

Fall 2021 Political Geography Syllabus

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Virtual Office hours: Thursdays 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm & Fridays 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

And by appointment

Course Objectives

Geography is the science of place, space, and environment.

Political Geography is the study of the ways geographic space is organized within and by political processes, in other words, it focuses on the spatial expression of political behavior. This course aims to give students a critical introduction to political geography and geopolitics. To accomplish this goal we will focus on international and global perspectives within political geography and examine the ways in which humans have arranged the territory of the Earth's surface; we will analyze the internal and external relationships of politically organized areas and examine the effects of political actions on social and economic conditions, and the significance of geographical factors behind political situations, problems, and conflicts.

At the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- ~ define geopolitics
- ~ distinguish between classical, critical, and feminist geopolitics
- ~ understand the geographic entities of place, scale, territory, regions, and networks
- ~ understand the concepts of structure and agency
- ~ consider the multiple forms of power that underlie geopolitics
- ~ define the component parts of geopolitical codes
- ~ identify the linkage between popular culture and foreign policy
- ~ exemplify the way non-state geopolitical actors represent their codes
- ~ define the terms nation, state, and nation-state
- ~ discuss nationalism in the context of globalization
- ~ understand the concepts of geopolitical agency and geopolitical codes
- ~ discuss the role of boundaries in the construction of national identity
- ~ discuss the geopolitics of globalization
- ~ discuss the geopolitics of natural resources
- ~ understand how environmental threats are represented
- ~ understand the complexity or "messiness" in geopolitics

Required Text:

Introduction to Geopolitics, 3rd edition by Colin Flint. **ISBN:** 978-1-138-19216-4.

Please note you will need the textbook to perform well on the tests.

Expectations:

- ~Read the assigned textbook chapters
- ~Read the Al Jazeera & BBC World News
- ~Work on the documentary assignments
- ~Take the tests on time
- ~You are accountable for all emails I send out and all my posts on Blackboard

~Take the mock test it is mandatory, and it will help you figure out where future tests will be posted and the types of questions to expect.

Please note there will be no make-ups for the tests.

The Al Jazeera and BBC World News items will keep us informed on current global events related to this course. Read all sections of the textbook including captions of all figures, maps and tables.

Academic code of student conduct

Academic cheating: this is any intentional act(s) of dishonesty in the fulfillment of academic course or program requirements. This offense shall include (but is not limited to) utilization of the assistance of any additional individual(s), organization, document, or other aid not specifically and expressly authorized by the instructor or department involved. (Note: This infraction assumes that with the exception of authorized group assignments or group take home assignments, all course or program assignments shall be completed by an individual student only without any consultation or collaboration with any other individual, organization, or aid). In this course you are expected to work on your own on the tests, on the AJE&BBC World News Assignments and documentary assignments.

Plagiarism: this is taking and passing off intentionally as one's own the ideas, writings, etc. of another without attribution (without acknowledging the author).

Grading

4 Tests:	60%
4 documentary & Al Jazeera English & BBC World Tests	40%
Total:	100%

Extra credit points are also awarded, see the extra credit folder.

Extra credit points earned can also be lost if students fail to follow the instructions above or due to other misconduct.

Calculating your Grades

~Blackboard is excellent on grading. You will be able to view your grades after completing your tests, unless I have to grade them manually when you encounter technical difficulties.

~Some of you will excel on the tests and earn more than 100 points which is great! As long as you earn over 90, regardless of the number of questions on the test, you have A on the test. If you score between 80-89 you have B on the test. If you score between 70-79 on the test you have C on the test. If you score between 60-69 you have D on the test. F is 59-0.

Students with Disabilities

Students who have a disability or think that they need special accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Suite 082 (Room 8212) in the Thurgood Marshall Library, or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301-860-4067. Go to the following website for more information:

<https://www.bowiestate.edu/academics/support-services/disability-support-services/>

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COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule is made up of four modules. You will be tested on material covered at the end of each module. The tests are available on the days posted below at 9:00 am, 9:00 pm and 11:00 pm ONLY. Please note the tests will be up at those times and not earlier or later. Access the tests within the first 25 minutes not later otherwise you will not have access to the test. Just in case your clock/watch is ahead and you open the folder minutes earlier, exit the test folder and try after a couple of minutes.

Week 1 - MODULE 1

August 30: *Prologue*

Week 2

September 6: *Chapter 1: A framework for understanding geopolitics*

Week 3

September 13: *Chapter 2 - Geopolitical agency: the concept of geopolitical codes*

Week 4

September 20: *Chapter 2 - Geopolitical agency: the concept of geopolitical codes*

September 21: **Documentary & AJE & BBC World News test #1** {this test will be posted at 9:00 pm only}

Week 5 - MODULE 2

September 27: *Chapter 3 - Justifying geopolitical agency: representing geopolitical codes*

September 28: **Test #1 covers Prologue, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, and the lecture notes**

Week 6

October 4: *Chapter 3 - Justifying geopolitical agency: representing geopolitical codes*

Week 7

October 11: *Chapter 4 - Embedding geopolitics within national identity*

Week 8

October 18: *Chapter 4 - Embedding geopolitics within national identity*

October 19: **Documentary and AJE & BBC World News test #2** {this test will be posted at 9:00 pm only}

Week 9 - MODULE 3

October 25: *Chapter 5 - Territorial geopolitics: shaky foundations of the world*

October 26: **Test #2 covers chapters 3, 4, and lecture notes**

Week 10

November 1: *Chapter 5 - Territorial geopolitics: shaky foundations of the world*

Week 11

November 8: *Chapter 6 - Network geopolitics: social movements and terrorists*

November 9: **Documentary and AJE & BBC World News test #3** {this test will be posted at 9:00 pm only}

Week 12 - MODULE 4

November 15: *Chapter 7 - Global geopolitical structure: framing agency*

November 16: **Test #3** covers chapters 5, 6, and the lecture notes

Week 13

November 23: *Chapter 8 - Environmental geopolitics: security and sustainability*

Week 14

November 29: *Chapter 8 - Environmental geopolitics: security and sustainability*

November 30: **Documentary & AJE & BBC World News test #4** {this test will be posted at 9:00 pm only}

Week 15

December 6: *Chapter 9 - Messy geopolitics: agency and multiple structures*

December 9: **Test #4** covers chapters 7, 8, 9 and the lecture notes.

N.B.: This schedule is tentative and subject to change