

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT
COURSE SYLLABUS

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY 215.001

COURSE PREREQUISITES: There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of political geography and, specifically, how geography/location affects the struggle for power at the national and international level.

REQUIRED READINGS

- A. Text: Edward F. Bergman. *Modern Political Geography* (latest ed.).
- B. Newspapers: Newspapers: The Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun, The Washington Times, The New York Times and USA.

AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES

Maps, Charts, graphs, slides, video and other audio-visual materials will be used in presenting geographic information to the students.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. To introduce students to the key concepts of, up-date transformation about, and the significant political geographical changes that have transformed the globe into two sets of nations: the Technological World and the Developing World, with emphasis on global, political patterns.

B. To lead students in regional discussions of interactions between and among nation states, populations, ways of life, voting patterns, types of governance of states and voting practices, which are intended to enable students to appreciate the differences of living in the free world.

C. To enable students to understand the political diversity that exists among the various nations, while comprehending the commonalities of life in the global sphere.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

- A. Students will:
 - 1. Develop critical thinking skills;

2. Complete a Term Paper project on a concern which is geographically related to a nation of choice; and
3. Competence in these areas will be demonstrated by earning a grade of "B" or above according to the grading scale for this course.

KNOWLEDGE BASES

The study of Geography will enhance Cultural Pluralism Perspective. Geography admirably serves the objectives of a Liberal Arts Education. The discipline of Geography will assist in solving issues facing our communities, our country, and our world and better prepare to contribute solutions in a diverse work place.

Acquiring and developing basic geographic skills will enhance Critical Thinking Perspective, with the determination to create a geographically literate society in accordance with the Goals 2000 Educate America Act (Public Law 103-227). This Act includes the 1994 National Geography Standards.

In this course, the National Geography Standards will be discussed.

SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. To work with students in acquiring proficiency with the basic tools of geography and composition writing.
- B. To introduce students to the key concepts of, up-date information about, and the significance of Political Geography as a science as it relates to the study of globalization.
- C. To train the student to analyze, compare and classify information so as to awaken in the student a sense of relationships and connections that would lead the student to formulate questions and, with a knowledge of the facts involved, to look for the 'why' of things.
- D. To lead the student on to identify and recognize correlations and, where possible, causes that impact the behavior of nations.
- E. To plan, that in teaching the search for the "why", the student does not overlook the existence of various orders of causes and does not stop short at any one of them.
- F. Teach the student to account, as scientific Geography does, of physical and natural forces, as well as the will and irrational behavior of men and, of the needs of existence. The teaching that the student is given will accustom her/him to think-as well as to observe-geographically.

CURRICULUM THEMES

- A. Academic Scholar

PRAXIS OBJECTIVES

- Objectives: A, B, C, D, and E.

- B. Multicultural and Global Perspectives Objectives: B, F.
- C. Personal and Interpersonal Perspectives Objectives: B, C, E, and F.

TEACHING MODES

Teaching modes include student participation in group discussion, lectures, the use of audio-visual materials, composition writing, the use of the computer and the Internet. Printed materials to supplement the text will be given to students as needed. A Term Paper of geographic significance to the study of Political Geography is required for this course

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

Geography is the science of space and place on Earth's surface. Its subject matter is the physical and human phenomena that make up the world's environments and places. Geographers describe the changing patterns of places in words, maps, and geo-graphics, explain how these patterns come to be, and unravel their meanings. Geography's continuing question is to understand the physical and cultural features of places and their natural settings on the surface of the Earth.

The six essentials and eighteen Geography standards will be addressed in this course. These are:

- 1. THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS
 - 1. Maps and other geographic tools for information in a spatial perspective
 - 2. Mental maps and spatial contest
 - 3. Spatial organization of Earth

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- 11. PLACES AND REGIONS
 - 4. Physical and human characteristics of places
 - 5. Regions interpret Earth's complexity
 - 6. Culture and experience influence perception of places and regions

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- 111. PHYSICAL SYSTEMS
 - 7. Physical processes shape patterns of Earth's surface
 - 8. Characteristics and distribution of Earth's ecosystems

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- 1V. HUMAN SYSTEMS
 - 9. Human populations
 - 10. The nature and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
 - 11. Patterns and networks of economic interdependence
 - 12. Human settlement
 - 13. Forces of cooperation and conflict that shape earth's surface

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- V. ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY
 - 14. Human actions modify physical environment
 - 15. Physical systems affect human systems

16. Meaning, distribution, and importance of resources

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V1. THE ISSUES OF GEOGRAPHY

17. How to apply geography to interpret the past

18. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future

CLASS ATTENDANCE

A special effort should be made to attend every class session. There may be time, however, when uncontrollable circumstances may arise and keep a student from class. Please notify the Instructor before class, either by phone or by leaving a message with the Secretary of the Department of History and Government.

