GEO 171: Introduction to Human Geography

Summer 2024

Surveying the field ‘mini-lesson’

Often, the best way to learn something new is to teach it to someone else. In this assignment, you will pick one of the areas of human geography we have explored in class together and develop a mini-lesson for your peers that expands our collective knowledge about this area of study. The areas of study you can select are listed below and align with the topics listed on the syllabus. You will sign up for one of these areas of study.

1. Cultural geography
2. Health geography
3. Urban geography
4. Economic geography
5. Political geography
6. Development studies
7. Environmental geography
8. Geographies of food
9. Geographies of water

Once you have your area of study selected, you will begin designing your mini-lesson. Your mini-lesson should present a case study of your choosing based on the work of a geographer that falls (loosely) within your selected area of study. You should search for an select an article to use as the basis of your case study presentation. By listening to the case studies presented by the class, together, we will learn more about the diversity of research that is being conducted across the field of human geography. You can search the following journals in the Syracuse Library system to identify your article and case study are included below:

* Annals of the Association of American Geographers (AAG)
* Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography
* Geoforum
* Geographical Review
* The Professional Geographer
* Geography Compass
* Progress in Human Geography
* Journal of Cultural Geography
* Political Geography
* Journal of Economic Geography
* Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space
* Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space
* Environment and Planning D: Society and Space
* Urban Geography
* International Journal of Health Geographies
* Population, Space and Place

The way you choose to teach your mini-lesson is up to you! But at minimum, you need to fill out and present the PowerPoint deck uploaded on Blackboard and pose two open-ended questions to the class for discussion in approximately ten minutes. The PowerPoint deck asks you to include the following information:

* Title of the article, author, year of publication, and journal
* Description of the research topic – what did this geographer choose to study?
* Description of the location case study – where did they choose to study this topic? What about the social, cultural, political, economic, or environmental context of this location makes it important or significant to their study? At what *scale* was their research conducted?
* Description of methods – did they use qualitative or quantitative methods? Did they any mapping technology as a part of their analysis?
* Description of author’s core findings – what did they identify about their topic in this location?
* Description of significance – why do you think these findings are interesting? Do the author’s findings have a broader relevance? If so, how and for whom?

In your presentation of this information, do not read or copy text directly from the article. All the information you present to the class and that you include on your slides should be put into your own words. Feel free to redesign the PowerPoint deck provided to clearly and effectively present your lesson.

Rubric:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Submitted detailed and thoughtfully completed proposal | 4 |  |
| Basic information (title, author, year, journal) is included for the selected article | 4 |  |
| Description of the research topic clearly summarizes main research questions or research interest for the article | 6 |  |
| Description of case study location clearly summarizes the relevance of this site to the research conducted by the author | 6 |  |
| Description of the methods includes a summary of how the author collected their data (e.g. interviews, surveys, satellite imagery) | 6 |  |
| Description of author’s core findings clearly summarizes the articles conclusions about their topic of research | 6 |  |
| Description of broader significance clearly reflects on why this research matters, thinking about the wider relevance of the author’s conclusions to different groups of people across different spaces | 6 |  |
| Slides are designed and edited to effectively communicate information on the selected case study | 2 |  |
| Two open-ended questions are posed to the class to encourage discussion | 4 |  |
| Total | 44 |  |