

SPRING 2025

# THE CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY OF TAYLOR SWIFT

ANT 4953.002

Monday and Wednesday  
2:00 – 2: 50 pm

Taylor Swift is an iconic American pop star with wide-ranging social influence that extends beyond her musical talents. This class explores the cultural geography of Taylor Swift as a social phenomenon. Her fame, and people's varying response to it, raise critical and classical anthropological questions about gender, race, authenticity, ritual, class, property, capitalism, labor and globalization. Tracing the movement of Taylor Swift through her life and career, this class will interrogate a global phenomenon through the examination of specific places. From the "Christmas Tree Farm" in Pennsylvania to her Primrose, London flat to her New England coastal estate, the class will consider how Taylor Swift utilizes notions of place, specificity and individuality to produce a brand that is global and broadly influential. We'll use the tools of cultural anthropology and geography to critically analyze the social, political and economic impacts of Taylor Swift and what they might say about contemporary American life. We'll also listen to a lot of music.