



SPACE & POWER

Tuesdays 2:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.

COR A128

A CRITICAL APPROACH TO POLITICAL GEOGRAPHIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the two-way relationship between space and power. It investigates how political processes shape human geography, and conversely, how assumptions about geography underscore global politics. We will examine the key themes, concepts, and theories that define the study of politics from a geographical perspective. Students will gain a critical understanding of and appreciation for the historical and contemporary challenges of sovereignty, territoriality, governmentality, identity, citizenship, difference, violence, genocide, colonialism, and war. The course culminates with the themes of resistance and emancipation, which will allow students to consider alternative configurations of space and power in keeping with the paper's critical approach.

As a fourth-year seminar, our approach to political geographies will be largely theoretical, where you are required to think critically about the concepts we explore through your engagement with the readings and during our meetings. This course is run as a seminar, which means that it requires your active participation and is thus necessarily reading intensive. In addition to reading materials, short (and occasionally feature length) films will be shown during class time.

KEYWORDS: discourse; identity; post-colonialism; power; resistance; sovereignty; space

REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings are available through UVic libraries.

EVALUATION

Attendance & Class Participation	10%
Short Written Responses to the Weekly Readings	35%
Class Presentations / Seminar Facilitation	25%
Think Piece	30%

PREREQUISITE: One of GEOG 332, 347B, 344 or 386.

OFFICE HOURS
& LOCATION

Tuesday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. or by appointment

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: <http://geography.uvic.ca>
- Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield - pwakef@geog.uvic.ca
- Graduate Advisor: Dennis Jelinski - jelinski@uvic.ca

COURSESPACES

I will post the course syllabus, outlines of slide presentations, and any additional relevant materials on the course's COURSESPACES website.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

- Assignments submitted ON TIME will receive my full attention & useful feedback.
- Please speak with me well in advance if you anticipate a delay in submitting your work, particularly when dealing with illness or family conflicts.
- 5% per day penalty for late assignments including weekend days. For example, 5% will be deducted from the assignment (due to the assignment) . If the assignment is submitted the next day

, 10

ACCESSIBILITY

ASSESSMENT & ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

- (10%) – ONGOING THROUGHOUT TERM

- This includes engaging in discussion, asking questions, offering answers, and active listening, where none is prioritized over the others. If you regularly attend classes, show up to class prepared, and remain committed to and engaged with the course materials throughout the term, this is an easy 10% to achieve!

- (5% EACH X 7 RESPONSES = 35%) – DUE THROUGHOUT

TERM – IN CLASS

LENGTH: 1 PAGE (approximately 250 words)

- One thoughtful qorPONS

engagement with (at least) two of the course's major themes. This question will be open, so that you may decide which topics

WEEKLY CALENDAR
(Subject to revision as the course proceeds)

WEEK	DATE	SEMINAR TOPICS
1	SEP 15	Course Introduction + Space, Power, & Political Geographies
2	SEP 22	NO CLASS – I will be away in Sicily (My life is hard!)

REQUIRED WEEKLY READINGS
(Subject to revision as the course proceeds)

SEPTEMBER 15

Course Introduction +

NOVEMBER 17

Postcolonialism & The Colonial Present

Gregory D 2004 The colonial present & Architectures of enmity in *The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq* Blackwell, Malden MA 1-5 (only) & 17-29

Sidaway J 2000 Postcolonial geographies: an exploratory essay *Progress In Human Geography* 24
591-612

Neunhoffer G eds *Neoliberal Hegemony: A Global Critique* Routledge, New York, 1-24

Taylor P J 1994 The state as container: territoriality in the modern world-system *Progress in Human Geography* 18 151-162

Sovereignty & the State of Exception

Agamben G 2000 *Means Without End: Notes on Politics* Translated by Binetti V and Casarino C, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis

Benjamin W 1921/1986 *Critique of violence* in Demetz P ed *Walter Benjamin Reflections: Essays, Aphorisms, Autobiographical Writings* Translated by Jephcott E, Schocken Books, New York, 277-300.

Foucault M 1976/2003 *Society Must Be Defended: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975-76* Translated by Macey D, Picador, New York

Gregory D 2006 The black flag: Guantánamo Bay and the space of exception *Geografiska Annaler: Series B* 88 405-427

Gregory D 2007 Vanishing points: law, violence and exception in the global war prison in Gregory D and Pred A eds *Violent Geographies: Fear, Terror, and Political Violence* Routledge, New York 205-236

Ong A 2006 *Introduction in Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty* Duke University Press, London 1-30

Ramadan A 2009 Destroying Nahr el-Bared: sovereignty and uricide in the space of exception *Political Geography* 28 153-163

Rasch W 2004 *Sovereignty and its Discontents: On the Primacy of Conflict and the Structure of the Political* Birkbeck Law Press, London

Reid-Henry S 2007 Exceptional sovereignty? Guantánamo Bay and the re-colonial present *Antipode* 39 627-648

Nationalism

Anderson J 1986 Nationalism and geography in Anderson J ed *The Rise of the Modern State* Harvester Press, Brighton 115-42

Anderson J and O'Dowd L 2007 Imperialism and nationalism: the Home Rule struggle and border creation in Ireland, 1885-1925 *Political Geography* 26 934-950

Press, New Haven, CT 17-44

Sparke M 2008 Political geography: political geographies of globalization III - resistance Progress in Human Geography 32 423-440

Springer S 2012 Public space as emancipation: meditations on anarchism, radical democracy, neoliberalism, and violence Antipode 43 525-565

Sundberg J 2007 Reconfiguring North-South solidarity: critical reflections on experiences of transnational resistance Antipode 39:144-166

JOURNALS WORTH CONSULTING:

ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies; Alternatives: Global, Local, Political; Anarchist Studies; Annals of the Association of American Geographers; Antipode; Area; Economy and Society; Environment and Planning A; Environment and Planning D: Society & Space; Gender, Place and Culture; Geografiska Annaler Series B; Geographical Journal; Geography Compass; Geopolitics; Global Networks; International Journal of Urban and Regional Research; International Political Sociology; Journal of Conflict R