POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY - GEO 365.001 – Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:15 McGee 343 - Fall 2019

WILLIAM FORBES, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Geography, Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology; Stephen F. Austin State University; Office: Vera Dugas Liberal Arts North 333; Tel.: 936-468-2373; Email: forbesw@fsasu.edu
Office hours: Wednesday 1030-330; 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, territorality, boundaries, redistricting and adaptation/resistance to globalization.

Current events topics: Possible geopolitical current events discussions include (but are not limited to) internationally - China, Russia, Middle East, free trade vs. tariffs, rise of fascism, "nations within nations"; domestically – minority/gender issues; elections/primaries; gun control; and global political processes, such as devolution, supra-nationalism, democracy, corruption, inequality, biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development policies.


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 on current events, 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. 24th, draft papers due October 15th, final papers due December 5th. Late papers reduced 1% per day.

10% group work/presentation – mostly based on group work on issues of personal/group interest. Applied projects are possible such as letter-writing, petitioning, grant searches, and applications/promotions for projects or official designations such as Fair Trade University, Bicycle Friendly Community, PACE program, or SFA Green Fund.

Attendance, etc. – recorded by quizzes, return of quizzes – five absences may drop grade 5%; disruption by talking, arriving late/leaving early may drop grade 5%; leaving after a quiz is allowable once per semester, with prior reason.

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, balkanization, 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 27th – Overview of Political Geography
August 29th – Group, paper topics discussion

September 3rd – International Geopolitics
September 5th – Geopolitical patterns, strategies
September 10th – Nation-states; Neo-colonialism
September 12th – Territoriality; Boundaries
September 17th – Globalization, democracies
September 19th – Group, paper topics discussion

September 24th – Review (paper topics due)
September 26th – Exam 1

October 1st – Political Ecology
October 3rd – Local subsistence vs. global markets
October 8th – Bebbington, et al. – Latin America
October 10th – Fairhead, Watts, Buscher – Africa

Oct. 15th – Blaikie, Grumbine - Asia (draft papers)
October 17th – Ostrom vs. Hardin, commons

Calendar

Oct. 22nd – Development indices (GDP, HPI, SDG)
October 24th – Climate change (IPCC, IPBES)
October 29th – Review
November 5th – Local and national geopolitics
November 7th – City, county, state politics

November 12th – Redistricting GIS exercise
November 14th – Elections

November 19th – Review
November 21st – Exam 3

November 26th – Thanksgiving break
November 28th – Thanksgiving break
December 3rd – Group work in GIS/PC lab
December 5th – Presentations (final paper due)

December 12th – Presentations - Thu 130-4pm

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.

GEO 365.001 “Political Geography” (3 credits) spans 15 weeks. Students have weekly reading assignments of modules, chapters, or online articles, and are expected to take weekly five question quizzes based on the reading. They also have 2-3 exams and are required to write a draft and final version of a minimum five-page research paper. They also participate in five online discussions, in each posting once about the material and once in response to a student. These activities are estimated to average four to five hours of work each week.
Introduction to Sustainable Community Development
SUS 101-500 Fall 2019
Instructor: Dr. William Forbes

Instructor: William Forbes, Ph.D.

Email: forbesw@sfasu.edu Phone: 936-468-2373

Office Hours: Wednesday 1030am-3:30 pm, Liberal Arts North 333, or by appt.

Department: Department of Anthropology, Geography and Sociology

Class Meeting Time and Place: This is an online course but to make your experience more meaningful there will be opportunities for face-to-face activities (some will be service learning). You should attend at least two. They will likely be afternoons, early evening, or weekends. If you can’t attend due to a time conflict or location, other arrangements may be made.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to log in to the course and check for assignments, news items and course updates each week. This course has weekly assignments - each new module begins on Monday morning and ends the next Monday evening. For detailed information go to http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class-attendance-and-excused-absence-6.7.pdf.

Course Description: (from catalog) “An examination of theoretical and methodological issues in the study of human culture and social activity in relation to ecological systems and the environment.” More info: SUS 101 introduces concepts of sustainability as they relate to culture, history, energy, agriculture, economics, infrastructure, business, community planning, policy, psychology and environmental justice. Students will learn about global, national, regional and local sustainability efforts and participate in community activities promoting local sustainability.

Program Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of sustainability.
2. Students will be able to identify the most significant economic, political, and cultural factors in generating sustainable communities.
3. Students will be able to identify the most significant philosophical, emotional, and intellectual obstacles to generating sustainable communities.
4. Students will be able to articulate the reasons that sustaining viable communities holds value to human societies.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply their theoretical knowledge to the solution of real-world problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLOs</th>
<th>Supported Course Objective SLO # or NA (not applicable)</th>
<th>Skill Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLO1</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO2</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO3</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO4</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the real-world problems contributing to the environmental and social crises that sustainability addresses.
2. Students will be able to articulate the reasons that sustainable approaches such as renewable energy, green building and agriculture, sustainable community design and environmental justice hold value to human societies.
3. Students will demonstrate through a service learning project the importance of involvement on a local, community level.

