

POLS-3350 Political Geography

Dr. Jamey Essex / Winter 2019

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 – 11:20 am / Essex Hall 186

Office: 1139 CHN / Office hours: Wed 9:30 to 11:30 am, 2:30 to 4:30 pm

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Course description

This course provides a systematic examination of the relationship between politics, power, and geography, with focus on the political meanings, uses, and representations of geographic space and the significance of geography for understanding the organization and exercise of political power at local, regional, and global scales. It builds on basic concepts, themes, and cases covered in the course POLS-2300 Space, Place, and Scale: Foundations of Human Geography (formerly 02-45-120), which is a prerequisite for this course.

Course goals and learning outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Describe, explain, and critically analyze major issues and phenomena of political science as they relate to geographic patterns, structures, processes, and representations in local, regional, national, and international contexts.
- Develop and demonstrate critical understanding of international politics in relation to the discipline of geography.
- Research and investigate political issues from a geographical perspective and using geographic concepts, synthesize data and information from varying sources and present descriptive and empirical evidence to support a central thesis.
- Confidently assert political and geographic ideas and arguments related to important political events and processes, and defend them with sound reason and logic.
- Critically analyze political and geographic ideas and arguments espoused by politicians, promoted by interest groups and reported by the media.
- Effectively engage in self-guided research and clearly and confidently communicate ideas, arguments and evidence through clear, concise and coherent written work.
- Through geographical analysis, demonstrate understanding of political traditions and practices in other societies and at the global scale.
- Recognize and assess the value of social, political, economic, and environmental connections within and between places.

Required readings

There are **three (*three!*) books** required for this course, listed below. All are available through the university bookstore and online in hard copy and e-book formats from the publishers and

from other book sellers like Amazon and Chapters. Any other assigned or recommended readings will be made available for free on the course Blackboard site and/or through Leddy Library. Come to class and keep up with the assigned readings if you want to have a solid understanding of cases and concepts and do well in this course.

- Colin Flint and Peter Taylor. 2018. *Political Geography: World-Economy, Nation-State and Locality (7th ed)*. New York: Routledge.
- Matthew Farish. 2010. *The Contours of America's Cold War*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Jenna Loyd and Alison Mountz. 2018. *Boats, Borders, and Bases: Race, the Cold War, and the rise of Migrant Detention in the United States*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Assignments and grades

Your grade in this course will be based on two take-home exams (34% and 35%), a sample bibliography for your paper (1%), and a research paper (30%). The exams will consist of a mix of written question types (e.g., definition, short answer, reading interpretation, open prompt, and/or essay). It is possible that I will curve final course grades if necessary.

- **Take-home midterm exam (34% of course grade) – due in class Thursday, February 14**
- **Sample paper bibliography (1% of course grade) – due in class Tuesday, March 5**
- **Research paper (30% of course grade) – due in class Tuesday, March 26**
- **Take-home final exam (35% of course grade) – TBA**

During the final two weeks of the term, I will give out the Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) forms in class and you will be able to evaluate your experience and my teaching in this course. The official Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences grading policy can be found online at http://www.uwindsor.ca/fahss/sites/uwindsor.ca.fahss/files/policies_procedures_course-outline-june_26-17.pdf. My primary concern is that I mark your work **fairly, accurately, and consistently**, and not that a particular expected distribution is met.

Late Policy

All work is to be turned in **on time**. If you must miss an exam or paper due date for medical or personal reasons, you need to contact me beforehand or **as soon as possible** afterward (**i.e., usually within 24 hours**) to let me know and make arrangements for submission of late work. I only permit late work due to emergency or illness. You **must** provide me with a valid doctor's note or some other formal documentation. Problems with marks and requests to reconsider or change marks must be brought to me **within one week (7 calendar days) from when they are delivered in class, with a rationale** for why reconsideration of or a change to received marks is warranted. Please be mindful of the course schedule – with up to 75 students in this course, I must adhere strictly to these policies.

Email and office hours

I am available in my office, 1139 Chrysler Hall North, on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am, and again on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, or by appointment. If I have to change or cancel office hours, I will post alternative times and other information on the course Blackboard site. If you need to see me but are unable to make it to these office hours, please contact me by email and we can arrange a suitable alternative meeting time. As a general rule, I try to reply to emails sent to me within two working days of receiving them. **I do not usually answer student emails after 4:30 pm, or on the weekends.** If you email me and do not receive a reply within two working days, assume that I did not receive your email, and try again. **I do not provide course materials or grades via email.** Please see me during office hours or check the course Blackboard site. Please also note the university's email policy states that students must use their @uwindsor.ca email accounts to communicate with faculty. I also request that you use appropriate etiquette when using email – I will not reply to emails that do not include a subject line, a greeting, and your name.

