment. Working with other

students on assignments, laboratory work, take-home tests, or on-line tests, when this is not permitted by the instructor, can constitute Inappropriate Collaboration and may be subject to penalty under the [Student Discipline By-Law](#).

An assignment which is prepared and submitted for one course should not be used for a different course. This is called “duplicate submission” and represents a form of cheating because course requirements are expected to be fulfilled through original work for each course. When in doubt about any practice, ask your professor or instructor.

The Student Advocacy Office, 519 University Centre, 204-474-7423, is a resource available to students dealing with Academic Integrity matters.

Academic Integrity and AI Text-generating Tools

Students need to be honest, responsible and fair when using material that came from AI text-generating tools, like Notion AI, Bing, ChatGPT, among others, if the use of these tools are allowed by the instructors in academic environments. However, if an instructor prohibits the use of AI tools in a course, students may face an allegation of academic misconduct if using them to do assignments. For this course, AI Text-generating tools are not allowed.