Note: Reference to Class Attendance is found in Bowie State University Undergraduate Catalog: 1997-98, p. 119.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION

1. Native and Transfer Students: "The English Proficiency examination is a graduation requirement which must be satisfied by all students receiving a bachelor's degree from the University. Native and transfer students should take the examination upon completion of English 101 and English 102. However, transfer students who completed their English composition requirement at another university should take the examination during their first semester of enrollment at the University." BSU Undergraduate Catalog 1998-2001. p.103.

2. Second-Degree Students: "In their first semester at the University, second-degree students must also pass the Bowie State University English Proficiency Examination..." BSU Undergraduate Catalog: 1998-2001. p. 232.

CONFERENCES

Students are expected to arrange for periodic conferences with the Instructor of this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Examinations

Four examinations will be administered in this course. Examinations will consist of multiple choice questions, definition of terms, short answer questions, and essays. Examinations will account for 80 percent of the final grade.

The Final Examination is comprehensive. This examination will be given on the date, in the same classroom, and at the time scheduled by the Registrar of the University. Examination dates are published in the BSU Class Schedule.

B. Term Paper

1. A research Term Paper on a problem solving a project of no less than ten pages is required as part of this course fulfillment. Footnote style must be consistent. The paper is to be single spaced, in twelve-point *NEW TIMES ROMAN* font.

2. Select a country on which to write the Term Paper. Write on current issues.

3. Suggested topics on Africa:

- a) Domestic or Foreign Policy issues
- b) Economic Development
- c) Government—one aspect
- d) Social Changes
- e) Women's Movements
- f) Education
- g) Rural or Urban Development
- h) Internal Migration
- i) Agricultural development
- j) Public Health
- k) Voting Practices

4. Topics are to be selected by the end of the second week of instruction. The Instructor of the course must approve a topic that is selected apart from one on the suggested list at the same time as those topics selected from the suggested list. Materials for the Term Paper can be collected from the WWW, journals, newspapers, oral interviews, embassies' bulletins, etc. The information from these sources that is to be used in the term paper is to be kept in a folder. The folder is to be turned in with the term paper.

Late papers are not accepted.

Typical Characteristics of a C Paper:

Report fulfills basic requirements of a University-level essay

While the subject is acceptable, it may not be sufficiently focused, significant, or interesting.

While the organization is acceptable, some parts are slightly awkward. Still the report does not have a clear thesis.

Each topical paragraph has a controlling idea and some support, though the support is sometimes vague or weak.

There are few errors in sentence structure.

Sentence may not be varied sufficiently in length or structure.

While word choice is generally correct, the range of words is limited, so the diction is sometimes imprecise and monotonous.

If sources are used, they are documented, though there may be some errors in documentation.

Though the paper contains few major errors, there are mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Characteristics of a D Paper:

Report has significant weakness in writing and organization

While the paper can be said to have a thesis, the thesis lacks focus, is too broad, and does not create inter

Because the thesis is generally too broad, the report does not supply sufficient support for the assertions that it contains.

While the presence of a thesis has allowed a recognizable organizational pattern, the pattern is not always followed. Transitions are weak or non-existent.

Topical paragraphs frequently lack clearly topic sentences. Paragraphs are not sufficiently developed.

Errors in sentences structure are frequent and serious enough to distract or mislead the reader.

The writer has made little effort to adapt the essay to a specific audience. The level of language may vary greatly.

If sources were used, they are documented, though there may be some errors in documentation.

Dictation may be inappropriate. The author may have used some words with incorrect denotations and connotative errors may be common.

The essay may contain frequent grammatical or spelling errors.

Characteristics of an F Report:

Paper fails to fulfill one or more of the basic requirements and is unacceptable as University-level work

The paper does not fulfill the assignments.

The subject of the paper lacks focus, significance, interest and manageability.

The paper lacks a clear statement of thesis.

The paper lacks organization.

Assertions are not supported.

The Frequency of spelling errors and/or mechanical errors makes the essay difficult to understand.

The paper is plagiarized. It is someone else's work or sources are not given appropriate credit.

The paper contains major sentence errors.

The author has not recognized that her/his writing is intended for an audience. The paper remains personal as to be inapplicable to a reader who is unacquainted with the author.

NOTE: All home work assignments are to be done on the computer.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

- A. Students are required to prepare all assignments that are given in this course.
- B. Students are required to participate in class discussions and other class activities.
- C. Students are required to turn in all assignments on time.

INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

A. Assignment:

1. Date: Assigned by Instructor
 - a. Political Organization and Space
 - b. Examination #1.

B. Assignment:

- a. Local and Regional Organization
- b. Examination #2.

C. Assignment:

- a. The State
- b. Examination #3.

D. Assignment:

- a. Toward International Political Systems and Structure.
- b. Final Examination.

GRADING

A. Final grades are computed as follows:

A = 90% - 100% C = 70% - 79%
B = 80% - 89% D = 60% - 69%
F = 59% -

B. Evaluation

1. Examinations= 80% of final grade
 2. Term Paper = 15% of final grade
 3. Quizzes = 15% of final grade
- Total = 100%

TITLE PAGE

Use this format as a title page with all assignments that are to be submitted in this course.

Title of the Assignment

By

Student's Name

This assignment is submitted in partial fulfillment of Political Geography 215.001.

Instructor's Name

Date on which Assignment is to be submitted

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Weeks 1-2: Course Overview & Introduction to Political Geography

Weeks 3-4: The Politics of Human Territory and Place

Weeks 5-6: Politics & Place, Society & Space

Weeks 7-8: Territoriality and Social Evolution, Nationality & Citizenship

Weeks 9-10: The Growth of the State, the Nature of the State

Weeks 11-12: After the Absolutist State, the Modern Leviathan and its Decline

Weeks 13-14: Political Geography & War, the Third World & Political Integration

REFERENCES

Blackhurst, H. (ed.) In Association with the International African Institute, Africa Bibliography. Manchester University Press. Appears annually.

Huntington, Samuel P. "The Class of Civilizations," Foreign Affairs 72, No. 3 (Summer 1993): 22-49.

Jackson, Richard H. and Lloyd E. Hudman. 1990. Cultural Geography: Peoples, Places and Environment. New York: West Publishing Company.

Lemon, Anthony, (ed.) 1995. The Geography of Change in South Africa. Chichester, England.

McDonald, D., ed. 2000. On Borders: Perspectives on International Migration in Southern Africa. Cape Town and New York: Southern African Migration Project/St. Martin's Press.

Robinson, J. 2002. Development and Displacement. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Scholfield, Clive H., (ed.) 1994. Global Boundaries. World Boundaries Series. Vol. 1, London: Routledge.

Schroeder, R. 1999. Shady practices: Agroforestry and Gender Politics in the Gambia. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Short John R. 1993. An Introduction to Political Geography. 2nd. Ed. New York: Routledge.

Simons, M. "Winds Toss Africa's Soil, Feeding Lands Far Away," The New York Times, 29 October 1992. Dust plumes from Africa across the Atlantic Ocean and fertilize parts of North and South America.

Atlas

Hammond. 1999. Student Atlas of the World. Maplewood, N.J. Hammond, Inc.

General References

UNESCO. 1990. Ecological Monitoring: The Senegal Model.

Bates, R. H. and Hinrichs, R. 1983. Essays on the Political Economies of Rural Africa. London: Cambridge University Press.

Curtin, Philip. Oral Tradition as History. London: Longman.

Chabal, P. 1986. Political Domination in Africa: Reflections on the Limitations of Power. London: Cambridge University Press.

Rodney, Walter. 1982. How Europe Underdeveloped Africa. Washington, DC: Howard University Press.

Journals

Suggested journals to be consulted

American Journal of Political Science
American Political Science Review
Annals of the Association of American Geographers
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
International Affairs
International Journal
Political Geography

On Line

Maps: International Map Trade Association members are companies that create and sell maps.

<http://www.maptrade.org/>

Global Time Series: <http://sideshow.jpl.nasa.gov/mbh/series.html>

Tropical Weather: Tropical Prediction Center is located in Miami, Florida, USA. It monitors weather in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Conservation. <http://www.tnc.org/>

Greenpeace International. <http://www.greenpeace.org/>

Population: The Australian National University: <http://combs.anu.edu.au/resfacilitiesDemographyPage.html>

Language: <http://polyglot.Lss.wisc.edu/lss/lang/langlink.html>

Religion: <http://www.tradenet.it:80/links/arsocu/religion.html>

Ethnicity: <http://www.ruu.nl/ercomer/wwwvl/index.html>

Gender: http://www.feminist.org/gateway/gl_exec.html

<http://www.ibd.nrc.ca/~mansfield/feminism/>

World Resources: <http://www.wri.org>

World bank: <http://www.worldbank.org>

Politics: UN headquarters: <http://www.un.org>