World Political Geography

GEO 3471

Section 1

Fall 2023

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Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

-analyze the impact of political geography and its concepts on the global issues.

-appreciate the intersection between political science, international relations, and geography.

-understand the actors and stakeholders behind major global conflict issues.

-critically analyze the popular media and print for accuracy and political bias.

-participate in real-life simulated work in Political Geography.

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 cannot 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 cannot understand the world without it, though politicians, and geographers for that matter, have often tried to. It will open your eyes.

Required Texts

World Regional Geography by Caitlin Finlayson

This is an open source book available at <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=335>

Media

The course will utilize the BBC World News. Every day, students should stay informed with global issues via the BBC website and World Service bulletin. The World Service bulletin is a daily 5 minute presentation of the global news. It is highly advised to stay current on global issues.

This is easily accessed via: <**news.bbc.co.uk**>, then selecting Video and Audio.

Supplementary Course Materials

Supplementary course materials will include readings from articles, newspapers or websites.

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Final Grading Scale

A	> 93	B+	87 – 89.99	C+	77 – 79.99	D+	66 – 69.99
A-	90 – 92	B	83 – 86	C	72 - 76	D	62 – 65
		B-	80 – 82	C-	70 - 71	D-	60 – 61
						F	< 59.99

Grading Criteria

Quizzes: 40%

Debate Analysis & Discussion Posts: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

- ***Quizzes***

Throughout the semester, quizzes will test your mastery of the information presented. These will not take place every week, rather, just in the weeks we examine different world regions.

- ***Debate Analysis & Discussion Posts***

Throughout the second half of the semester, debate topics will post. Students are asked to examine **BOTH** sides of these debate topics and prepare responses to discuss the merits of **BOTH** sides. The week of Debate Analysis will not feature a quiz.

Debate Topics:

1: Supranationalism

2: Colonialism

3: Hegemony

4: War & International Conflict/Flashpoints

On weeks we analyze a region, a Discussion Post will be assigned. These will always be topics from the world of Political Geography.

- ***Final Exam***

A comprehensive final exam will be available after the final class of the semester.

Attendance Policy:

Each week, a different topic will be explored. It is important that you stay up with the topics as, at the end of each week, we will finalize grades for that unit and move on. Once grades are finalized for a unit, they cannot be changed. Late work will not be accepted.

In-Class Communication

The style of learning in this class requires open communication and respect for all other opinions. It is not my goal to force you to think as I think, but rather, to form your own global ideas and defend them. Throughout the class, you may be called out to defend your ideas. Do your best and just know that your inability to believe the same things I believe will NOT negatively affect your final grade, rather, I welcome healthy and constructive debate, but I do demand respect for differing opinions.

Course Schedule

Week of:

August 21: Introduction to World Political Geography

August 28: Europe

September 4: Debate Analysis: Supranationalism

September 11: Russia

September 18: North America

September 25: Middle & South America (Latin America)

October 2: Debate Analysis: Colonialism

October 9: Sub-Saharan Africa

October 16: North Africa & Southwest Asia (Middle East)

October 23: Debate Analysis: Hegemony

October 30: South Asia

November 6: East & Southeast Asia

November 13: Debate Analysis: War & Conflict/Flashpoints

November 20: Thanksgiving Break

November 27: Oceania

University Services and Resources

Academic Services and Resources

A list of available academic support and learning services is available at UCF Student ServicesLinks to an external site.. Click on "Academic Support and Learning Services" on the right-hand side to filter.

Non-Academic Services and Resources

A list of non-academic support and services is also available at UCF Student ServicesLinks to an external site.. Click on "Support" on the right-hand side to filter.
If you are a UCF Online student, please consult the UCF Online Student GuidelinesLinks to an external site. for more information about your access to non-academic services.

Policy Statements

Academic Integrity

Course Accessibility Statement

Campus Safety Statement

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

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