

Political Science 313
Political Geography

Professor: Dr. Andrew Essig
Office: Rm. 205 Tucker House
Office Hours: MWF 9:00am-9:50am
 T,Th. 11:00am-12:20pm
 or by appointment

Semester: Spring 2010
Class: T,Th.: 9:30 – 11:00am
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Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes:

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an advanced understanding of the relationship between geography and political developments. Throughout the semester you will be introduced to a wide range of geopolitical theories. These theories will lead you to the conclusion that “Geography Matters!” Geography deals with issues of security, natural resources, landmass, population, and many other variables. All of these contribute to how people decide to rule themselves and establish relations with other actors in the international system. These views and relations are not static, however. Change is a constant, with a particular focus on the continuous struggle between geopolitics and globalization.

This course will require patience and fortitude on your part. If you are having difficulty with the material, the assignments, or simply want to talk about the course, please do not hesitate to take advantage of my office hours. If you cannot make regularly scheduled office hours, I will be happy to make an appointment with you.

Upon completing this course you should be able to:

1. Utilize your intellectual skills to view world politics more critically.
2. Comprehend the most significant changes in our global political environment.
3. Incorporate into your working vocabulary a number of terms and concepts used by scholars, policy-makers, and other actors to analyze global affairs.
4. Acquire a working knowledge of current events and geography in international relations.
5. Express this knowledge through written and oral communication.

Required Readings

The readings listed in the course schedule below should be read prior to class. Because of limited lecture time, the lectures will not necessarily repeat the readings. I will presume you have done the reading and will concentrate the lectures on clarifying key concepts and hitting analytic highlights.

1. Snow, Donald. National Security for a New Era: Globalization and Geopolitics After Iraq, 3rd Edition, (New York: Pearson/Longman, 2008). ISBN 978-0-205-62225-2
2. Krieger, Joel. Globalization and State Power: A Reader, (New York: Pearson/Longman, 2006). ISBN 0-321-24522-9
3. The international section of the *New York Times* and *The Economist* are required reading for this course. These will provide you with excellent coverage of current events in the world. It is important to get into the habit of reading the newspapers and weekly journals on a daily basis if you wish to stay informed. Major current events will be material for exam questions.

Student Obligations and Grading Procedures

As noted above students are required to have all reading assignments complete prior to class.

Attendance requirements are outlined in the 2009-2011 *Undergraduate Catalog*, p. 21. For upperclassmen, for every class missed over the permitted limit your final grade will be reduced by one full point.

Students are also required to follow those guidelines outlined in the 2009-2011 *Catalog* in relation to plagiarism, cheating, and other inappropriate behaviors, pp. 29-30.

Please turn off cell phones, do not text message, and attend class on time!

Your grade for this course will be based on the components listed here and explained in greater detail below:

1. Participation – 10% of final grade
2. 2 In-Class Exams – each worth 15% of your final grade
3. 1 major paper – 20% of your final grade
4. Book review / presentation – worth 20% of your final grade
5. Final Exam – worth 20% of your final grade

Total = 100%

Participation. Active participation is strongly encouraged during each class. Debate and discussion are important aspects of learning and should help you attain a firm grasp on the course material. If at any time during the lecture you would like to contribute to the discussion, or you have a question, or something is unclear, please feel free to raise your hand.

Exams. You will have two in-class exams, and one final exam for this course. The format for each exam will be discussed prior the designated exam period.

NOTE: Make-up exams will not be given unless you present evidence of a university-approved absence, and make arrangements for the make-up in advance of the regularly scheduled exam.

Major Paper. One major paper (8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced, standard 1” margins, 12 point font size) is required for this course. The assignment will be an essay-type question for which you must present a clear thesis and support it using coherent arguments and evidence. This paper will focus on analytical concepts and theories from the course, and ask you to apply those concepts to some current problem. The assignment will be handed out approximately four weeks before the paper is due. Late papers will be graded down **one full letter grade** for each day late.

