

Today

- ‡ The discipline
- ‡ Jedi Skills
- ‡ Core Concepts of Human Geography

Geography

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Subject <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Memorize river length, countries and capitals... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Discipline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Study the world through a unique lens ◆ Utilize cool techniques and tools in the process
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Descriptive Geography

- ‡ Exploring the world to simply see what was out there...

Environmental Determinism

- ‡ Attempt to make geography more scientific
- ‡ Causal connections between culture and place


Environmental Possibilism

People, not the environment, control their culture and potential.

- ◆ Yes, a local environment will affect a culture, but it is up to human **choices** to truly define their society.

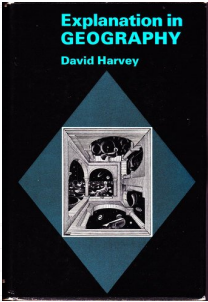
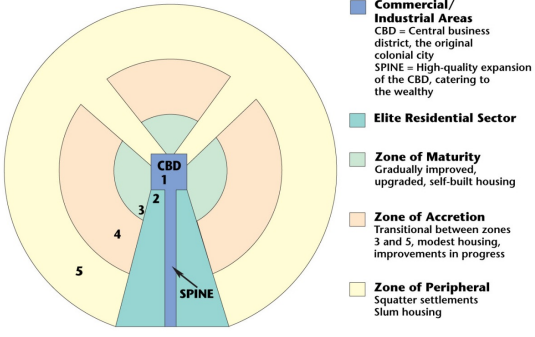
Regional Geography

- ‡ Non-scientific descriptions of people and place
- ‡ Turned geography into a "subject"



Quantitative Revolution

- ‡ Positivist approach
- ‡ Highly scientific

Commercial/Industrial Areas
CBD = Central business district, the original colonial city
SPINE = High-quality expansion of the CBD, catering to the wealthy

Elite Residential Sector

Zone of Maturity
Gradually improved, upgraded, self-built housing

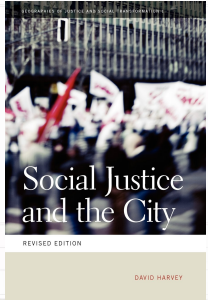
Zone of Accretion
Transitional between zones 3 and 5, modest housing, improvements in progress

Zone of Peripheral
Squatter settlements
Slum housing

Figure 1-15 The Human Mosaic, Tenth Edition
© 2006 W. H. Freeman and Company


The Cultural Turn

- ‡ A rejection of the positivist approach
- ‡ Sense of place
- ‡ Critical thought



Sense of Place

- ‡ Place is unique
- ‡ *Topophilia*
 - ◆ Love of a place and its "placeness"
 - ◆ Yi-Fu Tuan




Sense of Place

Placelessness

- ◆ Without a sense of unique place
- ◆ Edward Relph

Phenomenology

- ◆ Favors experience over scientific generalizations



Critical Geography

Power & ideology


- ◆ *Who belongs in the landscape?*

Marginalize

- ◆ To keep a person or group outside of the "core" of society.


Power & Ideology

- ‡ Language
- ‡ Toponyms


Hegemony

- ‡ The reason why one group can rule and dominate another group without sheer force



Antonio Gramsci

Jedi Goggles




- ‡ "Geographers have a way of doing things that are... unique and exceptionally powerful."
- ‡ Reading the landscape

Jedi Goggles

- ‡ Studying our built and altered environment
 - ◆ Buildings
 - ◆ Roads
 - ◆ Parks
 - ◆ Gardens
 - ◆ Billboards
- ‡ Looking at the scene

Reading the landscape


- ‡ What we build says a lot about who we are
 - ◆ Renaissance painters – *idealized* landscape
 - ◆ Geographers – *complete* landscape.



Settlement Patterns

- ‡ Reading the urban and rural form
 - ◆ Urban centers = nucleated
 - ◆ Rural areas = dispersed
- ‡ How is a city, a town, or “the wilderness” divided?

PLSS on the landscape




Folk Architecture



Landscape Links


- ‡ <http://www.walkinginla.com/>
- ‡ <http://www.greatmirror.com/>

Jedi Mind Tricks




- ‡ **Epistemology**
 - ◆ How we know what we know
- ‡ Black, white students and elevators

Light Sabers



- ‡ The tools we use to solve problems and answer questions
- ‡ Scientific & qualitative methods
- ‡ GIS
 - ◆ Geographic Information Systems


Jedi Language



- ‡ Reading words = literacy
- ‡ Reading numbers = numeracy
- ‡ Reading images = graphicacy
- ‡ Reading Maps = cartographicacy

