

GEOGRAPHY 3600 FALL SEMESTER, 2014

SPACE, POWER, AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

INSTRUCTORS

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COURSE FOCUS

We think of politics and geography as separate areas of interest; after all we have two separate disciplines, Political Science and Geography, each with their own institutional expressions, their own textbooks, etc. But in many ways they should be looked at as a seamless whole. Human geography is produced and politics is at the center of that production. Likewise politics always has a geography and can't avoid it; think of the simple distinction between 'domestic' and 'foreign' policy or the structure of the American state: the idea of a distinction between state and federal governments and their respective, *geographically defined*, jurisdictions. Hence: ***Political Geography***.

In this course we will develop and apply a framework for looking at the world through this particular lens; making certain things stand out, eliciting attention that previously might not have been forthcoming. Political geography is everywhere: in the city, in the country that we call the United States, in the world, and, yes, in this lecture room. You can't understand the world without it, though politicians, and geographers for that matter, have often tried to. It will open your eyes.

THE MODULES

- #1 An Introduction to Political Geography
- #2 The Politics of the Living Place
- #3 The Politics of Geographically Uneven Development
- #4 Questions of Discourse and Identity, Geography and Politics
- #5 The Political Geography of Difference
- #6 'Countries' in Question
- #7 Globalization and its Political Geographies

READING

There is no textbook! Rather the reading will all be available on Carmen. It will take two forms: i) there will be a written narrative corresponding to each Module in the course; ii) there will be additional material posted on Carmen for each of the Modules. Some of these materials will be web articles. Some will be narratives that I have put together. **You will be tested on everything!**

If you would like a textbook that comes closest to the Carmen material, then get a copy of a book that I wrote: Kevin R. Cox, *Political Geography: Territory, State and Society*. Blackwell: Oxford.

A final point: The narratives that I have put together to accompany each Module are quite dense. One reading will *not* suffice. Be prepared to undertake multiple readings. You will discover new things and you will find yourself asking new questions, on each reading. Each narrative can be broken down in two different ways: there are the fundamental themes, logics or arguments that I am trying to convey. And there are the concrete cases through which I try to illustrate them. The first should be your initial priority. And then, as you work through the examples, think of your own and how they might have been included as well.

AN ATLAS

This course is about geography. Lots of different places and countries will be mentioned in this course and it helps to know where they are with respect to each other. Don't underestimate the

importance of this. You can acquire a decent used atlas through Amazon for very little money: for \$3.00 or less plus shipping. I recommend either the Perthes World Atlas or the Rand McNally World Atlas, with some mild preference for the former, and the most recent the edition the better (the world changes!). This will be a purchase that will serve you well throughout your university career and beyond. Everybody should have a world atlas to hand, student or not.

BE CRITICAL!

As you read about the world, as you experience it in your everyday lives, be critical! It is only by looking for missing links, changing the angle of vision with respect to a problem, discovering new connections that have been omitted in past thinking that our understanding of the world and our ability to change it can improve. Think about what it means to be critical. It is not just a matter of opposing what someone is saying, obviously. Contrarianism has to have some basis in rational, coherent thought. As you read be ready to insert qualifications in the margin or questions that need to be asked and which the author failed to ask.

STUDY STRATEGIES

Studying always involves critique. To learn more about study strategies read what I have placed on Carmen on that topic.

ASSESSMENT

1. There will be two quizzes, each worth 16% of the final grade; a midterm and a final will each contribute 32% to the final grade. Quizzes will last 35 minutes. Midterm and Final exams will each last 1 hour and fifteen minutes. Quiz and exam questions will be of two distinct sorts:

- ‘Objective’ questions: True-False; select the correct alternative or alternatives
- Short answer questions
- Questions focusing on particular readings: Prior to each exam some of the readings placed on Carmen will be identified. *One* of them will feature on the quiz and in the case of the exam, we may decide to increase that to two. What you will have to do is:
 - Recount the principal argument or arguments made in the reading from a political geography standpoint: what are the major points that are being made?

- Identify parallels and contrasts with other cases that you have encountered in the course or in your own reading explaining in what way they provide parallels or contrasts.

NOTE: I will circulate a study guide prior to each quiz and each exam.

2. The final 4% of your grade derives from your class attendance. Roll *will* be taken. Failure to appear in class before 15 minutes into class time counts as an absence. You are allowed three absences. Beyond that you forfeit 4 percentage points.

With respect to exams, please note that in the interests of preserving anonymity you should use your 7-9 digit identification number and *not* your name!!

Finally note the date for your final exam: Monday December 15 6:00pm-7:45pm.

GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) STATUS:

This course is a GE course in the Organizations and Politics group of the Social Science category. In Social Science courses students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources. As a result of this particular course you are expected to: i) understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics; ii) understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts; iii) comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Take this very, very seriously: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic

misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct:

http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/> .

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

| WEEK | MONDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| 8/25 | ***** | Module 1: An Introduction |
| 9/1 | Labor Day (no class) | (continued) |
| 9/8 | (continued) | (concluded) |
| 9/15 | Module 2: The Politics of the Living Place | (continued) |
| 9/22 | QUIZ 1 (continued) | (concluded) |
| 9/29 | Module 3: The Politics of Geographically Uneven Development | (continued) |
| 10/6 | (continued) | (concluded) |
| 10/13 | MIDTERM | Module 4: The Question of |

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|-------|---|---|
| | | Discourse and Identity |
| 10/20 | (continued) | (continued) |
| 10/27 | (concluded) | Module 5: The Political Geography of Difference (continued) |
| 11/3 | (continued) | (continued) |
| 11/10 | (concluded) | QUIZ 2 Module 6: Countries in Question |
| 11/17 | Veteran's Day (no class) | (continued) |
| 11/24 | (continued) | Thanksgiving (no class) |
| 12/1 | Module 7: Globalization and its Political Geographies | (continued) |
| 12/8 | (concluded) LAST DAY OF CLASS | |
| 12/15 | FINAL EXAM: 6:00 – 7:45 p.m. | |