

GRG-396T

Geographies of Communication

Prof. Paul Adams, Department of Geography and the Environment
GRG-408, Mon 4:00 to 7:00pm

Communication and Geography intersect in complex ways



Places and spaces are part of the *contents of communications*



Places and spaces also form diverse *contexts for communication*



The course will chart a path across the space defined by the two dichotomies: space vs place and content vs context

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION			
S	media in spaces	media in places	P
P			L
A			A
C			C
E	spaces in media	places in media	E
S			S
CODING & REPRESENTATION			

Grading

In-class presentations	50 points
(Everyone will pick a day and lead the discussion that day, following the guidelines below.)	
Research paper draft	50 points
Due April 19	
Research paper	100 points
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Total	200 points

Books

- Adams. *Geographies of Media and Communication*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- McEwan & Blunt (MB). *Postcolonial Geographies*. Continuum.
- Latour. *Reassembling the Social*. Oxford U. Press.
- Adams, Hoelscher & Till (AHT). *Textures of Place*. U. of Minnesota Press.

DAY	SUBJECT	READING (Articles will be available on Blackboard)	DEADLINE
JAN 25	introduction to the class		
FEB 1	evolution of media	Adams chapters 1-3 Adams "Networks of Early Writing"	
FEB 8	communication flows and topologies	Adams chapters 4-5 Barabási chapters 3 & 4 Lester in MB	
FEB 15	Inclusion/exclusion	Adams chapter 6 Osborn & Overing in AHT Bell in MB McGuinness in MB	
FEB 22	virtuality & scattered gatherings	Adams chapter 7 <i>self-directed Internet exploration</i>	
MAR 1	signs, symbols & signals	Adams chapter 8 Barthes "signifier & signified" Barthes "myth today" Fiske, Hodge & Turner "The Beach"	
MAR 8	the place image	Adams chapter 9 DeLyser in AHT McGreevy in AHT Cosgrove in AHT	
MAR 22	internalization/externalization	Adams chapter 10 Gooder & Jacobs in MB Duncan & Ley Barnes & Duncan Foucault "Spaces & Classes"	
MAR 29	place & power	Adams chapter 11 Marling in AHT Till in AHT (pp.273-299) Smith in AHT Morin in MB	
APR 5	preliminary presentations	none	abstract, outline and bibliography
APR 12	traces & routines	Adams chapter 12 Latour Part I, pp.1-156	
APR 19	expressive being-in-place	Adams chapter 13 Richardson in AHT Howarth in AHT Adams in AHT (pp.186-206) Cresswell in AHT	first draft of paper
APR 26	final thoughts	Adams chapter 14 Latour Part II, pp.159-262	
MAY 3	final presentations	none	revised paper

In-class presentation guidelines:

Presentations should include:

- ◇ A summary of the main ideas in the readings for that week, taken as a whole. This should be organized into key terms and concepts, each with one or more supplementary terms and/or concepts. This is not the place to ask questions; it is the place to collect and paraphrase the main objectives, arguments, and assumptions of the entire set of readings. Print these points in outline format for everyone in the class.
- ◇ A critical introduction to each of the readings for that week, taken individually. This is the place to discuss the organization of arguments by particular authors--what comes first, what comes last, how are arguments structured and what counts for evidence? Are you convinced or are there problems with their arguments?
- ◇ Comparison and contrast of the differences between authors (if more than one author is included that week). In some cases you may notice tensions between the perspectives of the authors. Deal with these tensions at this point in your presentation
- ◇ Questions for class discussion: at least 4 fertile questions the class can discuss, relating to the readings and (optimally) with some visual materials or artifacts (like ads, news photos, or video clips) that you bring to class. Remember, this presentation counts for 25% of your total grade!