

GGG 301 – Section 001 Political Geography

Mon/Weds 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm, Exploratory Hall, Room 2310

Professor: Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Contact: crosenfe@gmu.edu, Exploratory Hall 2216, 703-993-4298

Office Hours: Mon/Weds 11:30 am-12:30 pm & by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT

This course does not have a textbook. All readings will be made available on Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (3 credits)

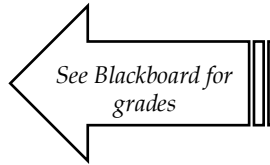
This course provides an overview of the subfield of human geography called political geography. Subtopics surveyed include traditional areas of focus for the subfield, including electoral geography and state formation, in addition to themes that political geography has taken up since its foundation, including 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Chart history of subfield and future directions
2. Describe how power works and is expressed through Politics/politics
3. Apply theoretical concepts to current events
4. Explain how P/political processes affect people, especially marginalized groups

GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

Participation.....150 pts, 15%
 Final Project..... 250 pts, 25%
 Exams300pts, 30%
 Reading Responses.....300 pts, 30%



GRADE CUTOFFS BY POINTS

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

Note: no C-

It is your responsibility to check grades as soon as they are posted on Blackboard. Contact the professor within 48 hours of the grade being posted to discuss if you feel there is an issue..

PARTICIPATION (150 pts, 15%)

This class does not work without your participation. Your participation will be evaluated based on your verbal contributions, attentiveness, punctuality, professionalism, and participation in activities during class. You do not automatically get full credit for showing up.

FINAL PROJECT (250 pts, 25%)

The final project is to create an ArcGIS Story Map, which is a type of presentation that utilizes ArcGIS software. You do NOT need to have any technical background to complete this. A tutorial will be given in class and additional support provided as needed. Additional details will be provided on Blackboard and in class. You may work individually or with a partner; if working with a partner, each student receives the exact same grade.

EXAMS (300 pts, 30%)

Each exam will contain a mix of multiple choice/matching/True-False questions and short answer questions pertaining to content covered in class and the readings. Prior to the exam, the professor will inform you what materials you may or may not use to help you take the exam.

READING RESPONSES (300 pts, 30%)

You must complete 6 reading responses (there are 8 opportunities to complete responses), which are at least one full page double spaced (300 words) but not longer than two full pages double spaced where you summarize the key content and arguments of readings covered that week/topic and include 1 question you have about the reading(s). Each response should address the key claims made by the author and make connections to other readings, classroom discussions, and outside events when possible. You must include page numbers when quoting directly, but you do NOT need to include a works cited page. A short overview of the reading and key issues to look out for will be provided in class prior to the reading response due date.

ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES

All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard. Save assignments as Word documents OR PDFs and upload to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check that the assignment displays properly when uploaded. I grade how it appears on Blackboard, including blank documents.

You are responsible for proper and timely submission. If you have a technical issue and cannot submit via Blackboard, you **MUST** email a copy of the assignment to the professor **BEFORE** it is due so the professor can consider it for credit. Avoid having to do this by submitting early.

LATE WORK POLICY

Late work is generally not accepted; please take advantage of the flexibility you have regarding reading responses (you only need to complete 6 out of 8).

If you need an extension for an assignment or have a conflict with an exam due to extenuating circumstances that are recognized by the university, it is your responsibility to contact the professor by email to inquire about an extension **prior to the original due date/exam date; this does not guarantee an extension.**

EMAIL POLICY

In compliance with a University-wide initiative, correspondence between instructors and students must only occur through GMU assigned email accounts. If you email me from a non-GMU email account, I will either not respond or I will respond letting you know to use your GMU email. I reply to all emails within 24 hours.

Please include these few basic elements in any and all email correspondence so I can quickly address your concern:

Subject Line: Course # **AND** Section # (example: GGS 301 Sec 001)

Quick salutation (example: Hi Dr. Rosenfeld)

Body that clearly explains the question or problem you have

Closing with first **AND** last name

DEPARTMENTAL & COURSE RESOURCES

GGs Student Computer Lab: Exploratory Hall Room 2102. You will receive automatic “swipe” access using your Student ID while enrolled in this class. If you are having problems with door access, please email Sam Cooke (scooke4@gmu.edu). Email College of Science IT (cosit@gmu.edu) for technical assistance.

Looking for a different resource? Let me know & I can help you find it! See Blackboard for more.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Writing Resources: Tutors at the Writing Center are available to assist you: Robinson B, room 213, 703-993-1200, writingcenter.gmu.edu

Tutoring: See Blackboard for list of university tutoring services

Disability Services: If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance, you should: 1) Make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Services--SUB I, suite 2500, 703-993-2474, ds.gmu.edu and 2) Discuss your accommodation needs with the professor.

Library Study Rooms: library.gmu.edu/use/study-rooms

ITS Support Center: Innovation Hall, Room 226, 703-993-8870

Student Technology Assistance & Resource Center (STAR): Provides all kinds of technology support: JC, room 229, 703-993-8990, bit.ly/2hWjI0y

Counseling Services: Professional counselors provide individual and group sessions for personal development and assistance with a range of emotional and relational issues: SUB I, room 3129, 703-993-2380, caps.gmu.edu

Student Support & Advocacy Center: Assistance regarding healthy lifestyle and educational choices; refer students you may be concerned about: SUB I, suite 3200, 703-993-3686, ssac.gmu.edu

Title IX: diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct, 703-993-8730, 373 Aquia Building

Food Pantry: Access food and household items: SUB I, suite 3011, pantry@gmu.edu

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. To speak with someone confidentially, contact one of Mason's 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

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, 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.

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.

*****This syllabus is subject to change but if changes are made, aside from slight weekly content adjustments, they will be clearly communicated via Blackboard*****

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings	Due on this Day by Start of Class
1	Weds	1/22	Welcome		
2	Mon	1/27	Situating Political Geography	<i>Handbook of Political Geography</i> , p. 3-6	
	Weds	1/29	Situating Political Geography	Flint_Dying for a "P"?	
3	Mon	2/3	State Formation	Taylor_State as Container	Reading Response
	Weds	2/5	State Formation	Casperson et al_ <i>Unrecognized States</i> excerpt	
4	Mon	2/10	(B)ordering	Popescu_ <i>Bordering & Ordering</i> excerpt	Reading Response
	Weds	2/12	(B)ordering	Jones_ <i>Violent Borders</i> excerpt	
5	Mon	2/17	Nationalism & Separatism	Anderson_Imagined Communities excerpts; http://www.nationalismproject.org/what/billig.htm	Reading Response
	Weds	2/19	Nationalism & Separatism	Current events articles TBA	
6	Mon	2/24	In-class review		
	Weds	2/26	EXAM 1		
7	Mon	3/2	Social Movements	Nichols_The Geography of Social Movements	Reading Response
	Weds	3/4	Social Movements	Eltantawy and Wiest_Social Media & the Arab Spring	
8	Mon	3/9	<i>SPRING BREAK--no class</i>		
	Weds	3/11	<i>SPRING BREAK--no class</i>		
9	Mon	3/16	Final Project in-class tutorial		
	Weds	3/18	Environmental (In)justice	Ross_Resource Curse	
10	Mon	3/23	Environmental (In)justice	Smith_Chapter 3 "Rape of the land"	Reading Response
	Weds	3/25	Establishing & Resisting Colonial Influence	Sharp_Geographies of Postcolonialism excerpts	
11	Mon	3/30	Establishing & Resisting Colonial Influence	Weizman_ <i>Hollow Land</i> excerpt; Liberti_ <i>Land Grabbing</i> excerpt	Reading Response
	Weds	4/1	In-class work period		
12	Mon	4/6	<i>NO CLASS</i>		
	Weds	4/8	Electoral Geography	Painter & Jeffrey_Political Geography p. 92-99	
13	Mon	4/13	Citizenship & Statelessness	Staeheli et al_Ordinary Citizenship	Reading Response
	Weds	4/15	Geopolitics	Accidental Geographer Podcast; Falah et al_Just War & Extraterritoriality excerpt	
14	Mon	4/20	Geopolitics	Bruun & Medby_Theorizing the Thaw	Reading Response
	Weds	4/22	In-class review		
15	Mon	4/27	EXAM 2		
	Weds	4/29	Wrap up		
16	Mon	5/4	Final Project sharing & party		Final Project