

Political Geography, POLS 3332, spring/2017

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Political geography examines the control of territory and space in the political process. People are situated in space, and these 'bodies lived in space' differently experience, challenge, cross, and/or transgress territorial control in ways that are structured by their gender, class, nationality, and ethnicity. A variety of public policies are relevant to territory and space, among them migration, citizenship, environment, international and border trade and security. In this course, we introduce students to political geography and its research agendas from the global, to the national, and to the local. We focus on maps, historical and contemporary, and the changing borders in approximately 200 nation-states around the world. We also compare map projections and the distortions they entail.

BOOKS

Martin Jones, et al., *An Introduction to Political Geography: Space, Place and Politics*, 2nd edition (Routledge)

Carr, Matthew, *Fortress Europe: Dispatches from a Gated Continent*

Suggested (though lots of maps available free on the Internet): Dan Smith, *Penguin State of the World Atlas*, 9th edition (Penguin)

COURSE OUTCOMES: By the end of the course, the student will be able to

- *Visualize nation-states on world maps along with their borders and ensuing complications
- *Understand the history of territorial issues in nation-states and global economies
- *Evaluate multiple policies in borderlands

ASSIGNMENTS and ASSESSMENT VALUES

*Correctly identify 60 countries on a blank world map (week 3): ungraded, but expectation to proceed in the course

*Identify and read three articles from the following list of geography journals, available free online in UTEP's Library electronic journal (e-journal) collection: ANTIPODE, ENVIRONMENT & SPACE (A and D), GEOPOLITICS, JOURNAL OF BORDERLANDS STUDIES, POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY, PROGRESS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY, SPACE AND POLITY. Write a 750 word essay summarizing the findings and methods. Be prepared to present in class. (Sign up by week 2) (20%)

*Select two countries that share a binational border. Analyze their history and contemporary politics to draw conclusions about the border as a challenge and opportunity. (3,000 words, 10-item credible bibliography) (proposal due after spring break; due for presentation, first day of the last week of class) (30%)

*Midterm and final examinations (a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions) (40% total). Take notes on other students' presentations from journals! Questions will be on the exams.

*Attendance and Participation: required (attendance may be taken via short quizzes—no makeups!). If more than two classes are missed, the grade will be affected, and if 2.5 weeks are missed (5 classes), the student will be withdrawn from the class. Two campus or community events, with one page reflection, also required (see items on syllabus and listen for announcements), due by mid-April—get started early! (10%)

READING LIST: Read/prepare by

- Jan 18 Introduction to the course: Political Geography and Geo-politics!
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/25/opinion/in-russia-its-not-the-economy-stupid.html?em_pos=large&emc=edit_ty_20161226&nl=opinion-today&nid=54987887&ref=headline&te=1&r=0
- Jan 20 Inauguration Day activities: Centennial Plaza (11-1) and Tomás River Center Roundtables (1-4): Attend at least one hour!
- Jan 23 Maps and their projections
Documentary, Union Cinema, *13th*, Ava DeVernay (2016)
- Jan 25 Jones et al., "Introduction: Power, Space, and Political Geography," Ch 1
Jones et al., "Public Policy and Political Geography," Ch 12 Wherefore democracy and border voices?
- Jan 30 Sign-ups for journals
Carr, Acknowledgements, Introduction
Carr, Ch 10 "Hands Across the Border"
- Feb 1 Jones, et al., "States and Territories," Ch 2
- Feb 6 MAP QUIZ!
Carr, Ch 1, "A Gated Continent"
- Feb 8 Jones et al., "The State's Changing Forms and Functions," Ch 3
- Feb 13 Westphalia and European history in maps
Carr, Ch 2, "Postcards from Schengenland"
- Feb 15 Jones et al., "Place, Participation, and Citizenship," Ch 4
- Feb 20 Meet in Auditorium, Ruben Center, UTEP for Dr. Tony Payan, Lucina Vargas, and Dr. Francisco Llera, "US-Mexico Border Relations in the New Electoral Era" (See me to

record your attendance.)

- Feb 22 Mid-term exam
- Feb 27 Carr, Ch 3, "Policing the Spanish Frontier"
- March 1 Jones et al., "The Political Geographies of Nationalism," Ch 5
- March 6 Carr, Ch 4, "Mare Schengen"
- Spring Break March 13 and 15
- March 20 Research Proposals Due (750 words): Be prepared to present in class!
- March 22 Jones et al., "Contesting Place," Ch 6
- March 27 Jones et al., "Geographies of Representation and Mobilization," Ch 7
- March 29 Borderlands Film
- April 3 Jones et al., "Geographies of Empire," Ch 8
- April 5 Carr, Ch 5, "The Greek Labyrinth"
- April 10 Jones et al., "Political Geographies of Globalization," Ch 9
- April 12 Midterm Exam
- April 17 Carr, Ch 6, "Small Island: British Borders"
- April 19 Jones et al., "Political Geography and the Environment," Ch 10
- April 24 Carr, Ch 7 "The Internal Border" (Consider how the US compares)
- April 26 Jones et al., "Geopolitics and Critical geopolitics," Ch 11
- May 1 Papers Due, Presentations Begin
- May 3 Presentations continue
- Carr, bringing closure via Chs 11-12 & Epilogue

Final Exam

NOTE: Syllabus may exchange at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic integrity and dishonesty: Model integrity and ethical behavior! Students who copy exams or steal ideas and quotations without citations in their writing will be subject to discipline. Read

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

UTEP statement for each syllabus: "Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of

Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions."

Students with different abilities: Students who need an accommodation should contact www.utep.edu/dsso, East Union Room 108 (747 5148) for their rights and possible accommodations.

UTEP statement for each syllabus: "If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. *CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.*"