Students with learning/physical differences

If you have a learning or physical difference, please obtain the appropriate paperwork from the University and let me know as soon as possible so that necessary arrangements can be made. More information is available via Student Accessibility Services, located in the basement of Dillon Hall and online at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/studentaccessibility/>.

Course expectations

Below I outline very clearly what I expect of you as a student in this course, and what you should expect of me as the instructor. For more information on the rules and regulations that govern student rights and responsibilities, please consult: University Senate Bylaws 31, 32, 33, and 51) at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/secretariat/47/senate-bylaws-and-policies>; the Academic Integrity Office at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/academic-integrity/>; and relevant Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Science policies at <https://bit.ly/2sK7AG6>.

In this course and in this classroom, I expect that you will:

- Attend class regularly, arrive on time, and do all required reading;
- Pay attention, put down your phone, refrain from distracting yourself and your classmates, and use your electronic devices for class-related activities only;
- Approach the course materials with an open mind and a serious attitude;
- Strictly adhere to the student code of conduct and observe the University's policies regarding academic honesty;
- Respect your fellow students' right to learn in a safe and hospitable classroom;
- Respect and take advantage of office hours, particularly if you are falling behind or having difficulty with the material;

- Understand that grades refer to the quality and precision of work being graded, not to your need for a particular grade or to an open-ended negotiation between you and me.

For my part, you can expect that I will:

- Arrive to class on time and well-prepared to lecture and facilitate discussion;
- Complete the grading of exams and assignments in a timely fashion;
- Reply to emails in a timely fashion, normally within two working days;
- Be available during my scheduled office hours, and will re-schedule them if necessary (i.e., I won't cancel them without making them up at some other time);
- Take your questions and ideas seriously, so long as they are relevant to the material;
- Maintain a relaxed but professional classroom space for learning and discussion;
- Treat all students equitably with regard to grading and class discussion.

Classroom etiquette and academic integrity

Consistent with University of Windsor policy, cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct are not tolerated. **Relevant official university and faculty policies on plagiarism and academic misconduct are at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/academic-integrity/>.** Those suspected of violating these policies will be referred to the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences for potential disciplinary action. If you feel you need help with the materials, don't cheat – please see me instead for assistance.

In class, you are expected to respect others' right to learn and discuss course themes and content in an environment conducive to learning and open engagement with your peers and the ideas and materials covered in the course. You should rely on facts, reason, and evidence to back your arguments. Racist, sexist, threatening or otherwise derogatory remarks and actions will not be tolerated.

Course schedule

- **Jan 3: introductions – what is *political geography*?**
 - Flint and Taylor, Prologue

 - **Jan 8 and 10: the world system**
 - Flint and Taylor, chapter 1

 - **Jan 15 and 17: geopolitics**
 - Flint and Taylor, chapter 2

 - **Jan 22 and 24: imperialism then and now**
 - Flint and Taylor, chapter 3

 - **Jan 29 and 31: the state**
 - Flint and Taylor, chapter 4
 - *Thursday, Jan 31 – Take-home mid-term exam handed out in class*

 - **Feb 5 and 7: nationalism and identity**
 - Flint and Taylor, chapters 5 and 8

 - **Feb 12 and 14: cities and urban issues**
 - Flint and Taylor, chapter 7
 - *Thursday, Feb 14 – Take-home midterm exam due*

 - **Feb 19 and 21: Reading week**
 - No class this week

 - **Feb 26 and 28: Geographic visions of the cold war 1**
 - Farish, Introduction and chapters 1-3
 - *Friday, Mar 1 – Matthew Farish on campus*
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- **Mar 5 and 7: Geographic visions of the cold war 1**
 - Farish, chapters 3-5 and Conclusion
 - ***Tuesday, Mar 5 – Sample bibliography due in class***
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- **Mar 12 and 14: Immigration and borders 1**
 - Loyd and Mountz, Introduction and chapters 1-3
 - *Wednesday, Mar 13 – last day to voluntarily withdraw from courses*
 - *Friday, Mar 15 – Jenna Loyd on campus*
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- **Mar 19 and 21: Immigration and borders 2**
 - Loyd and Mountz, chapters 4-7 and Coda
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- **Mar 26 and 28: Elections 1**
 - Flint and Taylor, chapter 6
 - ***Tuesday, Mar 26 – Research paper due in class***
 - *Thursday, Mar 28 – Take-home final exam handed out in class*
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- **Apr 2: Elections 2**
 - Webster, G.R. 2013. "Reflections on current criteria to evaluate redistricting plans." *Political Geography*, 32(1): 3-14.
 - Forest, B. 2013. "Redistricting and the elusive ideals of representation." *Political Geography*, 32(1): 15-17.
 - Quinton, N. 2013. "Political criteria, political praxis." *Political Geography*, 32 (1): 18-20.
 - Webster, G.R. 2013. "Normative goals and demographic realities." *Political Geography*, 32(1): 21-22.
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FINAL EXAM: TAKE-HOME EXAM, DUE TBA