Political Geography  
Geography 407

Course Description: The world patterns of nations; geographic factors affecting the background and present development of countries.

Course Objectives:
1. To understand the development of group identities such as nations and examine the linkages between these identities and the political organization of territory.
2. To examine the ‘functional approach’ to states with an emphasis on how internal and external forces work centripetally and centripetally on the integrity of state territories.
3. To develop an appreciation for the effects of boundaries on economic, political, and social processes.
4. To achieve an understanding of the ideas that legitimize the governance of particular territories by certain groups and/or individuals.
5. To trace the evolution of geopolitical ideas.
6. To identify the political, economic, and environmental forces that are undermining the modern nation-state system.

Instructor: Dr. George W. White  
217 Fine Arts, 687-4264; Secretary 687-4369

Office Hours:

Readings: Found on reserve in the library.

Evaluation:

Midterm and Final Examinations:
This course has three midterm examinations and one final examination. The exams primarily will consist of short answer questions and essays. Expect questions from the lectures and readings. It is also important to pay close attention to any statements that your fellow students make during class discussions. Information that students contribute to class discussions may be helpful in formulating good answers on the exams. When you study for the exams, you should focus your efforts on understanding broad concepts and processes. Then you should work at filling in all the details that demonstrate your understanding of broad concepts and processes. The use of examples is a good way of demonstrating your knowledge. You, however, will not do well on the exams if you simply list examples without putting them into proper context.

Projects:
Two projects must be completed in this course. A special packet explaining the course projects will be distributed to you. Due dates will be announced in class, with late assignments having 7 points subtracted for each day of lateness; Saturdays and Sundays count as individual days. You should share the information that you gain from the projects at appropriate times during class lectures as part of your class participation.

Class Participation:
Class participation includes class attendance. You cannot contribute to class discussions if you do not attend class. Therefore, you are expected to be in class each class meeting. Do not bother bringing
documentation of your absence unless you were absent on a day of an examination or on a day that a project was due. In such cases, you must have documentation of a legitimate excuse.

**Evaluation Summary:**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
<th>Actual Points Received</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination 1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination 2</td>
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<td>Examination 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 1</td>
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<td>Project 2</td>
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<td>Total Points Possible</td>
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**Grading Scale:**

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<td>540-600</td>
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<td>80 - 89%</td>
<td>480-539</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 - 79%</td>
<td>420-479</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>60 - 69%</td>
<td>360-419</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
<td>&lt; 359</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Policies:**

If you are unable to attend a session you still are held accountable for the information presented. If illness or other extenuating circumstances prevent you from taking any of the exams, or submitting the projects as scheduled, you are responsible for contacting the instructor **prior** to the deadline in question. If you fail to contact the instructor in a reasonable and timely manner, the instructor has the right to fail you for that particular test or project. "Reasonable and timely" contact is considered to be the time when you resume attending class following an absence from an illness or extenuating circumstance. Any make-up material must be submitted by the last day of classes. Any special arrangements for the final exam must be made by the last day of classes as well. No make-ups or special arrangements for the final exam will be made during finals week. **If you need help, seek help early, do not wait until the last minute!**

The University will not tolerate disorderly or disruptive conduct which substantially threatens, harms, or interferes with university personnel or orderly university processes and functions. A faculty member may require a student to leave the classroom when his/her behavior disrupts the learning environment of the class. A student found responsible for disruptive behavior in the classroom may be administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic honesty is expected in all matters relating to the course. Please consult **Pathfinder**. Academic dishonesty on any exam will lead to course failure.
**Lecture and Reading Schedule**

**Introduction**

Defining Political-Geographic Regions

Group Identities: Peoples

**Examination 1**

Territoriality, the State, and the Nation-State Ideal

The Functional Approach to States: Internal and External Centripetal and Centrifugal Forces

Frontiers and Boundaries: Internationally and Internally

Electoral Geography

**Examination 2**

Legitimacy of Territorial Sovereignty

Significance of Territory

**Examination 3**

Early Geopolitics

Modern Geopolitics

The Break-Down of the Nation-State: International Organizations (IGOs) and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) Alliances:

Global Political Economy

Global Environmental Issues

Endnotes on next page
List of Readings (endnotes)

Found at the Reserve Desk in the FSU Library


d Walker Connor. 1994. A nation is a nation, is a state, is an ethnic group is a . . . Chap. 5 in Nationalism, edited by John Hutchinson and Anthony D. Smith. New York: Oxford University Press.


p Christine Drake. 1994. The United Nations and NGOs: Future Roles. Chap. 14 in Reordering the world:
