

GEOG 70100 Geographic Thought and Theory  
Tuesday 4:10-6:40 live on Zoom

During this semester, we will examine a number of major theories and scholars in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century geography. We will examine aspects of the theories, and then analyze and discuss research articles and review articles written from within those theories. You will also individually delve into the research of scholars working in the theories we will examine. We are not covering all geographic theories, but we will be looking at work in both human and physical geography from multiple perspectives.

Instructor: Professor Miyares  
Office: HN1045 (will not be in my office fall 2020)  
Office Hours: On Zoom via appointment  
Best contact: by [email—imiyares@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:imiyares@hunter.cuny.edu)

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the semester, you will:

- Be able to explain and discuss multiple theories in geography;
- Be able to read and interpret journal articles written from particular theoretical perspectives;
- Be able to lead discussions of journal articles;
- Be able to write critically about research and review articles; and
- Be able to critically examine, present, and write about the research of scholars working in selected theoretical frameworks.

Required textbook:

Couper, Pauline. 2015. *A Student's Introduction to Geographical Thought*. ISBN: 9781446282960 Sage Publications. Also available as e-book.

Additional readings linked to the textbook's companion website posted on Blackboard.

Grading:

Weekly Assignments:	50%
Midterm (Oral 25%, Written 75%)	25%
Final (Oral 25%, Written 75%)	25%

I do not give incompletes except in cases of legitimate documentable emergencies communicated in advance. A grade of WU will be given to students who *completely* disappear from the class **prior to submitting graded work** and neglect to withdraw from the course. This includes the final paper and presentation.

All assignments are already posted on Blackboard with due dates. There is one week when we do not meet due to college-wide schedule changes. Make sure you keep track of the schedule.

Each week, you will be reading a set of articles linked to the assigned chapter in the textbook. You will take turns leading the discussion of the article. You are not teaching the article since everyone will be responsible for reading the articles. However, you will be responsible for initiating the discussion of the article. Additionally you will be writing responses to the assigned articles, and you will be completing an analytical assignment for each chapter. You will also have a midterm and final research project that you will present in both oral and written form (see Blackboard for details). By the end of this semester, I want you to be able to read and dissect a research or review article, a skill that will be essential in completing your own research thesis or project/paper.

Week 1 (Sept 1): Introduction to course, website, each other

Week 2 (Sept 8): Ch. 1—Introduction and associated readings

Week 3 (Sept 15): Ch. 2—Positivism and associated readings

Week 4 (Sept 22): Ch. 3—Critical Rationalism and associated readings

**September 29 follows a Monday schedule.**

Week 5 (Oct 6): Ch. 4—Marxism and Critical Realism Part 1 and associated readings

Week 6 (Oct 13): Ch. 4—Marxism and Critical Realism Part 2 and associated readings

Week 7 (Oct 20): Midterm due. Midterm oral presentations

Week 8 (Oct 27): Ch. 5 Phenomenology and Post-Phenomenology Part 1 and associated readings

Week 9 (Nov 3): Ch. 5 Phenomenology and Post-Phenomenology Part 2 and associated readings

Week 10 (Nov 10): Ch. 6 Social Construction and Feminism Part 1 and associated readings

Week 11 (Nov 17): Ch. 6 Social Construction and Feminism Part 2 and associated readings

Week 12 (Nov 24): Ch. 7 Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, and Modernism Part 1 and associated readings

Week 13 (Dec 1): Ch. 7 Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, and Modernism Part 2 and associated readings

Week 14 (Dec 8): Ch. 8 Complexity Theory and associated readings

Week 15 (Dec 15): Final project due. Final presentations

**Grading and Other Essential Information:**

- All written assignments will be submitted on Blackboard
- All written assignments will go through SafeAssign for plagiarism review
- Assignments submitted in any other way will not be graded
- There will be significant deductions in points given for late assignments. No points will be given for an assignment submitted more than a week late unless you have given me an *excellent* excuse.
- *I do not give incompletes.* Your grade at the end of the semester is your final grade
- If a documentable emergency situation arises that may result in the late submission of an assignment, please let me know as soon as possible via email.
- Email Policy: I do check my email regularly and will respond promptly until 8 pm. I expect professional respectful communication via email (no Twitter or texting shorthand).

**Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity**

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

If there is clear evidence of plagiarism, I will give a zero on the assignment and will notify the Dean of Students. We will discuss appropriate citation and bibliographic formats early in the semester.

**ADA Policy**

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230. If you have a documentable disability or condition that makes it impossible to complete an assignment as written, please contact me immediately so an alternative can be arranged.

## Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose ([jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry ([colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123. CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct

Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

## Syllabus Change Policy

- Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
- If changes are made to the syllabus, I will notify you via email through Blackboard. It is essential that you have your correct email linked to your Blackboard account and that you check your Hunter or other Blackboard-linked email regularly. Bounced emails will not be an acceptable excuse for not being aware of changes or any other communications to the class.