

GEOG 334: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
HUNTER COLLEGE, SUMMER 1 - 2012
Monday and Wednesday, 5:45 – 8:53 PM
HUNTER NORTH 1022

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Office hours: TBD

Overview

Political geography is the study of how political and spatial processes interact, and how political attempts at power are distributed across space. In this course, we will learn about the origin and history of states and their sub- and supra- units; interactions between different kinds of political territories; political boundaries and how that affects personal and cultural identity; how governments legitimize their claim over particular territories and populations; different forms of political rule; war, piracy and terrorism; disputed non-state units (such as the ocean and outer space); and symbols of power in and through landscapes.

Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to describe different scales of political geography, and how actors at those scales interact with one another as well as with the populations within them. Students will be able to relate course concepts to everyday issues of political territory, boundaries and identity in the popular press.

Teaching Philosophy:

We are here to learn together, and to make this class a place where we can find answers to the questions we are actually asking. Everyone has the right to talk and to listen, and we should try to do so generously.

From the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Article 26, article 2:

Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

From Freire:

Knowledge emerges only through invention and re-invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry men pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other.

Required Textbook: Martin Glassner and Chuck Fahrner, *Political Geography*. 3rd edition. John Wiley & Sons, 2004. ISBN 9780471352662. Available at Shakespeare & Co. on Lexington Avenue. The book is also available online from either amazon.com or bn.com, new and used, as an ebook for your Nook from Amazon, and for rent from Barnes & Noble.

Readings and discussion are at the heart of this class. In addition to the textbook, readings will be posted on e-reserves. Plan on printing and marking the text (highlighter, pen, post-its) as well as taking notes.

This will help you come to class prepared, and will be extremely useful for writing assignments. *Readings are indicated on the syllabus on the day they are due.*

Requirements

1. Attendance and participation

Students are expected to come to class on time, with readings completed, and notes and assignments in hand. In-class time will involve a good deal of active participation, in order to build a community of scholars who work through ideas together.

2. Communication

I am most easily reached by email. Some class correspondence will take place via Blackboard. Make sure to find a class partner who can fill you in in case you have to miss a day.

3. Assignments

Students must complete the following writing assignments:

- Chapter summaries submitted the night before class
- Two short papers relating the class concepts to a long article (1,500 words) from a major news source
- One book review of a fiction or non-fiction book from a course list, or of your choosing if cleared by the instructor.

Late assignments will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day they are late after the due date. Except for chapter summaries, assignments should be handed in as hard copies at the beginning of the class period.

NOTE: SOME PARTS OF THE SYLLABUS MAY BE MOVED AROUND TO ACCOMMODATE SPEAKERS OR OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES. I WILL ANNOUNCE ANY CHANGES IN CLASS THE WEEK PRIOR, AND WILL POST ON BLACKBOARD AS WELL. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ATTEND CLASS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO KEEP THEMSELVES IN THE LOOP ABOUT ANY SYLLABUS CHANGES.

Grading

Attendance and participation	15 points
Reading responses	10 points
Current events papers	10 points each (20 points)
Book review	15 points
Midterm exam	20 points
Final exam	20 points

Incompletes

Except in **VERY** special documented circumstances (death in the family, birth of your child, grave personal illness, etc.), the grade of incomplete (IN) is not given in this course. Please plan on completing the course in the time we are together.

Writing help and citation guidelines

If you need help with writing, I encourage you to take advantage of the Hunter College Writing center. The Reading/Writing Center is located in Room 416, Thomas Hunter Building. More information can be found here: <http://rwc.hunter.cuny.edu/index.html>

In this class, you are required to properly document the sources of your work. We will follow the MLA style guide. <http://rwc.hunter.cuny.edu/reading-writing/on-line/mla.pdf>

Plagiarism

From the Hunter Undergraduate catalog, 2007 – 2010, p. 71:

Any deliberate borrowing of the ideas, terms, statements or knowledge of others without clear and specific acknowledgment of the source is plagiarism. It is, in fact, intellectual theft. Serious students, scholars and teachers agree that they cannot tolerate plagiarism. It is not, of course, plagiarism to borrow the ideas, terms, statements or knowledge of others **if** the source is clearly and specifically acknowledged. Any conscientious student will, from time to time, consult critical material and may wish to include some of the insights, terms or statements encountered. When this happens, the source must be given full credit. This means listing the source in a footnote and/or appended bibliography and footnoting all quotations or close paraphrasing, including the page number of the passage in the source. Plagiarism will result in disciplinary proceedings. A more detailed explanation of plagiarism and the accepted procedures for acknowledging sources is available from the department of English or the office of the Hunter College Senate.

Hunter College Statement on Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTERS	ASSIGNMENT due
Monday, June 4	Introduction	1 - 3	
Wednesday, June 6	The State	4 - 7	
Monday, June 11	The State, cont.	8 - 11	Current events 1
Wednesday, June 13 (Adiv absent)	Political Geography within the state	12 – 14	
Monday, June 18	Political Geography within the state, cont.	15 - 16	
Wednesday, June 20	Imperialism, Colonialism, Decolonization	17 - 19	
Monday June 25	Geopolitics	20 - 23	Midterm exam
Wednesday, June 27	Contemporary International Relations	24 - 26	
Monday, July 2	Contemporary International Relations, cont.	27 - 30	Current events 2
Wednesday, July 4	COLLEGE IS CLOSED		
Monday, July 9	Our Last Frontiers	31 - 34	
Wednesday, July 11	Everyday life	35 - 36	Book review
Monday, July 16	Everyday life	37 - 38	Final exam