

GEOGRAPHY 460, FALL, 2009

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 Topics

Territory and Political Economy

Fundamental Concepts

The Political Economy of the Contemporary World

The Political Geography of Capitalist Development I: The Workplace

The Political Geography of Capitalist Development II: The Living Place

Territory and the Politics of Difference

Difference, Identity and Political Geography

Political Geographies of Imagined Communities: The Nation

A World of Difference

Territory and the State

The State in Geographic Context

The Politics of Geographically Uneven Development

The Politics of Globalization and its Illusions

Reading

Kevin R. Cox, *Political Geography: Territory, State and Society*. Blackwell: Oxford.

There will also be handouts from time to time and you will be responsible for them. I also reserve the right to add web articles to the reading list.

Note: There is a huge amount of material in the textbook. It is packed with ideas and supporting examples. It is your responsibility to know this material. And the best way of doing that is to master the overall interpretive framework that is developed in the book. Very important! **Anything in the textbook stands to be drawn on in the exams.**

Assessment

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. Quiz and exam questions will be primarily ‘objective’ and short answer in character. To enhance learning, exams will be cumulative.

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.

Interspersed throughout the pages of the textbook are ‘Think and Learn’ boxes, designed to encourage you to do just that. We are devoting two class periods to each of the topics outlined above. Each topic corresponds to a chapter in the textbook. I will draw on the ‘Think and Learn’ questions in the relevant chapter. Be prepared. I may ask you to lead off the discussion. There is no class credit for this, but any questions and the discussion will be drawn on in the quizzes and exams.

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

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/> .

Class / Exam Schedule

	READING	ASSESSMENT
Week 1: W 9/23	Chapter 1	
Week 2: M 9/28 W 9/30	Chapter 2	
Week 3: M 10/5 W 10/7	Chapter 3	
Week 4: M 10/12 W 10/14	Chapter 4	Quiz 1
Week 5: M 10/19 W 10/21	Chapter 5	
Week 6: M 10/26 W 10/28	Chapter 6	Midterm examination

Week 7: M 11/2		
W 11/4	Chapter 7	
Week 8: M 11/9		
W 11/11	Chapter 8 (NO CLASS: VETERANS DAY)	
Week 9: M 11/16		
W 11 /18		Quiz 2
Week 10: M 11/23	Chapter 9	
W 11/25		.
Week 11: M 11/30	Chapter 10	
W 12/2		
Final Exam Week W 11/9		FINAL EXAM: 9:30 A.M. – 11:18 A.M.