

PSC 227: Political Geography Syllabus

Mon/Wed/Fri: 115 Talbert
11:00 – 11:50 am
Instructor: Annika Hagley (ahagley@buffalo.edu)
08/31/2009 - 12/11/2009
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 1-2pm, 414 Park Hall

Overview:

Political Geography may be broadly defined as the study of spatial organization of, and variations in, political phenomena (institutions, processes and behaviors). As such, the subfield is conventionally understood to focus upon such diverse questions as the impact of territorial and natural resources on the conduct of International Relations (Geopolitics); the institutions and processes available to accommodate intra-national regional diversity (federalism, etc.); the political representation of territory via electoral systems and the redistricting process; and the impact of residential segregation processes on the structuring of voting choices, to give but a few examples. What unites this seemingly disparate set of questions is the recognition that an adequate understanding of each necessarily involves consideration of forces or processes that are spatially variant. This course provides an introduction into the idea that there is a definite geographical perspective with should be accounted for within the Political Science Discipline.

Course Requirements:

Attendance counts for 10% of your final grade. Attendance will be taken in each session and you are responsible for maintaining your record in this area. There will be two exams worth 25% and you will be expected to write a term paper which will be worth 30% of your final grade. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and a short essay question.

For the final paper you will be asked to research a political phenomenon/process with an explicitly spatial component and conduct a literature review concerning your topic (7-10 pages). Topics must be approved by the instructor prior to beginning your research). Finally, in the last weeks of the class you will be asked to give a short presentation describing your research topic, what you have discovered so far and come up with a testable research question. This, along with one in-class assignment will make up the final 10% of your grade. Students who do not fulfill this requirement will automatically lose their ten percent attendance grade as well as the 10% presentation/in class response grade.

General grading policy:

All examinations and papers will be graded numerically, with the numbers then used for APPROXIMATE letter grades. The cut-off points on exams will be announced, and are intended to give you a sense of where you stand. These cut-off points will be determined for each examination. However, the **final** determination of grades rests with the instructor, including division points between (say) B- and C+.

Academic integrity:

Central to this course—and indeed to all University-level education—is the expectation of academic integrity. You are expected to submit *only* written work you have completed by yourself. Yes, it's OK (and even advisable) to study with others, but when you write, it must be your own product. I have absolutely zero tolerance for cheating and anyone indulging in such behavior will automatically receive an F grade and be reported to the relevant university body.

Disabilities:

Any student with a diagnosed physical, learning or psychological disability which impedes his or her carrying out required course work, or which requires accommodations such as readers or extended time on examinations and/or assignments, **MUST** register with the Office of Disability Services and advise the instructor *during the first two weeks of the course* so we can review possible reasonable arrangements.

Required Texts: (Texts are available on Amazon for up to a third of the price of the college store – books will NOT be ordered for the college store)

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. (Princeton University Press)

Fenno, Richard. 1978. *Homestyle: House Members in their Districts*. (Little Brown and Company)

Farher, Chuck and Ira Glassner. 2003. *Political Geography* (Wiley)

Week 1 Overview: What is Political Geography? Territory and States

August 31st – September 4th 2009

Readings:

Devine, D.J and J.E.S.F, "The Requirements of Statehood re-examined". *The Modern Law Review* Vol.34. No.4 (July, 1971) pp. 410-417. (Fri)

Week 2: Geography and Statehood in Africa

September 9th – September 11th 2009

No class on Monday – Labor Day

Readings:

Guest Lecture Dr. Claude Welch (Wed)

Herbst: Book – Please have read the Book by the Wednesday class at the latest (this text will feature heavily in the first exam)

Week 3: Electoral Geography Part One: Concepts and Challenges

September 14th – September 18th 2009

Readings:

Glassner and Fahrer, Chapter 15 (Mon)

Burbank, Matthew J. 1997. "Contextual Effects on Vote Choice". *Political Behavior* Vol.19 No. 2 (JSTOR) (Fri)

