

Fall 2009

GEOG 446/646
Political Geography
MS 321; TuTh 1:00 - 2:15

Professor *Gary Hausladen* MS 326; office hours by appointment -- hausl@unr.edu

Course requirements:	Two exams	@ 100	=	200
	Semester project	80	=	80
	Participation	20	=	20
	Total		=	300 pts

For the graduate component (GEOG 646), grad students will write a 20-page research paper or 10-12 citation annotated bibliography on some aspect of political geography (this will constitute one-fourth of the final grade, i.e., another 100 points).

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1	Aug	25 Introduction	see "Reading List"
		27 Political Geography: A History	
2	Sep	01 Territory & Territoriality	
		03 Perceptions of the Political World	
3		08 Political Units	
		10 Political Units	
4		15 Nations and Nationalism	
		17 Nations and Nationalism	
5		22 Colonialism, Imperialism	
		24 Colonialism, Imperialism	
Week of Sep 29 – Oct 01		No Class: APCG	
6	Oct	06 Colonialism, Imperialism	
		08 The Frontier	
7		13 The Frontier	
		15 Exam # 1	
8		20 Decolonization	
		22 Indigenous Peoples	
9		27 Indigenous Peoples	
		29 Contemporary World Political Economy	
10	Nov	03 Electoral Geography	
		05 Electoral Geography	
11		10 Global Geopolitical Strategies	
		12 Supranational Political Organizations	
12		17 Future Political Geographies	
		19 In-class presentations	
Week of Nov 24 – 26		No Class: Happy Thanksgiving	
13	Dec	01 In-class presentations	
		03 In-class presentations	
14		08 In-class presentations	
	Dec	10, noon – 2:00 pm	Exam # 2

The Course:

This course is designed to introduce you to the field of political geography – examining political phenomena from a spatial perspective, and to expose you to a full range of the many subfields of political geography – geopolitical theories, the nation-state, nationalism, colonialism & imperialism, the multi-national state, electoral geography, supranational political units, to name a few. The course also includes a dose of “sense of place,” particularly as conveyed through film. The goal of this course is simple: to enable you to ask geographic/spatial questions about political activities, and to seek geographic/spatial explanations.

WebCampus:

The course syllabus, outline, assignments, and grades are maintained on WebCampus. To contact TA’s or the instructor, however, use regular e-mail via e-mail addresses given in this syllabus.

Attendance & Details:

Attendance is mandatory. If you are unable to attend class, get notes from another student. Be forewarned that attendance is both taken and weighed.

Readings:

A list of readings & the required readings themselves are available on webCT.

Grading:

Grading is based on the successful, effective, and timely completion of the assignment and two examinations. Since there is no standard curve for this course, students in the class are not competing against one another.

Two *essay exams*, which cover my lectures and the required readings, total 200 points, or two-thirds of your final grade. Bring two large bluebooks for each exam. One *semester-long assignment* comprises another 100 points, or one-third of your grade. The assignment will be given out the second week of class and will form the basis for an in-class presentation during the last two weeks of the semester. The 100 points for this assignment will be based on both the written and oral presentation of your research. *Participation*, which includes attendance, is expected of all students, and can have either a positive or negative impact on your final grade.

Disability Accommodations:

The Department of Geography is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical or learning disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of each semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments.

One final note:

One final note: plagiarism is a serious offense. Plagiarizing from an outside source or from a fellow student will result in an automatic F *for the course*.