

SYLLABUS, SPRING 2025
GEO 3421 Cultural Geography Hybrid Section
Monday 1400-1515

- **Instructor:** Rod Neumann, PhD
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- **Office Hours:** M 1200-1300, W 1200-1300 or by appointment
- **About Me:** [Faculty Webpage](#)

Course Description and Purpose

Culture and environment are intimately entangled. Now, global climate change is altering culture-environment relations in profound ways. How we acknowledge, experience, and respond to our changing environment will depend as much—perhaps more—on cultural factors as on scientific and technological knowledge. This course introduces students to the field of Cultural Geography, with an emphasis on culture-environment interactions in the context of global climate change.

In Cultural Geography we will explore culture-environment interactions and ask:

- What is the latest scientific understanding of global climate change and the projected effects on human cultures in place?
- How is climate important to our sense of place and belonging?
- How are indigenous cultures being affected by and responding to global climate change?
- How does culture shape our understanding of global climate change?
- How is global climate change altering cultures of food production and consumption?
- How is cultural expression in the literary, visual, and performing arts reflecting global climate change?

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Achieve a broad understanding of the field of cultural geography.
2. Use cultural geography's theories and methods to evaluate and the role of climate in human affairs.
3. Describe the scientific consensus on the causes and effects of global climate change.
4. Recognize how culture influences our perception of climate and climate change.
5. Explain why and how indigenous cultures are affected by and responding to global climate change.
6. Explain how global climate change is altering cultures of food production and consumption.
7. Recognize and describe the ways that global climate change is reflected culturally in the visual, literary, and performing arts.

Textbook and Course Materials

Salvage the Bones (Required)

Other Readings and Videos

Other readings will be posted on CANVAS as URL links or PDFs. I recommend that you print them out. There will also be required videos posted on Canvas.

Classroom Discussion Forums and Lectures

Much of the classroom meeting time will be taken up with discussions of the readings and videos, individually and in organized teams. Lectures supplementing and clarifying the materials will also be presented.

Quizzes/Exams

- Quizzes are comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions. These will be given online through Canvas.
- Exams are comprised of essay questions. Essay exams will be conducted in the classroom.
- The first exam covers the first half of the course. The second exam is not comprehensive. It covers only the second half of the course, though you will need to know standard terminology learned in the first half.

Student Generated Exam Questions

In the spirit of participatory learning, will generate essay questions for each of the 2 exams. We will do this as part of classroom discussion. Through this process, students will actively participate in writing the exam.

Book Review

The Book Review assignment consists of an essay on the required book, *Salvage the Bones*, a novel considered to be one of the best among the new wave of “cli-fi” (climate fiction) literature. More details about the assignment are available through the assignment instructions link.

Extra-Credit

There will be extra credit opportunities, some announced in advance, others announced on an ad hoc basis. The announced extra credit involves the write up of definitions of the Key Terms posted for each module.

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight (%)
Classroom Discussion	12	4	48	18%
Quizzes	10	10	100	37%
Exams	2	40	80	30%
Student-generated essay exam questions	2	5	10	4%
Book review	1	30	30	11%
Total	27	N/A	268	100%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less