Critical Geography  
Wednesdays 1-4 P.M.  
Mayborn 207

This course will explore the social construction of space and place and consider how the dynamics of power, privilege, control, resistance and participation shape and change spatial relations. Drawing on a range of theoretical approaches (e.g., critical race theory, feminism, and post- and anti-colonialism), the course will cover topics including, but not limited to, “right to the city”, gentrification and urban struggle, rural studies, environmental justice, and the application of geographical and spatial theory to social science research.

Each student is expected to complete all readings, prepare discussion questions for readings each week, apply learning to the creation of invited book chapter entries, and consider the connections between the body of literature covered during the semester and their person research foci. The reading list and independent study activities will aid in the development of course syllabi to be used by the professor and enrolled students when offering similar courses in the future.

Week 1 – Introduction to critical geographical thought

What is geography? What is critical geography? Why does geography matter to community researchers?

- Review goals for the course and the syllabus
- Propose discussion-leading weeks
- Discuss potential course products

Assigned reading:


Week 2 – Neoliberalism

Assigned Reading:


Supplemental Reading:


Week 3 – Territorial Stigmatization

Assigned Reading:

Week 4 - Political Ecology

Assigned Reading:

Supplemental Reading:

Week 5 – Segregation, Integration, Identity and Community

Assigned Reading:

Supplemental Reading:
Bishop, B. (2009). The big sort: Why the clustering of like-minded America is


**Week 6 (September 24) – Feminism, Geography and Neoliberalism**

**Assigned Reading:**

**Week 7 – Place in Research**

**Assigned Reading:**

**Week 8**

Break

**Week 9 – Public Space**

**Assigned Reading:**

**Week 10 – The Social Production of Youth (and Other) Spaces**

**Assigned Reading:**

**Supplemental Reading:**

**Week 11 – Rural Geographies**

**Assigned Reading:**


**Supplemental Reading:**


**Week 12: Reflexive Practice**

**Assigned Reading:**


**Supplemental Reading:**


**Week 13 – Social Geographies of Space**

**Assigned Reading**


**Supplemental Readings:**


**Week 14 – Governmentality**

**Assigned Reading:**


**Week 15 – Wrap up and final reflections**