

MODULE OUTLINE

GG14410 PLACE, CULTURE AND SOCIETY

2014-2015

Teaching staff: Dr Kimberley Peters (kip2@aber.ac.uk) (*module convenor*)
Professor Peter Merriman (prm@aber.ac.uk)

Where and when? 16.10-18.00 on Mondays in Llandinam A6 lecture room

N.B: starting in the second week of teaching. **The first lecture will be on Monday 2nd February 2015.**

Module overview

This module provides an introduction to key debates in social and cultural geography, focusing on themes of society, culture and identity and how these link to the concept of place. The introductory lectures provide an overview of social and cultural geography and the development of this tradition in the discipline, and an introduction to the concept of place.

The first half of the module 'Placing social difference' considers the spatialities of identity in contemporary society. The lectures for this section focus on geographies of identity, societal difference and exclusion (covering race, gender and sexuality), transgression and resistance (considering youth culture, homelessness and social action) and the geographies of the body (exploring disability, body size and age).

The second section of the module 'Placing culture' focuses on the role of cultural practices and forms in shaping places and constructing the meanings of places, focusing on place and representation, mobility and place, globalization, consumption and place, and how Britain and Wales are understood and experienced as places at different scales.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module you should be able to:

- Describe the key concepts and debates relating to themes of place, culture, society and identity in human geography.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of contemporary debates on place, culture, society and identity in human geography.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of case studies relating to the core themes of the module.

Assessment

The module is assessed by a written 2-hour unseen examination. The assessment criteria will be made available on Blackboard. Group feedback will be available following the examination.

Please see Blackboard for examples of past exams.

Lecture Schedule

Section 1: Introductory lectures – Dr Kimberley Peters, Professor Peter Merriman

1. Place, culture and society: an introduction to social and cultural geographies
2. Place – An introduction

Section 2: Placing social difference – Dr Kimberley Peters

3. Society and place: introducing geographies of identity
4. Societal difference and exclusion
5. Transgression and resistance in contemporary society
6. Society and the body

Section 3: Placing culture – Professor Peter Merriman

7. Place and Representation
8. Mobility and Place
9. Globalisation, Consumption and Place
10. Placing Britain and Britishness

Reading Lists

There is no single textbook or reading for this module. Instead a selection of readings relating to each of the lectures is provided on Talis Aspire. We will talk through the literature we recommend you read to support your learning. Independent reading is **essential** for developing your understanding of the topics taught.

However, the following textbooks will be especially relevant throughout the course. These are all available in the Hugh Owen Library.

- Cloke, P., Crang, P. and Goodwin, M. eds. (2005) *Introducing human geographies* (2nd edition), Hodder Arnold (see also 1st edition of this textbook, 1999)
- Cresswell, T. (2004) *Place*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Crang, M. (1998) *Cultural Geography*. London & New York: Routledge. .
- Valentine, G. (2001) *Social Geographies: Space and Society*. Harlow: Prentice Hall.

You will also find that the Dictionary of Human Geography will be useful:

- Johnston, R.J. et al (eds) (2009) *The Dictionary of Human Geography*, 5th edition, Oxford: Blackwell (see also 4th edition, 2001).

Blackboard

Should be used to support your learning. Please see the GG14410 module page for:

- Copies of the powerpoint slides used in each lecture
- Reading lists on Talis Aspire
- Information on exam assessment/marking criteria
- Additional folders containing information, articles, web links and film clips covering topics referred to in the lectures

Where to get help

If you have any questions regarding particular lectures, please ask the lecturer, either Professor Merriman or Dr Peters. You can ask us after the lecture, or email for an office appointment

If you have any questions regarding the module, please contact the convenor, Dr Peters (see contact details above).