

Fall 2006

Political Geography (GEOG 584)



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Course description:

This course will focus on the interrelationships and interactions between geographical and political phenomena and processes at the sub-national, national, and international levels. The emphasis will be on spatial aspects of current political problems within and between states.

Required materials:

- ☀ Martin Glassner and Chuck Fahrer. *Political Geography*. 3rd edition. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2004.
- ☀ Daily subscription to the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Suggested materials:

- ☀ *Goode's World Atlas*. 21st edition. Chicago: Rand McNally, 2005 OR
- ☀ John Allen and Elizabeth J. Leppman. *Student Atlas of World Politics*. 6th edition. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill, 2004.

Calendar:

Please note all dates and deadlines for the course are shown on the course calendar, which you should download from Blackboard.

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Office hours:

Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30-10:30 a.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m., and by appointment. I am also available at all time by way of phone and e-mail.

Exams:

There will be three non-cumulative, primarily essay tests. These have been set for:

- ☀ Thursday, September 28th
- ☀ Thursday, November 2nd
- ☀ Monday, December 12th (10:30-12:30)

Each test will count for 20 percent of the final grade.

Paper:

To encourage you to assemble political geographic data, think in a political geographical way, and apply some of the ideas and concepts of the field, you will be required to submit a term paper on one of two general areas: boundary/territorial disputes or national integration/minority problems. I will hand out a short list of topics that lend themselves especially well to this kind of analysis, and I encourage (but do not require) you to select from this list. Your paper should follow generally accepted format with footnotes, bibliography, maps, etc. It should not exceed 10 pages, double-spaced, 12-pt. The final paper will be marked for content, presentation, writing, originality, and comprehensiveness, and will be worth 20 percent of the final grade.

Please note the following important dates and deadlines. No extensions will be given.

- ☀ September 19th: I sign up for topic of choice
- ☀ October 19th: draft bibliographies due. Bibliographies must be typed and should be at least two pages long.
- ☀ November 30th: FINAL PAPER DUE. Late papers will receive one letter grade reduction for each day late.

Clippings project:

This project (worth 20 percent) is also designed to further your awareness of the interaction between geography and politics and encourage you to apply what you learn in the classroom to the broader world. Each week you should identify two newspaper articles from the *Christian*

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Science Monitor, that you believe have explicit political geographic content. You should submit to me a brief report (no more than one page total, double-spaced 12 pt), which must include the following:

- ☀️ Headline
- ☀️ Date
- ☀️ Very brief summary of the article's content (two or three sentences will do)
- ☀️ In one paragraph, provide a justification for your choice and discussion of the issue(s) raised. You must try to use the vocabulary and concepts of political geography. This is the main purpose of the exercise.
- ☀️ Attached mounted article on 8.5 x 11 page.

We will leave time in class to discuss your selections on the due dates. Please note that your assignment must reach me during class on the due date, or you will not receive credit. No excuses!

The first of the eight clippings assignments will be due on September 7th. Please consult the course calendar for due dates.

Lecture outline

- ☀️ State and nation
- ☀️ Spatial morphology: size and shape
- ☀️ Boundaries and territorial disputes
- ☀️ Core areas and capital cities
- ☀️ Unitary and federal states
- ☀️ Anomalous political units
- ☀️ Local administration
- ☀️ Problems of national integration
- ☀️ Refugees
- ☀️ Regional integration
- ☀️ International organizations
- ☀️ Law of the Sea
- ☀️ International straits
- ☀️ Landlocked states
- ☀️ Electoral geography