The Core Concepts

1. Location
2. Region
3. Diffusion
4. Process & Pattern
5. Co-location



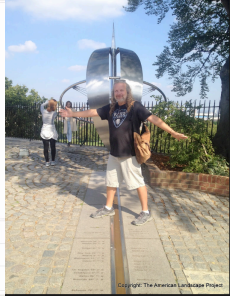
1. Location

Absolute location

- ◆ Fixed, physical place


Examples

- ◆ Address
- ◆ PLSS
- ◆ Geographic coordinate systems



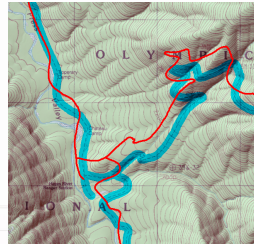
1. Location

- ‡ Global positioning system
- ‡ Geotags



WGS 1984

- ‡ World Geodetic System
- ‡ Datums



Offset of WGS84 (red line) on a NAD27 map

2. Regions

Region

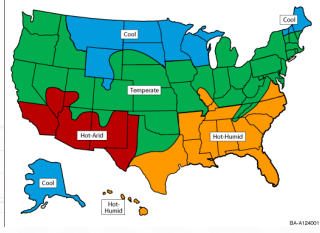
- ◆ A grouping of multiple places with similar physical or cultural traits.



2. Regions

3 types

1. Functional
2. Formal
3. Vernacular



Functional Culture Region

An intentional political, economic, or social division

- ◆ City Limits, countries, trade areas, etc.



Functional Culture Region

Nodes – city hall, national capital

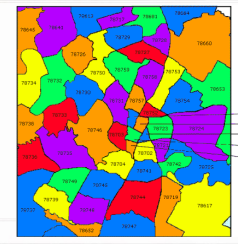
- ◆ Core-periphery



Functional Culture Region

Some are ambiguous

- ◆ Zip codes
- ◆ Newspaper circulation



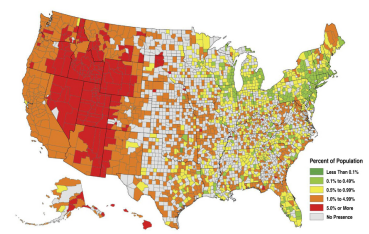
Formal Culture Region

An area inhabited by people who have one or more cultural traits in common

- ◆ Language, high tech industry, Mormon religion
- ◆ Border zones, not lines

Formal Culture Region

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Adherents as a Percentage of Total Population, 2010



Core-periphery

A model that explains **disparity** between a central place (core) and outlying areas (periphery)

Functional v. Formal

Figure 1-7 The Human Mosaic, Tenth Edition
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Vernacular Culture Regions

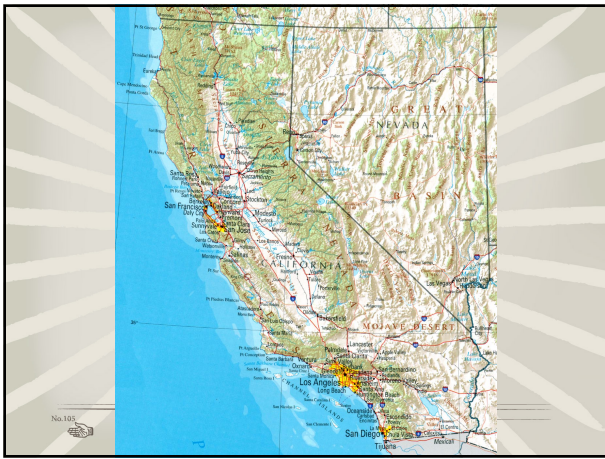
Those *perceived* to exist by inhabitants

- ◆ Dixie
- ◆ Southern California

DIXIE BREWING COMPANY INC., NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70119

Dixie

Figure 1-8 The Human Mosaic, Tenth Edition
© 2000, W. H. Freeman and Company



Which California?

WHERE DOES 'NORCAL' BEGIN?

As it studies how people talk, the Voices of California project also looks at their sense of community – a factor that can influence speech. Results from their previous surveys about where the dividing line falls between Northern and Southern California:

The map shows two survey results: 'Opinion of Redding residents' with a red dot in the north-central region, and 'Opinion of Merced residents' with a red dot in the central region. A horizontal line at the bottom indicates a gradient from 'Definitely Northern Calif.' on the left to 'Definitely Southern Calif.' on the right. Sacramento and L.A. are also marked on the map.

Source: Voices of California
The Sacramento Bee

3. Diffusion

Does culture spread?

The map shows the Americas with various cultural diffusion patterns indicated by arrows and shaded regions. A legend below the map lists various cultural elements and their diffusion directions.

Waldo Tobler

Tobler's First Law of Geography

"Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things."

A portrait of Waldo Tobler, an elderly man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie.

Independent Invention

Similar or the same ideas develop at different places by different people

- ♦ **Writing**
 - ‡ Incan quipu
 - ‡ Mayan glyphs
 - ‡ Chinese characters
 - ‡ Roman alphabet
- ♦ **Cultural Hearth**

The quipu is a complex knotting system made of colored threads. The Mayan glyph is a stylized character with a central figure and radiating lines.

