

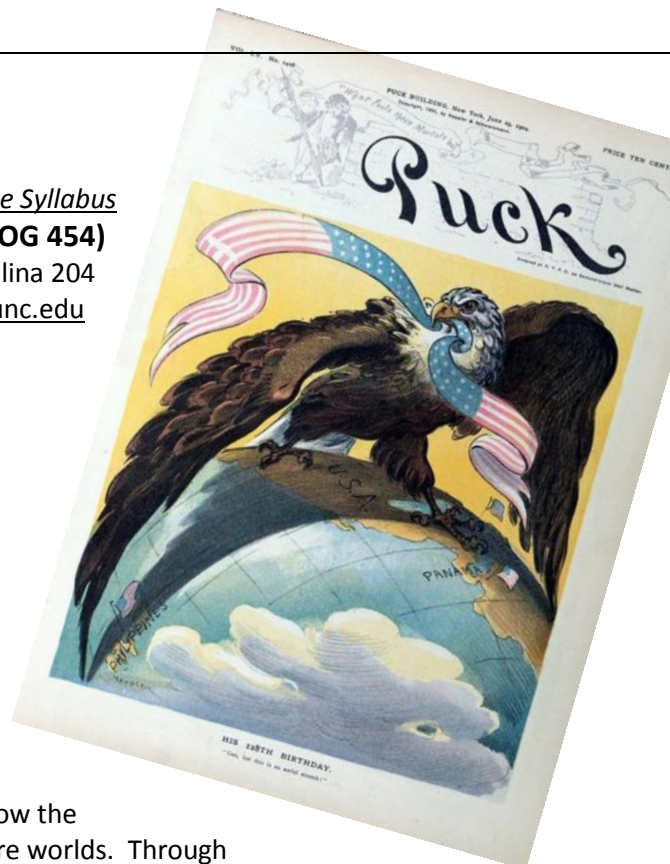
Spring 2018 Course Syllabus

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES (GEOG 454)

M/W/F 12:20-1:10 Carolina 204

course homepage: via <https://sakai.unc.edu>

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Course Overview

Historical geography is a sub-field of human geography which explores the geographies of the past, and seeks to understand how the past continues to shape or influence our contemporary and future worlds. Through lenses of space, place, region, landscape, and cinematic geographies, GEOG 454 offers a study of selected past geographies of the United States with emphases on significant geographic changes in political, economic, cultural, and environmental conditions through time. For Spring 2018, course topics include:

- Colonial encounters
- Geographies of Southern Reconstruction
- The West as movement
- New Deal landscapes
- Pacific America
- Atomic Age geographies.

Although we will not be bound by specific dates or periods – since as Faulkner wrote, “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” – we will concentrate on the century from 1863-1963, tracing past geographies and exploring their implications for the present and future.

Students will also be exposed to historical geographical research methods, archival practices, and development of original new media content through semester-long geo-humanities projects, to be carried out in collaboration with the CDHI’s Digital Innovation Incubator program and Wilson Library Special Collections.

Format

Geog 454 (HGUS) brings together lecture, seminar, and research and methods workshop formats, promoting inquiry- and project-based learning and skills development in critical thinking, writing, communication, and elementary digital mapping and design. There will be field trips,* methods workshops, films, and engagements with the digital geo-humanities and other new media projects (some days you will be asked to bring a laptop to class). There will also be lectures, readings, and

student seminar presentations; plan to read about ~50-75 pages per week (more when including cartoons!), and set aside time accordingly.

Grades

Grades will reflect HGUS’s varied format:

- Seminar assignments 20%
 - Digital asst #1 10%
 - Mid-term exam 15%
 - Final exam/project presentation 20%
 - Geohumanities projects 25%
 - Just showing up 10%
- 100

Texts:

Fetter-Vorm, J. and Kelman, A. (2015) *Battle Lines: A Graphic History of the Civil War*. New York: Hill and Wang.

Meinig, D.W. (1998) *The Shaping of America. Vol. 3: Transcontinental America, 1850-1915*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

*These two books are available @ student stores. **Additional texts** (in schedule & listed below) will be posted to **sakai** as pdfs and links. Some additional digital materials – usually in connection with course lectures and activities – will also be posted and circulated via **sakai announcements**.*

Provisional Schedule:

<u>Month</u>	<u>M/W/F</u>	<u>Section/Topic</u>	<u>Required Readings</u>
Jan	XX/10/12	1. Introduction to Historical Geography of the US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The past is a foreign country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heffernan • Ott • “Burning Settler’s Cabin”
Jan	XX/17/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Jan 15: MLK Holiday] • Key concepts & approaches • Colonial encounters #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cronon • Cosgrove • Phillips
Jan	22/24/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American historical geographies from 1620 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowenthal • Meinig (3-28) • <i>Battle Lines</i> (Preface; Ch.1-2)
Jan-Feb	29/31/02	2. Geographies of Southern Reconstruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking spaces of war and reconstruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Battle Lines</i> (Ch. 3-9) • Meinig (187-226) • Woods (Ch. 3)
Feb	05/07/09		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Souths

