

Geographies of Resistance
GEO4938/6938
Wednesday, Period 3 - 5 (9:35 AM - 12:35 PM)
Turlington Hall, Room 3018

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the geographies of resistance: contestation, action and change. It will explore how groups from the local to the global scale have initiated processes and practices to put forward alternative geographic imaginaries that contest dominant discourses that perpetuate environmental degradation and social inequalities, as well as undermine identities and cultural differences. Throughout the course, we will consider the different approaches to studying resistance. We will pay particular attention to how social constructions of space, place, and scale shape the nature of resistance.

The study of resistance is critical to understanding social and cultural change. All geographies are forged by a negotiation between methods of control and modes of contestation. Consequently, geography is not a fixed “backdrop” to social life but instead is a transformative agent in itself. Thus, the *where of* resistance is important. Of equal consequence is the fact that resistance is always mobilized *through* spaces and is thus shaped and given meaning by geography. And through mobilization, spaces are transformed and new geographies of resistance emerge.

REQUIRED READINGS:

There is no required “text” for this course. Instead, most of the readings will be posted on Canvas in digital form. Other readings will require a search via the internet.

Course website: Go to the Learning Support Systems homepage [<http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>] and enter your Gatorlink username and password into the boxes. The course page should come up if you are registered. Canvas is being used to simplify the posting of articles and assignments, and facilitate discussions. But, it will not be used for grades. You are responsible to track your grades according to the outline in this syllabus, therefore do not rely on the gradebook to reflect your grade.

COURSE FORMAT:

This course is somewhat heavy on reading and regular class participation, but there will be no tests or final term paper. At the beginning of the semester, each student will select a *movement* or *moment* of resistance that is of particular interest. Each week students are responsible for reading the assigned pages before class and writing up a one or two page “thought piece” that summarizes their THOUGHTS on the week’s readings, and considers how their selected movement/moment aligns (or doesn’t) with the readings. Summaries should be submitted to the canvas discussion page the day before the class meets. This assignment is intended to foster discussion and will not be graded on content, except for completion. Students will also be asked to lead discussion for each of the class (more details on this provided below).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Grades will be based on the following items:

1. Weekly Summaries 10 points

2. Lead Discussion Group – 25 points

Two-three students each week will be responsible to lead class discussions on a rotating basis. The leadership group will need to interact over the week prior to the scheduled seminar in order to ensure equitable distribution of work. How the materials are written up and orally presented to the class is the responsibility of the group. However, **each group must:**

- ✓ **Prepare a Typed Summary** of the readings with **at least Five discussion points**, to be distributed to the class.
- ✓ On the Sunday prior to the designated class, the group must upload their summary to the discussion board, which will be accessible to all class participants via Canvas.
- ✓ **Give an Oral Summary of the readings (with a powerpoint presentation)** and identify key topics/debates in order to **stimulate class discussion** that week.

3. Class Presentation – Movement/Moment of Resistance (Student’s Choice) – 50 points

TOTAL COURSE POINTS = 200

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93 (4.0)	92-90 (3.67)	89-87 (3.33)	86-83 (3.0)	82-80 (2.67)	79-77 (2.33)	76-73 (2.0)	72-70 (1.67)	69-67 (1.33)	63-66 (1.0)	62-60 (0.67)	59- (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#hgrades>

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- **Attendance & makeup policy:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.
- **Grade Disputes:** Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set our very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why he or she believes that he or she should have received such a grade.
- **Classroom Civility And Respect:** It is essential that all students respect the rights of their fellow classmates to learn. Therefore, I request that you:
 - **Not carry on conversations** outside the class discussion, **not read the paper** or other materials not directly related to class, **not play music**, and **not talk on your cell phone during class**.
 - Also, if you come to class **late**, please quickly find the nearest seat at the side of the room so that you do not disturb your classmates.

UF POLICIES:

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluation Process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part I. Introduction and Historical Perspective

Module 1: Introduction to Resistance: Introduction

Module 2: Agrarian Resistance

Module 3: Industrial Revolution and Change

Part II. SMO and Contentious Politics: Theory and Practice

Module 4: Political Opportunity

Module 5: Democracy and Resistance

Module 6: The Organization of Resistance

Module 7: Culture and Resistance

Module 8: Identity and Resistance

Module 9: Movement Actors

Module 10. Nationalism and Citizenship

Module 11: Space, Place and Resistance

Module 12: Resistance and Nature

Module 13: People and Non-Resistance

Module 14: Global Justice and Transnational Movements

Module15: Resistance, Strategy and Scale

Module16: The Future of Resistance: