COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the interactions between geography and politics and how these interactions shape or are shaped by broader social and geopolitical conditions. We will examine the contemporary study of political geography, featuring the main concepts and research themes encountered in this field. In addition, we will investigate how global economic integration, local devolution, and the rise of transnational organizations have influenced dynamics of power and identity in our world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

• Become familiar with key concepts in contemporary political geography, including the state, nations, territory, boundaries, power, and scale
• Use geographic concepts and perspectives to think analytically about the processes which shape and reshape politics and political geographic outcomes
• Think critically about the operation of human agency and the production of geographical knowledge
• Engage with quality information and perform research about important contemporary political geography issues
**BASICS**

**MYCOURSES**

All course documents and announcements are posted on: mycourses.unh.edu (CANVAS). Please check your email and the Mycourses page regularly.

**TEXTBOOK**


This textbook is **required** for this class and students should bring it to all class meetings.

**Accessibility**

The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all University programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Disability Services for Students (DSS). Contact DSS at (603) 862-2607 or disability.office@unh.edu. See the DSS Website for details: [http://www.unh.edu/disabilityservices/disabilityservices.html](http://www.unh.edu/disabilityservices/disabilityservices.html).

**University Policies**

All students should know and understand university policies and procedures regarding academic performance, including attendance and academic dishonesty. If you are unfamiliar with these policies, please refer to the University of New Hampshire Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities for details: [http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/](http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/).

**Behaviour**

As a reminder, cell phone/pda, etc. use, including text messaging, is not permitted in this class by Faculty Senate rule unless by instructor permission.

**Additional resources:**

- **Center for Academic Recourses (CFAR):** Provides services and resources to support undergraduate students in their pursuit of academic success. ([https://www.unh.edu/cfar.](https://www.unh.edu/cfar.))

- **Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP):** Provides free and confidential advocacy and direct services to survivors. ([https://www.unh.edu/sharpp.](https://www.unh.edu/sharpp.))

**Comments:**

All the procedures, policies, and schedules contained in this syllabus may change during the course semester. Any changes will be announced in class, posted on CANVAS, or distributed via email. It is your responsibility to check your university email account and CANVAS regularly.
### GRADING PROCEDURES

**General**
All coursework submitted for evaluation must represent each student’s own, original work. Therefore, all assignments and exams are to be completed on your own in accordance with the standards of conduct outlined in *Section 09: Academic Honesty* of the UNH Students Rights, Rules and Responsibility: [https://www.unh.edu/student-life/handbook/academic-honesty](https://www.unh.edu/student-life/handbook/academic-honesty)

**Final Paper**
Students will choose a topic from the syllabus and write a final paper. Details will be provided in class. This assignment is worth 30% of your final grade.

**Paper Outline**
You will write a detailed outline for the final paper that is worth 10% of your final grade. Your will be expected to provide an annotated bibliography of peer reviewed academic papers on your topic as part of your paper outline. Details and due dates will be provided in class.

**Reflection**
You will write *eight reflection articles* throughout the semester. Each reflection paper will summarize and respond to the debates in the reading assignments. These reflection papers will be due on Monday at 12:10 PM before we begin discussion on the reading assignment. In other words, you will write and submit an article about the readings before we discuss them in class. These assignments are worth 40% of your grade.

**Presentations**
There will be final paper presentations for your papers on the last week of classes. These are 10% of your grade.

**Participation**
Participation in class discussions is an important way to share information and ideas and reflects your comprehension of course material. Class attendance and participation go hand in hand and are together worth 10% of your final grade.

*Attendance and participation is required.* This course is discussion-based, not lecture-based. This means our meetings will not consist of me simply reviewing the material in the book. Instead, our time together will largely be driven by class discussions. Students are responsible for completing all the assigned activities including assigned readings before class.
ATTENDANCE

**EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Each student must receive equal opportunity to demonstrate his/her ability to comprehend course material. Therefore, all students will take exams and submit homework at the same time. A make-up exam may be granted, or a late assignment may be accepted, if the absence is excused. An excused absence may be granted for the following situations:

1.) Absences in which arrangements are made **at least one week in advance**.
2.) Absences due to family or personal medical **emergencies**.
3.) Absences due to serious illness or personal medical emergency **accompanied by a doctor’s note**.

**MISSED WORK**

In all cases, it is entirely up to you to make arrangements to complete missed assignments and exams. In the case of an excused absence without prior arrangements, you must notify me within 48 hours of the scheduled exam or homework due date. If you fail to receive approval for a make-up exam or late work within this timeframe, or have an unexcused absence, you will receive a “0” for the missed exam and are subject to the penalties for late work described below.

**LATE WORK**

Assignments are due at the beginning of, or prior to, the class period on the indicated due date. Coursework submitted after the due date will be **accepted for half credit up to 5 business days after the due date**. Assignments that are more than 5 days late will automatically be given a grade of zero. **There is no penalty for late work due to an excused absence.**
**SCHEDULE**

**Jan 24/26 (Introduction: What is political geography)**
Painter & Jeffrey, Introduction
Painter & Jeffrey Ch 1, Politics, Geography, and Political Geography

**Jan 29/31, Feb 2 (Power, Place, and Scale)**

**Paper review 1 due: Jan 29th**

**Feb 5/7/9 (The State)**
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 2, State formation
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 3, From welfare state to workforce state

**Paper review 2 due: Feb 5th**

**Feb 12/14/16 (Territory)**

**Paper review 3 due: Feb 12th**

**Feb 19/21/23 (Democracy and citizenship)**
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 4, Democracy, citizenship, and elections

**Paper review 4 due: Feb 19th**

**Feb 26/28, March 2 (Urban politics I)**
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 5, Politics and the city

**Paper Review 5 Due: Feb 26**

**Feb 26/28, March 2 (Urban politics I)**
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 5, Politics and the city
March 5/7/9 (Urban politics II)

**March 11: Final Paper Outline Due: March 9th**

SPRING BREAK (MARCH 12-16) – NO CLASS

March 19/21/23 (Identity politics)
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 6. Identity politics and social movements

**Paper Review 6 Due: March 21**

March 26/28/30 (Nations and nationalism I)
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 7, Nationalism and regionalism

**Paper Review 7 Due: March 26**

April 2/4/6/9 (Nations and nationalism II)

April 11/13 (NO CLASS – AAG)
WORK ON FINAL PAPER

April 16/18/20 (Geopolitics I)
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 8, Imperialism and colonialism

**Paper Review 8 Due: April 16th**

April 23/25/27 (Geopolitics II)
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 9, Geopolitics and antigeopolitics

April 30, May 2/4/7 Final Paper Presentations