

GGR1714: GEOGRAPHIES OF CITIZENSHIP

SPRING TERM 2017

Thursdays 11-1pm, Location TBA

*****THIS A DRAFT SYLLABUS WHICH MAY BE REVISED BEFORE JANUARY 2017*****

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will critically examine discourses of citizenship and citizen subject formation in contemporary Western societies. Questions that will be addressed include: How are citizens constituted? Who is a citizen subject? Who is not? How are past and present subjects and populations governed through citizenship?

The course is rooted in an interest in investigating the processes and practices of subject formation. The focus on citizen subjects arises because of the important ways that citizenship is being reformulated: citizenship is increasingly being used to justify contemporary articulations of political community that are exclusive and reactionary even while citizenship is idealized as a political mechanism through which liberal rights and responsibilities are articulated. Moreover, citizenship is being reworked by discourses around localism, nationalism and globalization that are creating new forms of community, and potentially new claims regarding rights and engagement.

A range of texts will be examined, across various fields and disciplines. We will attend to theoretical explorations of the concepts, but also the ways that citizen subjects are articulated and/or circumscribed through social and cultural practices. An important focus of our attention will be on the spatial dimensions of citizenship and the implicit ways that it is tied to, and reinforces, national polities and national political communities. In so doing we will engage with a number of key themes in contemporary cultural geography including identity formation, marginalization, community, democracy, globalization, transnationalism, humanism, posthumanism, the everyday, the body, etc. At all times, discussions on broader issues will be encouraged, including the role and uses of theory, methodological forms and practices, the dissemination and trajectory of ideas, and last but not least, the politics of writing, research and the production of knowledge.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Weekly Critical Analysis and Participation (30%)

You must write a short critique of the readings assigned for class (every other week). Critiques should be about 400-500 words, and should be posted on Blackboard by 10pm on the day **before** class. Your critical analysis should reflect on the readings. You might consider how the various assigned readings for that week speak to one another, or are perhaps contradictory, or you may focus on one reading. You may also reflect upon how the readings build upon or undermine ideas that we have examined previously. Your critical analysis should also raise one or two pointed questions that can be taken up in class. Assessment will be based on content, style and the critical engagement with the course readings. Late assignments will not be accepted.

You should be prepared to discuss your critical reflections with the class and to use your critical questions to generate discussion. You should be ready to summarize readings if called upon, or to draw our attention to key quotes or sections from the readings. Students are also expected to read the comments prepared by others, and to be prepared to engage with the issues that are raised. The seminar format of the course only works effectively if everyone participates, which means both making the effort to contribute as well as taking the time to listen to others.

Essay Proposals (15%): Due Thursday, February 23, 2017

Your essay proposals should be about four pages in length (about 1,000 words), plus bibliography. The proposal should set out a research question or thesis; provide some sense of the broad research issues that you will explore and engage; situate the research in terms of the academic literature; state how your essay relates to the themes and content of the course; and provide a preliminary bibliography of primary and/or secondary materials. Students will be required to post their essay proposals on Blackboard.

Essay Proposal Reviews (15%): Due Thursday, March 9, 2017

You will be responsible for reviewing and providing constructive feedback on the essay proposals of two of your peers. The reviews will be decided by lottery in class. Questions to be considered include: Is a thesis statement clearly articulated? Is the proposal clearly organized? Are the key issues of the paper clearly identified? Does the proposal provide ample contextual framing? How does the proposal pick up and/or extend the course materials? What other issues might the author consider? Are there any additional readings that might be useful for the author to consider? The review should include a written response to the paper that is between 250-300 words. The reviews will be posted on Blackboard. Your reviews will be assessed for their constructive engagement with the essay proposals and the thoughtfulness of your comments.

Essays (40%): Due Thursday, April 6, 2017

Your essays should be about 20 pages, and double-spaced (about 5,000 words). The essays should develop from your research proposal and address some aspect of citizenship. This might consist of either a short research project or a theoretical exploration. Your paper should demonstrate a good familiarity with the course readings and the general breadth of ideas on citizenship that are presented, but should also move beyond the course readings and discussion. Essays will be assessed with respect to content, analysis, research skill, and style.

Week 1: Introductions

Week 2: Governing through Citizenship

- Michel Foucault (1991) “Governmentality” in Colin Gordon, Graham Burchell, and Peter Miller, ed. *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*; Chicago: University of Chicago Press: 87-104.
- Michel Foucault (2003) “Chapter eleven: from the power of sovereignty to power over life” in *Society Must be Defended: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975-76*; trans David Macey; NY: Picador: 239-64.
- Nikolas Rose (1996) “The death of the social? Reconfiguring the territory of government” *Economy and Society* 25(3): 327-356.
- Barry Hindess (2000) “Citizenship in the international management of populations” *American Behavioral Scientist* 43(9) 1486-97.

