

GEOG 201: Planning the Remainder of the Semester

Students at Bucknell are dealing with very challenging circumstances right now. It's understandable to be struggling, and there is no harm in making adjustments that are responsive to what students are experiencing (alongside the regular stresses of the end of the semester). In fact, part of an ethical (and justice-based!) approach to teaching for me is being responsive to what is going on in the world outside of the classroom, and centering care as mode of praxis. So, in light of this, I want to propose a change to the schedule and composition of assignments that make up your grade in this class, enabling us to have a gentler end of semester. Here is my proposal...

1. ASSIGNMENTS & GRADES

Original Breakdown: This is the grade/assignment breakdown laid out in the syllabus:

	Assignment	Percentage of total grade	Points
A.	Attendance/Participation	10%	100
B.	Journal Responses	15%	150
C1.	Praxis 1: Justice Maps	15%	150
C2.	Praxis 2: Zine Making	15%	150
C3.	Praxis 3: Justice Problem Paper	15%	150
D1.	Final Project Rough Draft	10%	100
D2.	Final Project	20%	200
D.	Extra Credit	Possible 1.5%	15
	TOTAL	100%	1000

New grade breakdown: This is my proposed new breakdown, motivated by a wish to offer a gentler end of semester wrap up:

	Assignment	Percentage of total grade	Points
A.	Attendance/Participation	20%	200
B.	Journal Responses	20%	200
C1.	Praxis 1: Justice Maps	20%	200
C2.	Praxis 2: Zine Making	20%	200
C3.	Praxis 3: Final Project	20%	200
D.	Extra Credit	Possible 1.5%	15
	TOTAL	100%	1000

What does this mean for your grade?

- **Attendance** will make up a larger portion of your final grade, but the impact of absences will still be calculated in the same way. You still get two free days of class missed before it affects your grade. After that, each missed class will result in 8 point reduction in your attendance grade. However, now that 8 points will be subtracted from 200, rather than 100. So, if anything, this will raise grades.
- **Journals** will (just like attendance) make up a larger portion of your final grade, but the impact of missed journals will still be calculated in the same way. You still get two free missed journal before it affects your grade. After that, each missed class will result in 8 point reduction in your journal grade. However, now that 8 points will be subtracted from 200, rather than 150. So, if anything, this will raise grades.
 - **NOTE:** For the remainder of the semester, I have removed submission locks on the journal dropboxes on Moodle (where submissions close at a set time). So, while there are still 'deadlines', the dropboxes will remain open after those times so those who have reached out to me about extra flexibility will be able to take a little more time as needed.
- **Praxis 1 and 2:** Your praxis assignments will be weighed more heavily, being graded out of 200 rather than 150 points. From my calculations of your grades, this is unlikely to negatively impact anyone's grade. However, if you have concerns about this, I will offer you two alternative options: 1) an extra credit

opportunity, or 2) you can do a 4th praxis activity, allowing each praxis assignment to be weighed as 15% of your grade as previously stipulated.

- **Praxis 3 and your final project** are now one and the same. This basically means you will have one less project to do in the last month of the semester. The last section of this document will have instructions for this assignment.

2. SCHEDULE

Due to some lost days of class, we invariably need to make some adjustments to the schedule. This is a breakdown of our calendar. Some points are solid on the calendar, and there are also some spaces left open, allowing us room for us to decide together as a class some of the topics that we prioritize.

Date	Topic	Project Deadlines
Wed 4/3	Easing back in, Schedule planning, Overview of Praxis 3/final project	
Mon 4/8	Spatial Justice	Praxis 2: Zines due
Wed 4/10	The Right to the City	
Mon 4/15		
Wed 4/17		
Mon 4/22		
Wed 4/24		
Mon 4/29	Last Class / Course Wrap up / Goodbyes	
Wed 5/8	(No class)	Praxis 3: Final projects due

There are two weeks of class for which I am going to allow you a voice in what we cover. We'll pick together in class. Here are options available to you, some of which were previously on our calendar, and some of which were not:

- **Reproductive Justice (2 classes):** This unit would require a week, and would cover histories of reproductive violence (e.g. sterilization of women of color) and also an overview of the contemporary landscape of abortion access/policy.

- **Disability Justice (1 OR 2 classes):** This unit would cover disability from a DJ framework. It was originally scheduled for a full week, and certainly could easily still cover that time. However, we could also do a shorter intro to the topic, using only one day of class.
- **Food justice (1 OR 2 classes):** This unit would cover issues of food and identity, food access, food sovereignty, and history from a “food justice” framework. It was originally scheduled for a full week, and certainly could easily still cover that time. However, we could also do a shorter intro to the topic, using only one day of class.
- **Feelings of justice (recommend 2 classes):** This unit would explore what justice feels like, and what are emotions tell us about justice. We’d read pieces about the uses of anger, for instance, motivating justice movements, as well as probably some broader stuff about feeling & justice.
- **Justice as recognition or redistribution (1 class):** This class could engage with Nancy Fraser’s writing dealing with tensions over what justice looks like. Is justice achieved via social recognition of marginalized populations, or via redistribution of resources?
- **Pop culture & justice (2 classes):** We could explore what pop culture does (and doesn’t) offer audiences for understanding justice. This might include representational politics, how media represents our institutions of justice, and how social justice movements grow in relation to pop culture.
- **Fat justice (1 class):** There is a movement that works to challenge all the ways that anti-fatness structures discrimination against fat people, and thinks about all of the ways we might socially challenge anti-fatness in our lives and policies.
- **(Film) La Haine:** This is a French film, which we could watch as an epilogue to our discussions about the right to the city and spatial justice. It deals with social marginalization of immigrant/racialized communities in Paris, and is shot in a very geographic way, which we could analyze using frameworks from class.
- **Case Studies of the Right to the City (1 OR 2 classes):** We could dive deeper into some urban case studies, asking questions about spatial justice in urban space. For instance, how did urban renewal project in NYC affect queer communities?
- **Climate Justice (1 OR 2 classes):** This would build on our environmental justice lesson, but focus specifically on the framework of climate justice.
- **Justice Movement Case Study: ACT UP/Fight AIDS (1 class):** A look at the movement for social and medical justice for (largely) queer folks dying of AIDS in the 1980s.
- **COVID 19 & Disposability (1 class):** Looking at COVID as a lens for understanding the differential valuing of life, and talking about the pandemics lessons for thinking about justice & vulnerability.
- **OTHER...**

