

# GGR 123

## GEOGRAPHY: HISTORY AND CONCEPTS

Fall 2023. Wednesday 09:30 – 11:00. Classroom 407

**Instructor:** Erdem Bekaroğlu, Ph.D

**Office:** Room 419

**E-mail:** ebekaroglu@ankara.edu.tr

**Office Hours:** By appointment (via e-mail)

### Course Description

*Geography: History and Concepts* is an introductory undergraduate course designed for students majoring in geography and other students with a strong interest in geography. The course is a critical inquiry into the historical and conceptual development of modern and contemporary geographical thought and the academic discipline of geography. It examines the development of geography from its early beginnings focusing on key concepts that have shaped the academic discipline throughout its development, particularly in the second half of the twentieth century, up to the present.

The ultimate aim of the course is to develop the critical conceptual and theoretical tools with which to think geographically about the planet and the world. The course does not assume any background or extensive knowledge of the subject, but the student's critical interest and willingness to engage in critical discussion.

### Course format

All students are required to attend all sessions and to cover the assigned readings before class. The course comprises lectures. Classes will depend on every student's commitment to the course: preparedness before class, willingness to engage with the readings, raise questions and participate in class discussion. Use of cellphones, laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices is Not permitted in the classroom. Except make-up exam, all exams will be open book (students are also allowed to use non-electronic dictionaries during exams).

**Essays:** Students will be asked to prepare presentations about particular geographical concepts (such as space, place, environment, territory, time etc.) and perform it in the last week of the semester. Presentation performances will contribute (20 %) to final (and make-up) exam scores. *Attendance at seminars is mandatory for all students.*

**Score:** 40 % of mid-term score + 20 % of essay score + 40 % of final (make-up) exam score.

### Course Program and Readings

#### Lecture 01: October 04: Introduction to the course

- **Reading:** Johnston, R. (2005). Geography: coming apart at the seams? N. Castree, A. Rogers, D. Sherman (Eds.), In: *Questioning geography: fundamental debates*, pp: 9-25, Blackwell.

#### Lecture 02: October 11: Classical Period

- **Reading:** Cresswell, T. (2013). *Geographic thought: a critical introduction*, Wiley-Blackwell, pp: 14-34 (Chapter 2: Early Geographies).

### **Lecture 03: October 18: Modern Period**

- Reading: Johnston, R., Sidaway, J. D. (2016). *Geography and geographers: Anglo-American human geography since 1945*, Routledge, pp: 38-52.

### **Lecture 04: October 25: Spatial Science**

- Reading: Barnes, T. J. (2011). Spatial analysis. J. A. Agnew, D. N. Livingstone, In: *The sage handbook of geographical knowledge*, pp: 381-392, Sage.

### **Lecture 05: November 01: Human-Centered Theories**

- Reading: Hubbard, P., Kitchin, R., Bartley, B., Fuller, D. (2002). *Thinking geographically: space, theory and contemporary human geography*, Continuum, pp: 33-41.

### **Lecture 06: November 08: Structural Theories**

- Reading: Unwin, T. (1992). *The place of geography*, Prentice Hall, pp: 158-177 (Chapter 7: Critical science and society: the geographer's interest).

### **Lecture 07: November 15: Postmodern Geographies**

- Reading: Dear, M. (1988). The postmodern challenge: reconstructing human geography, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 13/3, 262-274.

**Mid-Term Exam:** November 22

**Review Class:** November 29

### **Lecture 08: December 06: Space**

- Reading: Elden, S. (2009). Space I, R. Kitchin, N. Thrift (Eds.), In: *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, pp: 10:262-10:267, Elsevier.

### **Lecture 09: December 13: Place**

- Reading: Cresswell, T. (2011). Place – Part I, J. A. Agnew, J. S. Duncan (Eds), In: *The Wiley-Blackwell companion to human geography*, pp: 235-244, Wiley-Blackwell.

### **Lecture 10: December 20: Environment**

- Reading: Livingstone, D. N. (2011). Environmental determinism. J. A. Agnew, D. N. Livingstone (Eds.), In: *The Sage handbook of geographical knowledge*, pp: 368-380, Sage: London.

### **Lecture 11: December 27: Territory**

- Reading: Paasi, A. (2003). Territory. J. Agnew, K. Mitchell, G. Toal (Eds.), In: *A Companion to Political Geography*, pp: 109-122, Blackwell.

### **Lecture 12: January 03: Time**

- Reading: Taylor, P. (2009). Time: From hegemonic change to everyday life. N. J. Clifford, S. L. Halloway, S. P. Rice, G. Valentine (Eds.), In: *Key Concepts in Geography*, pp: 140-152, Sage.