Week 3: Citizenship and the Social (Contract)

- Aristotle (2007) Book Ii-Iii and IIIi-IIIv in *Politics*, trans Ernest Barker; Oxford: Oxford University Press. Excerpts.
- Thomas Hobbes (1985) “Of Commonwealth,” Part II, Chaps 17-18 and 21 of *Leviathan*; Penguin.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1997) “Book 1” of *The Social Contract and Other Later Political Writings*, trans Victor Gourevich; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Excerpts.
- TH Marshall (1950) *Citizenship and Social Class and Other Essays*; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 3-27

Week 4: Citizenship and Exclusion

- Iris Marion Young (1989) “Polity and group difference: a critique of the ideal of citizenship” *Ethics* 99: 250-74.
- Sunera Perera (2007) “A Pacific zone? (In)security, sovereignty, and stories of the Pacific borderscape” in Prem Kumar Rajaram and Carl Grundy-Warr, ed. *Borderscapes: Hidden Geographies and Politics at Territory’s Edge*; Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press: 201-27.
- Hari Amrita (2014) “Temporariness, rights and citizenship: the latest chapter in Canada’s exclusionary migration and refugee history” *Refuge* 30(2): 35-44.

Week 5: Citizenship and Inclusion

- Andrea Smith (2013) “Voting and indigenous disappearance” *Settler Colonial Studies* 3(3-4): 352-368.
- Amy L Brandzel (2005) “Queering citizenship?: same-sex marriage and the state” *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 11(2): 171-204.
- Jasbir Puar (2006) “Mapping US homonormativities” *Gender, Place and Culture* 13(1): 67-88.

Week 6: Citizenship and Bare Life

- Hannah Arendt (1994) “The decline of the nation-state and end of the rights of man” in *The Origins of Totalitarianism*; Cleveland and New York: Meridian Books: 267-302.
- Giorgio Agamben (1998) “Introduction” and “Biopolitics of the rights of man” in *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen; Stanford: Stanford University Press: 1-14, 126-135.
- Achille Mbembe (2003) “Necropolitics” trans. Libby Meintjes *Public Culture* 15(1): 11-40.

Week 7: Acts of Citizenship

- Engin Isin (2008) “Theorizing acts of citizenship” in Engin Isin and Greg M Nielsen, ed. *Acts of Citizenship*; London: Zed Books.
- Peter Nyers (2008) “No One is Illegal between city and nation” in Engin F Isin and Greg M Nielsen, ed. *Acts of Citizenship*; London: Zed Books: 160-181.
- Jacques Rancière (2004) “Who is the subject of the rights of man?” *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 103 (2/3): 297-310.

Week 8: Neoliberal Citizenship

- Don Mitchell (2005) “The SUV model of citizenship: floating bubbles, buffer zones, and the ‘purely atomic’ individual” *Political Geography* 24(1): 77-100.
- Nikolas Rose and Carlos Novas (2005) “Biological citizenship” from Aihwa Ong and Stephen Collier, ed. *Global Assemblages*; Oxford: Blackwell.
- Nadine Changfoot (2007) “Local activism and neoliberalism: performing neoliberal citizenship as resistance” *Studies in Political Economy* 80: 129-49.

Week 9: Citizenship and Security

- Hector Amaya (2007) “Dying American or the violence of citizenship: Latinos in Iraq” *Latino Studies* 5: 3-24.
- Btihaj Ajana (2012) “Biometric citizenship” *Citizenship Studies* 16(7): 851-870.
- Christian Joppke (2016) “Terror and the loss of citizenship” *Citizenship Studies* 6-7: 728-48.

Week 10: Posthumanist Citizenship

- Mike Featherstone (2000) “Technologies of post-human development and the potential for global citizenship” in Jan Nederveen Pieterse, ed. *Global Futures: Shaping Globalization*; London: Zed Books: 203-223.
- Rosi Braidotti (2013) “Post-Anthropocentrism: life beyond the species” in *The Posthuman*; Cambridge: Polity Press: 55-104.
- Juanita Sundberg (2011) “Diabolic caminos in the desert and cat fights on the Río: A posthumanist political ecology of boundary enforcement in the United States–Mexico borderlands” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 101(2): 318-336.

Week 11: Material Citizenship

- Bruno Latour (2004) “From Realpolitik to Dingpolitik or how to make things public” in Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, ed. *Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy*; Cambridge: MIT Press: 4-31.
- Sara Ahmed (2010) “Orientations matter” in Diana Coole and Samantha Frost, ed. *New Materialisms: Ontology, Agency, and Politics*; Durham and London: Duke University Press: 234-257.
- Jane Bennett (2005) “The agency of assemblages and the North American blackout” *Public Culture* 17(3): 445-465.

Week 12: Conclusions

- Wrap-up, reflections, student mini-presentations on essay topics