Course Description
The ‘spatial turn’ refers to the resurgence of geographical thought that many argue has taken place across the social sciences and humanities over the past three decades. Related transformations include the rise of theoretically charged thought within Geography, as well as changes in lived geographies through processes such as globalization and urbanization. This course explores the turn itself – its meaning and impacts – but more importantly it examines a set of substantive geographic concepts which have propelled the spatial turn. The course takes a keywords approach to explore what is at stake in thinking spatially across a diverse range of social, economic, political, cultural and natural domains. We will examine both the practice of professional geographers (in the academy and beyond) as well as spatial practice and knowledge that exceeds these bounds. This course places a heavy emphasis on the learning and writing process through seminar discussions, group work, and peer review.

Evaluation
Class participation 20%
Seminar presentation 20%
Concept paper 20%
Peer review 20%
Final submission of concept paper 20%
Readings: Are available on the Blackboard course website.

Class Participation: This course is seminar based. You are asked to do the required readings before class each week and to actively engage in discussion. In recognizing that public speaking can be challenging for many people, we will work hard as a group to foster a supportive space in the classroom. Participation will be not be graded simply according to the amount you speak in class, but according to the thoughtfulness of your contributions, the constructiveness of your engagement with your peers and the course material, and your general contributions to making the course a productive learning experience. Group work will also contribute towards the assessment of participation.

Seminar Presentation: Working in pairs, you will be responsible for presenting the assigned readings and leading a session of the course. We ask that you refrain from summarizing the contents of the reading and instead, highlight key themes, consider the connections to other readings we have looked at in the course, and raise critical questions for discussion. As part of your seminar you might produce a short handout for the class. Members of each seminar group are welcome to meet with the instructor(s) at least one week prior to their seminar to discuss the form and content of the presentation.

Concept Paper: The major individual assignment for the course will be a 2,000 word paper on a concept relevant to the study of geography. You may select from one of the concepts provided in class (but not the concept that you address in your seminar), or another concept of your own choosing which has been cleared with the course instructors. Your paper need not be comprehensive but it should demonstrate a broad familiarity with relevant literature on the concept and your independent research skills. You are encouraged to engage with your concept in creative ways, perhaps by focusing on a particular manifestation of a concept or a debate in the literature. The first iteration of your concept paper is due on November 1, 2012 by 4pm. Your paper will be posted on Blackboard and available to all members of the class.

Peer Review:
You will be responsible for peer reviewing the concept papers of two of your peers (to be decided by lottery in class). You will be asked to provide a thoughtful and constructive review of your classmates’ work that addresses, as applicable, the paper’s theoretical, methodological and substantive claims. Peer reviews will be graded according to the quality of the feedback provided. The peer reviews should each be between 250 and 500 words, and are due on November 15, 2012 before 4pm. Each concept paper will also be reviewed by the course instructor. All the peer reviews will be posted on Blackboard and available to all members of the class.

Final Submission of Concept Paper:
A final version of your concept paper is due on December 6, 2012. With your revised concept paper you should also include a letter that describes how you have or have not addressed the feedback provided in the review process, and your reasons for doing so/not doing so. The final version of your concept paper will be marked by the course instructor. All the final concept papers will be posted on Blackboard and available to all members of the class.
TOPICS AND READINGS

1. COURSE INTRODUCTION

2. POSITIVIST GEOGRAPHY AND ITS CRITIQUES
   • Doreen Massey (1994) “A global sense of place” in Space, Place and Gender; Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
   • Edward Relph (1997) “Sense of Place” in Susan Hanson, ed. Ten Geographic Ideas that Changed the World; New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

3. HAS THERE BEEN A SPATIAL TURN?

4. NATURE

5. IDENTITY
LANDSCAPE

MAPPING

MOBILITY
• Peter Adey and David Bissell (2010) “Mobilities, meetings and futures: an interview with John Urry” Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 28(1) 1 – 16

COMMUNITY

THE POST-HUMAN

DEVELOPMENT

POST/COLONIALISM
• Franz Fanon (1965) *The Wretched of the Earth*; Grove Press. pp 1-62.

BODY

SCALE

**CITIZENSHIP**

**12. KNOWLEDGE**