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 as they pertain to politics
• Engage with quality information and perform research about important political issues

BASICS

Time & Place
MWF 12:10AM - 1:00PM
204 Morrill Hall

Instructor Info
Maingi Solomon
maingi.solomon@unh.edu
331 Huddleston Hall
(603) 862-4007

Office Hours
Tuesday 1:00PM - 3:00PM
Or by appointment
Thursday 2:00PM - 3:00PM

CANVAS
Course information can be found in: mycourses.unh.edu
Lecture materials and assignments are organized by week under “Files”.
Textbooks


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


Other reading materials will be used throughout the course. These will be provided in class or made available online.

Developing awareness of politics means you must stay informed about key issues and debates in the United States and abroad. I suggest reading the BBC’s website daily ([www.bbc.com/news](http://www.bbc.com/news)) as well as other reputable news sources such as the international edition of The New York Times ([www.international.nytimes.com](http://www.international.nytimes.com)), The Economist ([www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)), The Guardian ([www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)), and others as you may prefer.

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. If you have received Accommodation Letters for this course from DSS, please provide me with that information privately so that we can review those accommodations. 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/).

Comments

The following procedures, policies, and schedules may change during the course semester. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on CANVAS. Announcements may also be 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 individually in accordance with the standards of conduct outlined in Section 09: Academic Honesty of the UNH Students Rights, Rules and Responsibility (http://www.unh.edu/vpsas/handbook/academic-honesty).

Exams There will be a midterm worth 20% of your final grade. The midterm exam will focus on content presented from the beginning of the course to the midterm.

There will be no comprehensive final exam for this course. Instead you will perform an assignment designed to relate the concepts of the course to a real-world example by thinking, reflecting and making evidence-based written opinions in a 2500 - 3000 word paper. To do this, you will submit a letter for publication to the editor of a global, national, regional, or local newspaper that responds to an article or editorial previously published in that newspaper that in some way relates to the content of this class. This assignment is worth 30% of your grade.

You will also write a 3 – 4 page commentary that identifies and defends the choice of topic and usage of concepts in the letter. This assignment will be designed to help you in writing your final assignment and it’s worth 10% of your grade. More details will be provided in class.

Assignments You will write ten 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 30% of your grade.

Presentation Students will be required to summarize their letter for publication into a ten-minute presentation, which will be done to the class during the last week of classes. This presentation is worth 10% of your final grade

Participation Attendance and participation is required. For every three unapproved absences, you will receive a 10% deduction to your final grade. This course is discussion-based, not lecture-based. This means our meetings will not consist of me simply reviewing the material in the book with powerpoints, etc. Instead, our time together will largely be driven by group discussions, activities, and examples that
explore the concepts and ideas in the textbook. Students are responsible for completing all the assigned activities including assigned readings before class.

**Final Grades**

Final grades will be assigned based on the cumulative weighted scores from all coursework using the following grade distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
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</table>
ATTENDANCE

Lecture  Tardiness and early departure is incredibly disruptive and may cause you, and your classmates, to miss important material. Lecture begins promptly at 10 minutes after the hour so be on time and prepared for the start of class. Do not expect, nor prepare, to leave before the 80-minute class period has elapsed.

Excused Absences  Attendance is mandatory for this class except in cases of excused absences:

1.) Absences in which prior arrangements have been made. Such arrangements must be made at least one week in advance of the absence.
2.) Absences due to family or personal medical emergencies in which a university approved absence has been granted. You must contact your college’s Dean’s office for a letter verifying your absence.
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 work. 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 a 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. Assignments submitted after the due date will be accepted for half credit up to one week after the due date. Assignments that are more than one week late will be assigned a grade of “0.” There is no penalty for late work due to an excused absence.
# GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT

## ANNOUNCEMENTS
Procedures, policies, and schedules may change during the course semester. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on blackboard. Announcements may also be distributed via email. It is your responsibility to check your university email account and the course homepage on Blackboard regularly.

## COMMUNICATION
All forms of communication directed toward your instructor and classmates should be conducted in a professional manner. Emails should be addressed appropriately, contain your **name** and text should be written using proper English including the use of complete sentences, capital letters, and proper punctuation.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES
The use of digital communication devices is prohibited while in class unless otherwise approved for note-taking purposes only.

## BEHAVIOR
Immature, rude, and inappropriate behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated. This includes talking during lecture, as well as personal use of digital communication devices during lecture including, but not limited to: text, instant or email messaging, social media, and web browsing. Anyone caught engaging in such activity will be asked to leave immediately and will be given an unexcused absence regarding any missed coursework. This is your warning.
SCHEDULE

Week 1: Jan 27/29 (Introduction: What is political geography)

Week 2: Feb 1/3/5 (Power, Place, and Scale)

Week 3: Feb 8/10/12 (The State)
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 2, State formation
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 3, From welfare state to workforce state

Week 4: Feb 15/17/19 (Territory)

Week 5: Feb 22/24/26 (Democracy and citizenship)
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 4, Democracy, citizenship, and elections

Week 6: Feb 29, March 2/4 (Urban politics I)
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 5, Politics and the city

Week 7: March 7/9/11 (Urban politics II)

*March 11: Midterm Exam*
**Week 8: SPRING BREAK (MARCH 14-18) – NO CLASS**

**Week 9: March 21/23/25 (Identity politics)**
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 6. Identity politics and social movements

**Week 10: March 28/30 and April 1 (NO CLASS – AAG)**
WORK ON LETTER AND RESPONSE FOR WEEK 10

**Week 11: March 4/6/8 (Nations and nationalism I)**
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 7, Nationalism and regionalism

**Week 12: March 11/13/15 (Nations and nationalism II)**

**Week 13: April 18/20/22 (Geopolitics I)**
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 8, Imperialism and colonialism

**Week 14: April 25/27/29 (Geopolitics II)**
Painter & Jeffrey Ch. 9, Geopolitics and antigeopolitics

**Week 15/16: May 2/4 Work on analysis paper  
May 6/9 Class Presentations**