Week 4: Electoral Geography

September 21st – September 25th 2009

Readings:

Prysbay, Charles L. 1989. "Attitudes of Southern Democratic Party Activists towards Jesse Jackson: The Effects of the Local Context. *The Journal of Politics* Vol.51 No.2 (JSTOR) (Mon)

Johnston, R.J. 1982. "The Changing Geography of Voting in the United States: 1946 – 1980". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. Vol.7 No.2 (JSTOR)

OR

Byron J Moraski and William M Reiseiger. "Explaining Electoral competition across Russia's Regions" *Slavic Review* 62:2 (JSTOR) (Wed)

(In class response paper – Friday)

Week 5: The Geography of the District

October 30th – October 2nd 2009

No Class Monday – Yom Kippur

Readings:

Fenno Ch. 1-5 (Wed)

Hagley, Annika. 2008. "Voting for it then Voting Against it: Members of Congress, Roll Call Voting and Discretionary Dissent" (will be emailed in advance) (Fri)

Examination review

Week 6: Examination 1 and Geography and Conflict

October 5th – October 9th 2009

Readings:

Diehl, Introduction and Ch.1 (Arab Israeli conflict) (Mon) (Guest lecture Fait Muedini)

Diehl, Ch.2 and 3 (Enduring Rivalries and Border Configuration) (Wed)

Examination Friday 3rd September 2008

Week 7: Geography and Conflict Part 2

October 12th – October 16th 2009

Readings:

Lee E Dutter. 1985. "Perceptions of Group Identity and Recent Political Behavior in Northern Ireland". *Political Psychology* Vol.6 No.1 - JSTOR (Mon)

Senese, Paul D. 2005. "Chinese Acquisition of the Spratly Archipelago and its Implications for the Future". *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 22:1 (79-94) (Wed)

"The New Geography of Conflict".

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/generaldebate/2001/0601klar.htm>

(Fri)

Week 8: Ethnic Conflict

October 19th – October 23rd 2009

Readings:

Glassner and Fahrer: Ch. 23 (The Geography of War and Peace)

Glassner and Fahrer: Ch. 35 (The Politics of Religion)

Yiftachel, Oren. 1997. "The Political Geography of Ethnic Protest: Nationalism, Deprivation and Regionalism among Arabs in Israel". *Transaction of the Institute of British Geographers*". Vol. 22. No.1

Week 9: Geographic Information Systems

October 26th – October 30th 2009

Readings:

<http://www.gisdevelopment.net/tutorials/> Please read all of the subheadings in the webpage tutorial) (Mon)

GIS practical Demonstration (Computer lab – TBA- Wed)

Dyck, Joshua J. and Annika Hagley. 2007. "Voter Rationality in Space: The Paradox of NIMBY Voting on Jessica's Law". Working Paper (will be emailed to you in advance)
Guest Lecture: Dr. Joshua Dyck (Fri)

Week 10: Methods continued

November 2nd – November 6th 2009

Week 11: Pirates and Spacemen:

November 9th – November 13th 2009

Readings:

Glassner and Fahrer: Ch. 30 (Outlaws and merchants of Death) Ch. 31 (The Law of the Sea) (Mon)

Glassner and Fahrer: Ch. 32 (The Political Geography of the Sea)

Glassner and Fahrer: Ch: 34 (Outer Space)

Week 12: International Trade and Economic Integration

November 16th – November 20th and November 24th 2009

Readings:

Glassner and Fahrer: Ch 25 (International Trade) (Mon)

Glassner and Fahrer: Ch. 26 (Economic Integration) (Wed)

Murphy, Alexander B. 1995. "Economic regionalization and Pacific Asia".
Geographical Review. Vol.85 No.2
Class presentations (Mon before Fall Recess)

Week 13: Class Presentations (continued)

November 30th – December 4th (2009)

Final Papers due on Monday November 30th in class

Week 14: Summary and Final Examination

December 7th – December 11th 2009

Summary, Exam Review (Mon, Wed)

Final Examination (Fri)