

**GEOG 340: Environmental Geography**  
**Fall 2019**  
**Critical Review Paper 1**

**Important Information:**

Due Date: Thursday, **September 26, 2019**; *BeachBoard* DropBox Folder closes at **2:30 pm**

Length: 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font (Times New Roman), 1-inch margins

Submission Instructions: Submit electronically to the *BeachBoard* Dropbox Folder “Critical Review 1” - Submit as a word document file (.doc or .docx).

Grade: The Critical Review Paper is worth 50 points (10% of your grade).

Article Choices: Write your first Critical Review Paper on ***one*** of the following articles:

- Shamasunder, Bhavna et al. 2018. **Community-Based Health and Exposure Study around Urban Oil Developments in South Los Angeles.** *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*
- Pulido, Laura. 2000. **Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California.** *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*
- Palmer, Margaret and Filoso, Solange. 2009. **Restoration of Ecosystem Services for Environmental Markets.** *Science*

Citation/Reference Instructions: Make sure to cite any sources that you use, including when you reference the article you are reviewing. You will mostly be summarizing and paraphrasing material from the article, but you may also choose to directly quote text. ***All direct quotes must be surrounded by parentheses (“ ”) and you must include the author, year of publication, and page of the quote.*** If you do not use quotation marks when you directly quote someone else’s text, it is considered plagiarism! *Plagiarism is a serious offense, even when it is an accident or mistake, your grade on this assignment will reflect that.*

***Paraphrase example:***

Ex: The authors’ purpose for writing the article is to examine why desalination has become a popular strategy to adapt to climate change (Pulido, 2000).

***Direct quote example:***

Ex: By failing to consider systemic components of oppression, researchers often “miss the role of structural and hegemonic forms of racism” (Pulido, 2000, pg. 12).

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

The Critical Review Paper is an *argumentative essay*, where you take a position on the article you choose to review. The paper should consist of an ***introduction*** (one paragraph), followed by a ***brief summary*** (1-page) (including the purpose of the paper, the key arguments made by the author, the evidence used by the author, and the main findings of the research).

***The majority of the paper should consist of your evaluation of the article*** (2-3 pages). Use the questions listed below as a guide. You do not have to respond to every question. Provide evidence/concrete examples from the article text to support your claims!

**Make sure your essay has the following components:** 1) a title, 2) an introduction with a clear thesis statement, 4) a main argument, 5) evidence to support your argument, 6) a conclusion, 7) a bibliography.

### Guide:

#### Identify and Summarize:

- The author's *purpose* for writing the article
- The *key arguments* made by the author
- The *evidence* the author uses to support his/her argument
- The *main findings* of the research

#### Evaluate:

- What does the author do well? What does the author need to improve?
- Does the author's argument convince you? Why or why not? Provide examples
- Does the author provide: Good data? Enough data? Convincing data?
- What does this analysis contribute to the study of Geography? How? Why?
- What future research avenues could be opened up by this article? Provide examples
- How could this article be improved? Provide concrete examples.

### Evaluation Criteria:

**This rubric is designed to make clear the grading process** for written communication by informing you what key elements are expected by the university in a "good" essay.

Your Critical Review Paper will be evaluated by the criteria below to give you specific feedback to help guide your development as a writer.

	Excellent	Good	Meets Expectation	Meets Minimum Expectation	Not Acceptable
<b>Content &amp; Organization</b>					
1. The purpose and focus are clear and consistent.					
2. The thesis statement is clear, significant, and challenging.					
3. Organization is effective and appropriate.					
4. Sentence form and word choice are varied and appropriate.					
5. Punctuation, grammar, spelling, and mechanics are appropriate.					
<b>Critical Thinking &amp; Analysis</b>					
6. Connections between and among ideas are made.					
7. Interpretation/Analysis/Evaluation are effective.					
8. Independent thinking & creativity is evident.					
<b>Use of Evidence &amp; Source Documentation</b>					
9. Information and evidence are accurate, appropriate, and documented correctly (ex. citing of sources).					
10. Claims and ideas are supported and elaborated.					

**Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ / 50