

Political Geography

GGG 301__001

Professor

Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Email

crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours

By appointment, email to arrange

2216 Exploratory Hall
or by [zoom](#)

Course Delivery

In-person

Meeting Time & Location

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:00-1:15 pm
215G Innovation Hall

Course Description

This 3-credit course provides an overview of the subfield of human geography called political geography. Subtopics surveyed include state formation, social movements, environmental injustice, etc. Theory foundational to political geography in addition to an array of other social sciences will be discussed alongside historical and contemporary case studies. Special attention is paid to the unevenness of power at various scales as expressed through Politics/politics. This course satisfies the Mason Core Social and Behavioral Sciences Requirement.

Required Texts

Readings are free and accessible on Blackboard (BB).

Student Expectations

- Read email daily
- Attend class and be engaged
- Reach out if you're stuck or behind
- Display respect

Learning Outcomes

- Identify deeper context of geopolitical disputes
- Describe how power works and is expressed through Politics/politics
- Apply theoretical concepts to current events
- Explain how P/political processes affect people, especially marginalized groups
- Navigate a scholarly journal article
- Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors
- Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs
- Use appropriate methods and resources to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles and theories in the analysis of significant human issues, past or present

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Grading/Requirements

Submit all items on BB.

120 pts, 12%

Participation

For this class, participation means that you show up and when you show up, you're actively engaged with me and your classmates, contributing verbally and non-verbally. If you need to miss class, email the professor to make alternative arrangements. Failure to regularly attend class may result in a failing grade.

150 pts, 15%

StoryMap

You will create a StoryMap with various place-markers and associated write ups.

150 pts, 15%

Field Notes

You will complete 2 field notes which include identifying, describing, analyzing, and reflecting on an assigned political geography topic at play in the real world.

280 pts, 28%

Reading Responses

You must complete 7 Reading Responses (RR), which are one page (at least 300 words) double spaced where you summarize the key content and argument of the scholarly reading assigned for the week. Make connections between readings/topics than span units and/or relate to outside events. At least 3 RR must be completed prior to Exam 1.

300 pts, 30%

Exams

There are 2 exams (exam 2 is *not* cumulative). Exams occur in person during class time. Format is a mix of short answer, fill in/definition, T/F, multiple choice.

Grade Point Cutoffs

A+	980-1000	B-	800-829
A	930-979	C+	780-799
A-	900-929	C	700-779
B+	880-899	D	600-699
B	830-879	F	0-599

Late Work Policy

Each student starts with 3 late work tokens, which allow you to turn in a graded item up to 48 hours past the original due date without penalty. When using a late token, you do NOT need to email the professor in advance; simply turn in/complete your item on BB. Email to discuss extenuating circumstances affecting submission of work.

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Academic Integrity

George Mason University has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity and all students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code. Cheating and/or plagiarism—passing off work as your own that is not—will result in an F for your final grade in this class. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism and familiarize yourself with the Honor Code. The official GMU policies are available from the Office of Academic Integrity: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/>. Please consult with me about questions *prior to turning in assignments*. See also [Assignment Procedures](#).

Miscellaneous

- Communicate accommodations or concerns.
- Obtain reliable access to a computer and internet.
- Course materials are [private to this class](#).
- Only use your GMU email account; include full name and course #.

Title IX

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993- 8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

Diversity Statement & Accommodations

GMU promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study, and personal growth. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion (see [religious holiday calendar](#)), age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard, and respected. *If you wish, please share your name and gender pronouns with the professor and how best to address you in class and via email. I use she/her for myself. Please consider updating your profile in PatriotWeb.*

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

Additional Resources

See list and links on BB.

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Course Schedule

Weeks	In-Person Class	Topic	Readings	Due by Tuesdays 11:59 am <i>unless otherwise specified</i>
	Tues/Thurs 12-1:15 pm EST			
Week 1	8/22, 8/24	Introduction States & Nations	None	NONE
Week 2	8/29, 8/31	States & Nations Separatism	State & Nation excerpts	Reading Response 1
Week 3	9/5, 9/7	Unrecognized States	States without sovereignty, Caspersen	Reading Response 2
Week 4	9/12, 9/14	Statelessness	Statelessness report excerpts, Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion	Reading Response 3
Week 5	9/19, 9/21	Theories of Power	Sovereign power, disciplinary power, and biopower, Lilia and Vinthagen	Reading Response 4
Week 6	9/26, 9/28	Land Borders & Frontiers	Territorial Geopolitics, Ch 5_Flint	Reading Response 5 Field Note 1: Power (<i>due</i> <u>10/1, 11:59 pm</u>)
Week 7	10/3, 10/5	Exam Review & Exam	None	Exam 1 on Thursday
Week 8	10/12	Native Political Geography	Excerpts about impacts of uneven political geographies on Native bodies	Field Note 2: Native geographies (<i>due</i> <u>10/15, 11:59 pm</u>)
Week 9	10/17, 10/19	Maritime Borders & Frontiers	Fishing boats in the inter-Korean maritime boundary, Song	Reading Response 6
Week 10	10/24, 10/26	Environmental (In)justice & Geography	Royal Dutch Shell in the Niger Delta, Ruffin	Reading Response 7
Week 11	10/31, 11/2	Electoral Geography	Color of Law excerpts, Rothstein	Reading Response 8
Week 12	11/7, 11/9	Counterpower: Social Movements	Social Media in the Egyptian Revolution, Eltantawy and Wiest	Reading Response 9 StoryMap: Social Movement (<i>due</i> <u>11/12, 11:59 pm</u>)
Week 13	11/14, 11/16	Topic TBA: Student Choice	TBA	Reading Response 10
Week 14	NO CLASS	NONE	None	NONE
Week 15	11/28, 11/30	Exam Review & Exam	None	Exam 2 on Thursday