Texts and Materials (all books will be on two-hour reserve at Steen Library):


Course Requirements: Three semester hours are earned by reading the modules, completing assigned readings, participating in discussions and activities, and taking quizzes and exams.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities: you should participate in at least one service-learning project opportunity, either in person or online. Activities can include:

1) Banita Creek Preserve monitoring/pollinator garden work;
2) Helping local group Resilient Nacogdoches (ReNac) with school gardens/info tables;
3) Helping Brown Family Health Center or the Senior Center with community gardens;
4) Grant search, letter writing or petitioning to support local alternative transportation, renewable energy, or other sustainability projects;
5) Bikeability or walkability assessments;
6) Other projects of your own design or interest.

More information will be available for each of these activities.
Weekly Topic Calendar

**Week 1: The 11th Hour** - Fragile ecosystems, effects of climate change, sustainability's golden rule, extinction crises, calculating ecological footprint. (11th Hour and Ecological Footprint discussions close Sept. 3rd)

**Week 2: The Birth of Sustainability** - History of sustainability, the land ethic, sustainability as place, the triple bottom line, more & better, careers in sustainability. (Quiz closes Sept. 9th)

**Week 3: Limits to Growth** - Globalization, sources and sinks, Limits to Growth world models, exponential growth, demographic transition, ecological overshoot, correction, and Malthusian collapse. (Limits to Growth quiz closes Sept. 16th)

**Week 4: Energy Part One Fossil Fuels** - Carbon energy balance, ecosystem services, renewable and non-renewable energy, climate change, global and U.S. energy use, types of energy and their carbon footprints, peak oil. (Fossil Fuels quiz closes Sept. 23rd)

**Week 5: Energy Part Two Alternative Energy** - Energy security and energy independence, energy use by source, renewable/alternative energy, wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, biomass, precautionary and Prometheus principles. (Renewable Energy discussion closes Sept. 30th)

**Week 6: The Economy - Growth versus Prosperity** - Understanding the growth paradigm and neoclassical economics, Smith, Keynes and Friedman, gross national product versus genuine progress indicator, economic personalities, ecological economics. (Economy quiz closes Oct. 7th)

**MIDTERM EXAM** (closes Oct. 14th)

**Week 7: Sustainable Business** - Walmart story as told by Edward Humes in Force of Nature, greenwashing, corporate social responsibility, appreciative inquiry, public opinion, the media, sustainability product index, carbon disclosure, cradle to cradle. (Bus. disc. 1 closes Oct. 21st)

**Week 8: Food/Agriculture** - Industrialized versus sustainable agriculture, fertilizer & pesticide pollution, ecological vulnerability, food ethics, food security/independence, community supported agriculture, urban farming. (Disc. on module and film Food, Inc. closes Oct. 28th)

**Week 9: Community Planning** - What is "community", unsustainable cities, planning for relationships, SmartGrowth, walkability, sense of place, fair trade, social connectedness, social capital, bonding, networking, bridging, the wealth of communities. (Comm. quiz closes Nov. 4th)

**Week 10: Water** - Water use, water pollution, conventional and alternative water treatment, rainwater collection, greywater, heating and cooling. (Disc. on video FLOW closes Nov. 11th)

**Week 11: Green and Natural Building** - Building energy consumption, construction waste, natural building, cob/straw/earthbag construction, heating/cooling (Disc. closes Nov. 18th)

**Week 12: Sustainability Policy** - Subsidies, free trade, incentives, taxes, regulation, globalization, sustainability policy, unintended consequences, free market versus big government. (Discussion closes Dec. 2nd)

**Week 13: Environmental Justice** - What is environmental justice, history, community structure, globalization and EJ, fair trade, etc. (EJ quiz closes December 9th) (Bus. disc. 2 closes Dec. 9th)

**Week 14: Final Exam** (open Dec. 9-13th) (Final disc. open Dec. 9 - 13th)
University Policies: For policies on topics such as academic dishonesty, withdrawals, and accommodations for student with disabilities, etc., students are responsible for referring to the Stephen F. Austin State University 2010-2011 Bulletin. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. 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

Acceptable Student Behavior: Behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate or inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed. Please see student conduct policy D-34.1K: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf

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. The instructor may assign an earlier deadline than one year. Students will not be given a withheld grade without official (non-student, non-family) written documentation of unavoidable issues submitted prior to the last day of class. 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. For the official university policy please see: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf

Make-up quizzes/exams/Drop Policy: Students will not be given a make-up exam without written documentation of unavoidable issues submitted prior to the exam. Students are responsible for observing drop deadlines in the schedule of classes. For more info see the official university policy at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-add-drop_6.10.pdf

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/.