GEOGRAPHY 4811: RURAL GEOGRAPHY

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Course Outline

This course will take the form of a guided exploration of the literature in the field of rural geography, which may loosely be described as the geography of "those parts of a country which show unmistakable signs of being dominated by extensive uses of land" (Wibberley 1972). The aim of the course is to familiarise the student with the concepts and techniques of rural geography through an examination of relevant literature. It is expected that by the end of the course students will have a much better idea of what rural geographers study, and how they study it.

Four themes in rural geographical research – agriculture, tourism, landscape, and planning – will be explored in this course. The main part will consist of the instructor introducing the basic concepts of rural geography and giving some examples of his own work in the field. From the fourth week these lectures will be interspersed with student critiques of specific research/discussion papers. Critiques should be based on the *Guide to Analysing Articles* (posted on the course website).

·   Each should last 20 (minimum) to 25 (maximum) minutes, exclusive of discussion.

·   Discussion should be based on a minimum of three questions developed by the presenter.

·   A three or four page written version of the critique, including the discussion questions, must be provided at the end of the relevant class.   *There will be a two mark deduction for each day this summary is late.*

·   There will be marks for both the oral and written critique and for the questions.

·   Each student will present one oral critique.

·   In addition, each student will complete a written critique (without discussion questions) of one paper from each of the three themes for which he/she is *not* presenting an oral critique (i.e. if your oral presentation is on agriculture, your other written critiques will be on tourism, landscape assessment and planning). These additional critiques are due on the day that topic is being presented orally. *There will be a two mark deduction for each day this critique is late.*

·   In each class when there are student presentations, each student (other than the presenter) will write a one-page summary, on a form provided, of each paper being presented.

The last part of the term will involve student presentations of research projects in one of agriculture, tourism, landscape and planning. Each project may be undertaken by up to three students.

·   Oral presentations should take a minimum of 20 minutes, up to 25 minutes. If two or more students are working on the same project, they should decide themselves who will do how much of the presentation. Both/all will share the same mark.

·   Written reports should be considered as if they were term papers or major essays. A minimum of 2500 words, exclusive of any maps, diagrams and tables, is expected. Students in a group project may submit one report for the group, or each may write his/her own. *There will be a five mark deduction for each day this report is late.*

Marking scheme

| Oral critique | 10% | Written critiques (10% each) | 40% |
| Report presentation | 10% | Written report | 40% |

·   Since there are no tests and no examination, attendance in class is mandatory (as is paying attention when in class).

·   Each one-page oral summary missing or judged unsatisfactory will result in the loss of one mark.

SCHEDULE

Jan 7	M	Introduction
Jan 9	W	Lecture: Agriculture
Jan 14	M	Lecture: Agriculture
Jan 16	W	Lecture: Agriculture
Jan 21	M	Lecture: Tourism
Jan 23	W	Lecture: Tourism
Jan 28	M	Lecture: Tourism
Jan 30	W	Critiques: Agriculture
Feb 4	M	Critiques: Agriculture
Feb 6	W	Critiques: Tourism
Feb 11	M	Critiques: Tourism
Feb 13	W	Critiques: Tourism
Feb 25	M	Lecture: Landscape
Feb 27	W	Lecture: Landscape
Mar 4	M	Lecture: Landscape
Mar 6	W	Critiques: Landscape
Mar 11	M	Critiques: Landscape
Mar 13	W	Lecture: Planning
Mar 18	M	Lecture: Planning
Mar 20	W	Critiques: Planning
Mar 25	M	Critiques: Planning
Mar 27	W	Project Reports
Apr 3	W	Project Reports
Apr 8	M	Project Reports