Book Review / Presentation. A book review and 15-minute presentation of this review will be required for this course. A list of sixteen books will be provided from which you will select one. In writing the review follow the standards outlined in “On Writing Book/Article Reviews: A Guide for the Perplexed” attached at the end of this syllabus. Presentations will be considered material for the final exam.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	Below 60

DISABILITIES: Students with a documented disability who wish to request course accommodations should contact the Director of the Academic Resource Center (Dooling Hall, Room 23, extension 1239/1293)

Course Schedule: Please note that this schedule is subject to change, so please pay attention to announcements made in class. Readings: S = Snow; K = Krieger

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Week 1 19 Jan. – 21 Jan.	Introduction	Introduction K. Chap. 1 S.
Week 2 26 Jan. – 28 Jan.	Fault Lines	Chap. 2 S. Readings 1 & 2 K.
Week 3 2 Feb. – 4 Feb.	The Realist Paradigm	Chap. 3 S. Reading 4 K.
Week 4 9 Feb. – 11 Feb.	The American Experience	Chap. 4 S. Readings 9 & 10 K.
Week 5 16 Feb. – 18 Feb.	The Cold War In-Class Exam #1 - 18 February	Chap. 5 S.
Week 6 23 Feb. – 25 Feb.	The Cold War Cont. The Rise of Globalization	Chap. 6 S.
Week 7 2 Mar. – 4 Mar.	The Rise of Globalization	Reading 7 K.
Week 8 9 Mar. – 11 Mar.	Spring Break!!!	
Week 9 16 Mar. – 18 Mar.	Security, Interests and Power	Chap. 7 S. Reading 20 K.
Week 10 23 Mar. – 25 Mar.	Traditional Military Problems	Chap. 9 S. Reading 22 K.
Week 11 30 Mar.	In-Class Exam #2 - 27 March HAPPY EASTER!!!	
Week 12 6 Apr. – 8 Apr.	Iraq	Chap. 10 S. Readings 25 K.
Week 13 13 Apr. – 15 Apr.	State-Building	Chap. 13 S. Reading 23 K.
	Major Paper Due in class – 15 April	

Week 14

20 Apr. – 22 Apr.

The Future

Chap. 14 S.
Readings 26 K.

Week 15

27 Apr. – 29 Apr.

Presentations & Discussion

Week 16

4 May - 6 May

Presentations & Discussion
Review

On Writing Book/Article Reviews: A Guide for the Perplexed

A review is a thoughtful account of (in this case) a piece of writing, either a book or an article. Like other forms of academic writing, a review has certain conventions, that is, a reader will expect certain things of them. The point of a review is to describe the book/article's content and argument(s) and to present some kind of discussion about the presentation and its effectiveness, supported with some quotations from the book that illustrate the points you're making. A person who has not read the book should be able to decide, from what you have written, whether or not to read the book.

Book or article reviews are generally fairly short (usually not more than about six pages) unless you're writing about more than one work in the same review (a review article). Check your assignment information. Whether you're writing a short- (say less than 1000 words or under 4 double-spaced pages) or medium-length review (1000-1500 words or 4-6 double-spaced pages, you should include the following:

1. Bibliographical information about the book, including author(s), title, publishing information, date, ISBN (always appears at the top of your review)
2. General summary of content (what is this book/article about)
3. Discussion of Author's Main Point (why did the author write the book/article; what's the point(s) being made?)
4. Identification of Main Elements of Argument (summarize the reasons the author the author cites to support the main argument)
5. Discussion of Conclusion (what does the author conclude?)
6. Identification of at least 2 problems/strengths (might be noted about the writing, the argument(s), the sources of information, the presentation, etc.)
7. Suggests fixes/discusses strengths (for both you noted in 6.) (what might have made the work stronger/better? what is so special about the really good aspects of the work?)
8. Discuss potential effect of fixes/problems/improvements/strengths (what results might you expect (wider audience, easier read, better argument, etc.)?)
9. Discuss potential effect(s) of the book/article's publication (who would most benefit from reading the work, what might it lead readers to do or think?).

Review Element	Description	Suggested Length
Precedes the text of the review		
1.	Title and Bibliographical information	Max. four to five lines
The following should appear in the review; the order is not strict but this progression works quite well.		
2.	Introduction/General summary of content	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ page
3.	Discussion of Author's Main Point	$\frac{1}{2}$ page
4.	Identification of Main Elements of Argument	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ page
5.	Discussion of Conclusion	$\frac{1}{2}$ page
6.	Your identification and discussion of at least 2 problems/ strengths	$\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ pages
7.	Your discussion of potential effect of fixes/problems/ improvements/strengths	$\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ pages
8.	Your discussion of potential effect(s) of the book/article's publication	$\frac{1}{2}$ page
Total		4 to 5 pages