GEOP3090
Thinking Space
Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024
Macquarie School of Social Sciences

Contents

General Information .................................................. 2
Learning Outcomes .................................................. 2
General Assessment Information ............................... 3
Assessment Tasks ................................................... 3
Delivery and Resources ............................................ 6
Unit Schedule ......................................................... 6
Policies and Procedures ............................................ 7

Disclaimer
Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.
**General Information**

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Lecturer & unit convener
Alistair Sisson  
**alistair.sisson@mq.edu.au**
Contact via Email  
25WW B245A  
By appointment

Lecturer
Donna Houston  
**donna.houston@mq.edu.au**

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Why do we need theoretical concepts to think critically and reflectively about human geography and planning? This unit offers you an advanced introduction to key theoretical paradigms and to the ways in which they have influenced geographical and planning imaginations. A key focus of the unit is the use of theory to develop critical, situated and ethical standpoints that inform academic and professional practice. ‘Thinking Space’ will help you to develop these skills by learning how to identify your own theoretical perspectives in relation to the perspectives of others. You will work individually and in groups on themes related to the critical study of space and apply theoretical perspectives to the historical and lived conditions experienced by different groups over time.

**Important Academic Dates**

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:
ULO1: Identify and discuss the key paradigms and concepts that inform contemporary geographical and planning theory.

ULO2: Develop an understanding of the use of theory in formulating critical perspectives and ethical standpoints in addressing real world issues and in recognising the perspectives and standpoints of others.

ULO3: Apply theoretical perspectives to the historical and lived spatial conditions experienced by different social groups

ULO4: Develop your own theoretical and ethical standpoints and relate these to your professional and/or academic practice.

General Assessment Information

Where can I find out more detailed information about assignments?

Please consult the folder in the GEOP3090 iLearn page labelled 'Assessment'. Here you will find more detailed instructions for each assessment item, marking criteria and rubrics. The assessment folder contains links to useful resources and guides. You are encouraged to post questions about assignments in the General Discussion Forum on the main iLearn page.

Handing in your assignments

Unless otherwise specified, you are required to submit your assignments by the time and date provided in this Unit Guide via the Turnitin link provided in iLearn. Please keep an electronic copy of your assignment and a record of your submission for reference. If you are having trouble submitting your assessment to Turnitin, please contact the unit convenor immediately.

Late assessment policy

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of ‘0’ (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoping Task</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>17-03-24 (end of week 4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scoping Task

Assessment Type 1: Plan
Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours
Due: 17-03-24 (end of week 4)
Weighting: 20%

Development of a scoping brief for a place-based research project. The task will include site identification and background, the identification of three sources of literature, the scoping of methods to be deployed, a draft abstract and a timeline for project deliverables. 800 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify and discuss the key paradigms and concepts that inform contemporary geographical and planning theory.
• Develop an understanding of the use of theory in formulating critical perspectives and ethical standpoints in addressing real world issues and in recognising the perspectives and standpoints of others.

Methods and Data Collection Report

Assessment Type 1: Report
Indicative Time on Task 2: 40 hours
Due: 14-04-24 (end of week 8)
Weighting: 40%

This assessment has three components (1) identification and discussion of methods such as historical, observational, or media analysis; (2) data collection and (3) presentation and preliminary analysis of data. 2000 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify and discuss the key paradigms and concepts that inform contemporary geographical and planning theory.
• Develop an understanding of the use of theory in formulating critical perspectives and ethical standpoints in addressing real world issues and in recognising the perspectives and standpoints of others.
• Apply theoretical perspectives to the historical and lived spatial conditions experienced by different social groups
• Develop your own theoretical and ethical standpoints and relate these to your professional and/or academic practice.

Thinking Space Final Project Report

Assessment Type 1: Report
Indicative Time on Task 2: 30 hours
Due: 02-06-2024 (end of week 13)
Weighting: 40%

Synthesis of tasks 1 and 2 into a full final research report. The report will include an introduction and discussion of relevant literature (synthesis and further development of task one) and the presentation, analysis and discussion of data (synthesis and further development of task two). In addition, the report will include a fully developed conclusion. The overall quality of the presentation of the report in a professional format and evidence of response to feedback are assessable components of this task. 5000 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify and discuss the key paradigms and concepts that inform contemporary geographical and planning theory.
• Develop an understanding of the use of theory in formulating critical perspectives and ethical standpoints in addressing real world issues and in recognising the perspectives and standpoints of others.
• Apply theoretical perspectives to the historical and lived spatial conditions experienced by different social groups
• Develop your own theoretical and ethical standpoints and relate these to your professional and/or academic practice.

\(^1\) If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

• the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/163695/unit_guide/print
• the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

GEOP3090 is an in-person only offering. It is taught in a 3 hour lectorial/workshop format. While lectures will be recorded and uploaded onto Echo360 each week, it will not be possible to record the workshops, activities and class discussions. The Lectorial/Workshops are scheduled on Tuesdays 11am-1pm in Weeks 1-13. Typically, the workshops will begin with a lecture, followed by group activities and discussion. Some class time has been set aside for consultation and assessment preparation and for group work related to the Thinking Space Media Project.

Class is scheduled to be held in 210 Groupwork Lecture Space, 1 Central Courtyard (01CC 210). On the day of class, please make sure that you check the Macquarie timetable or the GEOP3090 iLearn page for any last minute room changes.

Unit readings can be accessed via Leganto. The Leganto link is located in the top right panel of the GEOP3090 iLearn main page. Please contact the unit convenor if you are having trouble accessing the readings as they are essential to your assignments and to the class discussions.

The GEOP3090 iLearn page contains additional resources in the 'Assessment' folder and under the weekly topic headings. Please make sure that you regularly check the iLearn page and your Macquarie University student email for updates and information regarding this unit

Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Topic &amp; activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alistair Sisson</td>
<td>Introduction to Thinking Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alistair Sisson</td>
<td>Modernity, Rationality &amp; the Origins of Urban Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alistair Sisson</td>
<td>Power, Knowledge &amp; Social Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Alistair Sisson</td>
<td>Spatial Justice [Task #1 due end of week]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Alistair Sisson</td>
<td>Gentrification &amp; Uneven Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Alistair Sisson &amp; guests</td>
<td>Field Trip: Redfern &amp; Waterloo [11AM-2PM]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Donna Houston</td>
<td>Methods workshop &amp; Task #2 advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>No lecture</td>
<td>[Task #2 due end of week]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Donna Houston</td>
<td>Gender &amp; the City (part 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Guest lecture (TBC)</td>
<td>Gender &amp; the City (part 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Guest lecture: Miriam Williams</td>
<td>Care &amp; Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Alistair Sisson</td>
<td>Informality &amp; Rethinking Planning from the Margins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Assessment Procedure
- Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

**Results**

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

**Academic Integrity**

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.
Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

The Writing Centre
The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Services and Support
Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries
Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.
Unit guide GEOP3090 Thinking Space

Unit information based on version 2024.02 of the Handbook.