

# Cultural Geography Honors Options

Instructor: Mike Pesses

Select one of the following topics and address it in a paper of 5-10 pages. You will need to conduct a literature review and use a minimum of five academic sources to inform your thoughts and research. Regardless of the topic you select, you will first submit an annotated bibliography by week eight and then submit a five-page paper fully answering the topic. You should have at least five academic (peer-reviewed journal, academic book) sources to support your paper. *The annotated bibliography must be hand delivered to me during office hours so we can talk about it.* Keep in mind that Wikipedia and About.com do not count as sources. The works you use must be cited properly. *The final paper will be due on the penultimate week of the semester.*

I don't care about the style you use to write your paper, as long as you use one. I don't do MLA, but many of you do. Use what works for you. I mainly want to see 12-point font, double spaced, 1-inch margins, and the use of spell check. Make sure that the final product is legible and neat.

1. Visit Manzanar, the former Japanese Internment Camp north of the Antelope Valley in Independence, California. Write a paper addressing the following: How does the physical layout of the camp play on human emotions? Do you think the physical geography of Manazar would affect the Japanese prisoners? Now, examine Manzanar as a tourist. What is the purpose of keeping Manzanar open? Why would someone want to visit it? How does the current incarnation of the site affect you, the tourist/cultural geographer?
2. Using Kay Anderson's article "The Idea of Chinatown: The Power of Place and Institutional Practice in Making of a Racial Category" as a starting point, write a paper outlining the creation of Los Angeles' Chinatown. Research into when the Chinese first came to California and then when they moved to the site of LA's Chinatown. What were the historic attitudes of Californians of European decent toward this group? Take a trip to Chinatown and "read" the landscape. Does it feel authentically Chinese? Does your knowledge of historic events change your perspective?
3. The nature of cultural geography is to explore the difference between places, spaces, and human mobilities. Traditionally geographers mapped things to highlight what made a region unique or how the physical geography influenced the cultural. Technology has created new opportunities for study, but has also presented new challenges as to what defines a place. Cyberspace, or the Internet, is a "place" in which we are spending more and more time, yet the mapping such a place has not been thoroughly attempted. Using concepts like sense of place, authenticity, Lefebvre's relative/relational spaces, and Goffman's front/back regions work toward defining and understanding the place(s) of the Internet.

4. Travel to school or work or conduct errands through three different travel modes (e.g. by car, bus, bicycle, walking, etc.). Pay attention to how this alters the place and spaces of your journey and how it affects the overall experience. Use examples from class discussions (David Harvey's work, Henri Lefebvre's Production of Space, etc) to inform your ideas.
5. Select a major brand of clothing (e.g. Levis, Adidas, etc.) and research where the items are actually made. Companies usually keep this secret, you may need to visit a store and read labels. How does the company handle this, that is, do they try to look like everything is made in the USA? Do they not really seem to care? What effect if any do you think this has on customers. In addition to the paper, you should map the locations of manufacturing, company headquarters, and retail locations.