



GEOP3090

Thinking Space

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Communication, Society and Culture

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	6
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Alistair Sisson

alistair.sisson@mq.edu.au

25WW B245A

By appointment

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>

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

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-time 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

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Scoping Task</u>	20%	No	23/03/2025
<u>Methods and Data Collection Report</u>	40%	No	21/04/2025
<u>Thinking Space Final Project Report</u>	40%	No	01/06/2025

Scoping Task

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **23/03/2025**

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: **21/04/2025**

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: **01/06/2025**

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
- 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 format. Each lectorial will incorporate time for working on the unit assessments, including workshops on academic writing, literature reviews, and research methods. 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 **Thursdays 11am-2pm in Weeks 1-12.** 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 **10 Hadenfeld Ave T1.** 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

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction to Thinking Space
Week 2	Modernism, rationalism & the origins of urban planning
Week 3	Power, knowledge & participation
Week 4	Gentrification & uneven development
Week 5	Settler colonial cities
Week 6	Field trip to Redfern & Waterloo
Week 7	Care & commons (guest lecture)
Week 8	Social justice, spatial justice & the right to the city
Week 9	Gender & the city (guest lecture)
Week 10	Informal urbanism
Week 11	Urban political ecology
Week 12	Drop-in session for Task #3 advice

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](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 \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au)

[du.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 connect.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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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 information based on version 2025.01R of the [Handbook](#)