POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY - GEO 365.001 – Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:15 Ferguson 482 - Fall 2017

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Office hours: Wednesday 9-12; Tuesday and Thursday 330-430; online daily; or by appointment

Course description (from catalog): Surveys geopolitical patterns and political ecology at local, national, and international scales. Topics include nation-states, geopolitical strategies, neo-colonialism, territoriality, boundaries, redistricting and adaptation/resistance to globalization.

Current events topics: Possible geopolitical current events discussions include (but are not limited to) China, Russia, North Korea, Middle East relations, “nations within nations”; military strategies (Syria, etc.); cyber-security (leaks, policing vs. privacy, etc.); African-American and Hispanic issues; elections; and policies/policies related to sustainable community development planning. Broader political processes/trends will be examined in relation to current events, such as devolution, supra-nationalism, democracy, corruption, inequality, biodiversity, climate change.


Grading: Traditional; 90-100% =A; 80-90% =B; 70-80%=C; 50-70% =D.

30% quizzes – approximately ten weekly five-question multiple choice quizzes based mostly on online reading assignments, less on in-class material since last quiz (lowest 20% of quizzes dropped).

30% exams - three combination multiple choice/essay exams

30% individual papers – a minimum five-page paper will be done in provided format on a self-selected topic. Topics due Sept. 26th, draft papers due November 16th, final papers due December 7th. Late papers reduced 1% per day.

10% group work/presentation – mostly based on group work on issues of personal interest.

Attendance, etc. – attendance is recorded by quizzes and return of quizzes – five or more absences will drop grade 5%; respect regarding cell phones (no use in class), talking, and arriving late or leaving (repeated disruption may drop grade 5% or more). Leaving right after a quiz is allowed once per semester, with prior reason given to instructor.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) The geography program has these learning objectives for its students:

PLO 1. The student will be able to prepare written and verbal presentations presenting geographical research using the analyses and synthesis of appropriate documents and primary data. (Addressed by SLOs 4,7,8,12)

PLO 2. The student will possess geographic literacy as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with human spatial and ecological relationships. (Addressed by SLOs – 4,7,8,12)

PLO 3. The student will be able to apply geographical knowledge and skills to a variety of settings. (SLOs 4,7,8,12)

PLO 4. The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the spatial world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises. (Addressed by SLOs – 4,7,8,12)

PLO5. The student will be able to read geographical research and to identify its major methodological strengths and weaknesses. (Addressed by SLOs – 4,7,8,12)

Student (Course) Learning Outcomes (SLOs) After successfully completing this course, a student will be able to:

4) Identify on a map the location of the world's major political trends such as democracy, oligarchy, leftist governments, devolution, balkaization, supra-nationalism, high and low social services, human rights issues.

7) Describe the process of globalization, including positive and negative examples from each continent.

8) Identify locations and underlying geographic and historical issues behind major current events

12) Describe with historical and present examples of the geographic subfield of political ecology.
August 29th – Overview of Political Geography
August 31st – Group, paper topics discussion
September 5th – International Geopolitics
September 7th – Geopolitical patterns, strategies
September 12th – Nation-states; Neo-colonialism
September 14th – Territoriality; Boundaries
September 19th – Globalization, democracies
September 21st – Group, paper topics discussion
September 26th – Review (paper topics due)
September 28th – Exam 1
October 3rd – Political Ecology
October 5th – Local subsistence vs. global markets
October 10th – Bebbington, et al. – Latin America
October 12th – Fairhead, Watts, Buscher – Africa
October 17th – Blaikie, Robbins, Grumbine - Asia
October 19th – Ostrom vs. Hardin, commons

Calendar
October 24th – UN SDGs, GDP, HPI
October 26th – IPCC, IPBES
October 31st – Review
November 2nd – Exam 2
November 7th – Local and national geopolitics
November 9th – City, county, state politics
November 14th – Redistricting GIS exercise
November 16th – Elections (draft papers due)
November 21st – Thanksgiving break
November 23rd – Thanksgiving break
November 28th – Review
November 30th – Exam 3
December 5th – Group work in GIS/PC lab
December 7th – Presentations (final paper due)
December 14th – Presentations - Thu 1-3pm

Academic Integrity (A-9.1) Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Students with Disabilities To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54) Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.