Feb	12/14/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolic landscape & identity • Archive/digital methods workshops • Asst 1 due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leloudis • Fennessy • Alderman • Meinig (227-293: background)
Feb	19/21/23	3. New Deal Landscapes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New agricultural geographies? • picturing the New Deal landscape • <i>Feb 23@Ackland Museum: WPA arts programs</i> • Legacies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “New Deal” • Living New Deal • Woods (Ch. 6) • Mitchell • Weems
Feb-Mar	26/28/02		
Mar	05/07/09	4. The West as Movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonial Encounters #2 • Mid-term exam Mar. 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meinig (31-36; 137-183; <i>tba*</i>) • Kirsch (1999) • Powell
Mar	12/14/16	[Spring Break]	
Mar	19/21/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelling the other way? • Continental spectacle: Chicago World’s Columbian Exhibition, 1893 • Project workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limerick • Domosh
Mar	26/28/30	5. Pacific America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking oceanic worlds • Colonial encounters #3 • An insular empire? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meinig (327-394) • Iggler (3-15; 99-128) • Kirsch (2016) • Davis
Apr	02/04/06		
Apr	09/11/13	6. Atomic Age geographies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaces of Cold War America • Nuclear landscapes • [colonial encounters #4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farish • Solnit • Pitkanen
Apr	16/18/20		
Apr	23/25/7		

Additional Readings:

Alderman, D. (2009) Surrogation and the politics of remembering slavery in Savannah, Georgia (USA).

Journal of Historical Geography 36: 90-101.

“Burning Settler’s Cabin” (2009) *Yesterland* (online publication), W. Weiss (curator):

<http://www.yesterland.com/burningcabin.html> downloaded 1/8/2018.

Cosgrove, D. (1998). *Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Selection: Ch. 6 “America as Landscape” (pp. 161-188)

Cronon, W. (1983) *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*. New York: Hill and Wang. Selection: Ch. 4 "Bounding the Land" (pp. 54-81).

Davis, S. (2015) *The Empire's Edge: Militarization, Resistance, and Transcending Hegemony in the Pacific*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press. Selection: Ch. 2: "Surveying the Baseworld" (pp. 34-51).

Domosh, M. (2002) A 'civilized' commerce: gender, 'race', and empire at the 1893 Chicago Exposition. *Cultural Geographies* 9: 181-201.

Farish, M. (2003) Disaster and decentralization: American cities and the Cold War. *Cultural Geographies* 10: 125-148.

Fennessy, B.K. (2017) Silent Sam and other Civil War monuments rose on race. *The News & Observer* 11/23/2017. <http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article186178233.html>

Harrison, C. (2015) Extending the 'White Way': municipal streetlighting and race, 1900-1930. *Social & Cultural Geography* 16: 950-973.

Heffernan, M. (2009) "Historical Geography," in the *Dictionary of Human Geography*, 5th Edition (2009), 332-335.

Igler, D. (2013) *The Great Ocean: Pacific Worlds from Captain Cook to the Gold Rush*. New York: Oxford University Press. Selections: Introduction "Ocean Worlds" (pp. 3-15); Ch. 4 "The Great Hunt" (pp. 99-128).

Kirsch, S. (1999) Regions of government science: John Wesley Powell in Washington and the American West. *Endeavour* 23: 155-158.

Kirsch, S. (2016) Insular territories: US colonial science, geopolitics, and the (re)mapping of the Philippines. *The Geographical Journal* 182: 2-14.

Leloudis, J. (2017) "Silent Sam: The Confederate Monument at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill." Chapel Hill, NC. <HTTPS://SPARK.ADOBE.COM/PAGE/Z4GHJKURMMKZS/>

Limerick, P.N. (1992) Disorientation and reorientation: The American landscape discovered from the West. *The Journal of American History* 79: 1021-1049.

Living New Deal. <https://livingnewdeal.org/> (Selections): <https://livingnewdeal.org/map/>

Lowenthal, D. (2015) *The Past is a Foreign Country – Revisited*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Selection from Ch. 4: “Ancients vs. Moderns: tradition and innovation” (pp. 147-151; 184-205)

Mitchell, D. (1994) Landscape and surplus value: the making of the ordinary in Brentwood, CA.
Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 12: 7-30.

“New Deal” (2009) New Deal. History channel (A+E Networks) <http://www.history.com/topics/new-deal>.

Ott, C. 2007. Why Lewis and Clark matter: History, landscape and regional identity. *Historical Geography* 35: 114-135.

Phillips, R. (2014) “Colonialism and Post-Colonialism” in P. Cloke, P. Crang, and M. Goodwin (eds), *Introducing Human Geographies*, 3rd edn, pp. 493-508. London: Routledge.

Pitkanen, L. (2017) The state comes home: Radiation and in-situ dispossession in Canada. *Political Geography* 61: 99-109.

Powell, J.W. (1875) The Hopi villages: The ancient province of Tusayan. *Scribner’s Monthly* XI: 13-.

Solnit, R. (1994) *Savage Dreams: A Journey into the Hidden Wars of the American West*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books. Selection: Ch. 1: “From Hell to Breakfast” (pp. 3-37).

Weems, J. (2004) Aerial views and farm security administration photography. *History of Photography* 28: 266-282.

Woods, C. (1998) *Development Arrested: The Blues and Plantation Power in the Mississippi Delta*. New York: Verso. Selections: Ch. 3 “Socio-Spatial Construction of the Mississippi Delta” (pp. 40-71); Ch. 6 “The Enclosure Movement” (pp. 121-154)

****Additional digital resources will be posted on sakai ****

Class Policies

- Please inform the instructor if you have **special needs** which require accommodations in or out of the classroom in order for you to fully participate in this course.
- **Attendance** is expected. Points for “Seminar assignments” and “Just showing up,” in particular, are based on occasional in-class activities, both formal and informal, and exams will test students on both readings and lectures. Students can make up missed participation activities for excused absences (illness, academic or athletics travel, grandmother’s wedding, etc.).
- **Changes** to the syllabus and class schedule are occasionally required. Any key date changes will be announced in class and via **sakai: announcements**, which students are expected to receive.
- *Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty as reflected in the UNC honor code:* <http://honor.unc.edu>



(Source: US Atomic Energy Commission, 1957)