Communication

- ‡ Cultures interact & adapt practices
- ‡ One group shows or teaches another group
 - ♦ Could be slow historically, instant today
 - ‡ Agriculture vs. fast food

A photograph showing a long, straight row of raised garden beds filled with green leafy vegetables, likely lettuce or similar crops, in an outdoor setting.

Types of diffusion

2 types

1. Relocation
2. Expansion

A historical map of the world, likely from the 16th or 17th century, showing the continents of Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. It includes decorative elements and labels for various regions.

Relocation diffusion

Individuals or groups relocate and bring their culture with them

RELOCATION DIFFUSION

Before Migration After Migration

The diagram shows a cluster of dots on the left representing the source area. Three blue arrows point from these dots to three 'X' marks in a new location on the right, representing the destination. On the right side, there is a new cluster of dots, indicating that the culture has been established in the new location.

Expansion diffusion

3 types of expansion diffusion

1. Hierarchical
2. Contagious
3. Stimulus

Hierarchical diffusion

‡ An idea spreads from one group to an “elite” group, and then filters down to other groups.

- ◆ An idea may move to a city first, then move out to rural areas
 - ‡ Sushi restaurants, high fashion
 - ‡ Wal-Mart, hip-hop

HIERARCHICAL EXPANSION DIFFUSION

Early Stage Later Stage

Original knower

Each circle or dot is one person or place.

- Nonknower
- “Very important” person or place
- Knower
- “Important” person or place
- Path of diffusion
- Person or place low in social-economic hierarchy

Figure 1-9 (top right) The Human Mosaic, Tenth Edition © 2006 W. D. Aronson and Gregory

Contagious diffusion

‡ A cultural practice or thing that moves through space with little regard for power and status

- ◆ Think contagious disease
- ◆ Websites, viral videos

CONTAGIOUS EXPANSION DIFFUSION

Early Stage Later Stage

Original knower


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Figure 1-9 (top left) The Human Mosaic, Tenth Edition © 2006 W. D. Aronson and Gregory

Stimulus diffusion

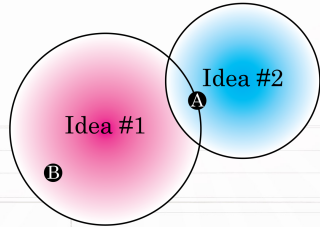
When a cultural practice is not directly copied, but altered to fit a particular place



Barriers to diffusion

Time-distance decay


- Media and transportation can change this



Barriers to diffusion

Absorbing barriers

- Government agencies
 - Chinese censorship
- Most are permeable
 - Cell phones



4. Process & Pattern

The study of patterns in the landscape and their causal forces.

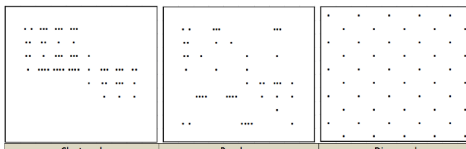


Figure 1.11: The pattern of phenomena on the landscape may help us understand causality. Clustered, random and dispersed patterns can be measured statistically by GIS software.



Spatial Autocorrelation

“A measure of the degree to which a set of spatial features... tend to be clustered together in space (positive) or dispersed (negative).”
- ESRI GIS Dictionary

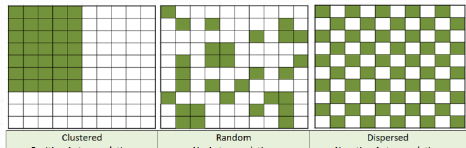


Figure 1.15: Graphic - This series of checkerboard images represents various levels of spatial autocorrelation for polygonal features (regions). The Moran's I statistic could be used to determine the degree of clustering or spatial autocorrelation.

5. Co-location

- ‡ When different things appear in close proximity to each other
- ‡ *Causal? Correlation? Spurious?*

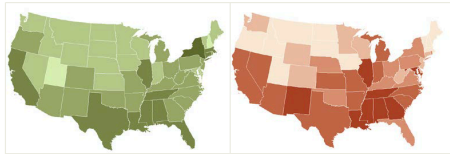


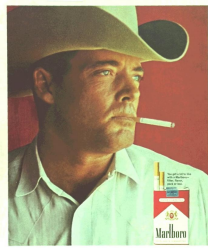
Figure 1.17: These maps represent income inequality (left) and murder rate (right) by states. You can see that about half the time, as one variable increases, so does the other. The correlation coefficient is $r=.55$.

Why is that there?

- ‡ Geographers are interested in both **facts and truth**
- ‡ In future weeks we will use these tools and concepts to try to get answers about the world.

Next Time

- ‡ Culture & Difference



Come to where the flavor is. Come to Marlboro Country.