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Instructions for Praxis 3: Final Project

Deadline: This assignment is worth 200 points, or 20% of your final grade. **It is due by midnight on May 8th.**

Final Project: Throughout this class I want to encourage you to investigate, explore, and apply the theories and approaches from the class to topics that most inspire and excite you. As such, for your final project, I want you to pursue a topic that interests you or sparks your intellectual curiosity, investigating it as a justice issue and using concepts and themes related to the course. There is intentionally some flexibility built into this assignment. I want you to take ownership of a project that inspires you, and develop your exploration in a format that you are excited to work in. As such, you may also choose to do your final projects in any of the following four formats: 1) traditional research paper, 2) zine, or 3) mapping project. Regardless of which format you choose, your project will require you to include conceptual analysis using ideas and source from (or related to) the course. Specifically, I want to see all project engage both GEOGRAPHY and JUSTICE explicitly in their analysis. All projects will also require citations, discussion of literature/theory, and a formal reference list. Specific expectations for each genre are provided below.

Format Option 1: Research paper

Research paper should be 7-8 pages, doubled spaced, Times New Roman, size 11 font. They should present an analysis or discussion of a topic you're interested in, developing an analysis that engages your topic *both geographically and in relation to justice*. Papers should have a clear thesis statement, supporting evidence, and an organized structure with a clear intro, body sections, and conclusion. It should include both in-text citations and a properly formatted reference list in APA.

Format Option 2: Zine

Zines should be formatted in the size and structure as the zine you turned in for your praxis assignment. Please refer to the instructions for your praxis 2 (zine making) assignment for guidelines about layout and construction. In contrast to the zines you made for your praxis assignment however, which were 10 (1/2 sheet sized) pages, your final project zines should be 14 (1/2 sheet sized) pages—in other words it will require four folded sheets of paper, rather than three. Your zine should present an analysis or discussion of a topic you're interested in, developing a discussion that engages your topic *both geographically and in relation to justice*. Your zine should include an introductory discussion of your topic and set up of the goals of the zine. A minimum of four pages should offer theoretical or conceptual framing for your topic, drawing on sources to support your discussion of the topic. As with your zine praxis, zines should be legible, neatly constructed, consider the clarity of the content for readings, be thoughtful of your audience, and include a title and byline on the cover. It should include a properly formatted reference list at the end of your zine. Remember, if you choose this option, you will need to turn in a final, clean, copied/printed hard copy of zine. (I do not want your original with tape, glue, or pencil.) Final zines can be turned into the wall box outside my office door (321 ACWS).

Format Option 3: Mapping Poster Project

For this format, you will create a map (or maps) about a topic of your choice, engaging it *both geographically and in relation to justice*. Similar what you did for praxis 1, your map should offer a spatial representation of your topic, and be presented visually alongside accompanying text that explains and analyzes key themes. In contrast to praxis 1, however, the final project must be presented on a poster, with more thorough explanatory text accompanying it for map viewers (e.g. rather than a paragraph on the map, it should have 500-750 words). The map should still have a title, by line, and key. Additionally, you will submit a 3-page (doubled spaced, Times New Roman, size 11) paper that discusses your map's themes/findings using ideas of justice and geography. Remember, if you choose this option, you will need to turn in a physical poster project to my office (321 ACWS).

Brainstorming Activity for Final Projects

<p>Step 1: Brainstorm 4 issues, topics, or just things (media, books, experiences) you are interested in. At this stage, don't get caught up worrying about what will "fit" the assignment. Just focus on things that you care about, enjoy, and are interested in. Write them in the boxes below.</p>	<p>Step 2: Take a couple minutes on each idea, and brainstorm how each one is GEOGRAPHICAL. Some questions you might consider could be: How does it affect spatial processes, or result in spatial patterns? How does it reflect particular ways of thinking about space? What scales are implicated? How does society shape space, and space shape society? What does it tell us about ideas of place, spaces, or scales?</p>	<p>Step 3: Take a couple minutes on each idea, and brainstorm how or why it is an issue of JUSTICE. You might consider the social justice implications, how it reflects or speaks to different models of justice, how ideas of justice we've learned about might inform an approach to the topic, or any other connections you see.</p>	<p>Step 4: Get feedback. Talk through a the ideas that seemed to coalesce the most with a classmate. Tell them where you got caught up with some ideas. Mine them for ideas. Jot down useful insights from your conversation.</p>
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3.			
4.			

