



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

GEOG 6220-222: Seminar in Human Geography: Critical Geopolitics

Course Description:

This course aims to introduce you to the scholarly practices and political potential of an intellectual current called critical geopolitics. Arising out of the intersections of critical and political geography in the mid- to late-1980s, the (sub)field of critical geopolitics doesn't just map out the diplomatic relations distinguishing the international engagements of state actors, as the more classical, realist geopolitics is wont to do. Rather it studies the language and theoretical framework (or epistemologies) with which political geographies are mobilized by a far wider range of social actors. To get a handle on critical geopolitics, we'll consider both written and visual texts that provide insights into the (sub)field's historical emergence, current status, and central themes. In particular, we'll explore what is known as popular geopolitics.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: October 9 – 14, 2018

Location: Wiesbaden, Germany. See Site Director for classroom site.

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: September 10, 2018

Site Director:

Email: apwiesbaden@ou.edu. Phone: 0611-143-548-1309; DSN 548-1309.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Laurel Smith, Ph.D.

Mailing Address: Department of Geography & Environmental Sustainability

100 East Boyd St., SEC 538

University of Oklahoma

Norman, OK 73019

Telephone Number: (405) 325-8998

E-mail Address: laurel@ou.edu

Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at <http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home> is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fhcg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

1. Dodds, K. (2014). *Geopolitics: A very short introduction* (2nd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780199676781.
2. If Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at <https://canvas.ou.edu>, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

Course Objectives:

1. Distinguish between critical geopolitics and realist (or classical) geopolitics.
2. Facilitate your understanding of the political geographies characterizing our world today, as well as the ways in which key actors politicize some geographical relationships more than others.
3. Demonstrate the importance of including environmental and cultural matters on political maps.
4. Emphasize the political power exercised (or not) by individuals and non-state actors, as illustrated in class materials **and** through one another's experiences.

Course Outline:

Day One: It's smart to be geopolitical!

- Dodds, Klaus. (2014) chapter 1: It's essential to be geopolitical! In *Geopolitics: A very short introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-17.
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/al.html>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albania>
- Waller, Michael. (1998) Geopolitics and the environment in Eastern Europe. *Environmental Politics* 7 (1): 29-52.
- Müller, Daniel and Darla K. Munroe. (2008) Changing Rural Landscapes in Albania: Cropland Abandonment and Forest Clearing in the Postsocialist Transition. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 98 (4): 855-876.
- **Film Viewing:** *Wag the Dog* (1997)

Day Two: An intellectual poison?

- Dodds, Klaus. (2014) chapter 2: An intellectual poison? In *Geopolitics: A very short introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 18-47.
- Ó Tuathail, Gearóid. (1996) Intro and chapters 1-2 in *Critical Geopolitics: The Politics of Writing Global Space*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 1-74.
- **Film Viewing:** *Americas in Transition* (1982), 30 min

Day Three: Geopolitical architectures

- Dodds, Klaus. (2014) chapter 3: Geopolitical architectures. In *Geopolitics: A very short introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 48-69.
- Dodds, Klaus. (1993) Geography, Identity and the Creation of the Argentine State. *Bulletin of Latin American Research Review* 12 (3): 311-331.
- Dittimer, Jason. 2010. Hegemony, Subaltern Identities, and New Media. In *Popular Culture, Geopolitics, and Identity*.
- **Film Viewing:** Chiapas Media Project videos

Day Four: Geopolitics and Identity

- Dodds, Klaus. (2014) chapter 4: Geopolitics and Identity. In *Geopolitics: A very short introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 70-95.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. (2003) From Exclusion to Inclusion: Bolivia's 2002 Elections. *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 35 (4): 751-775.

- Roberts, Susan, Anna Secor, and Matthew Spark. (2003) Neoliberal Geopolitics. *Antipode* 35 (5): 886-897.
- **Film Viewing:** *Our Brand is Crisis* (85 min.)

Day Five: Maps and Geopolitics

- Dodds, Klaus. (2014) chapter 5: Geopolitics and objects. In *Geopolitics: A very short introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 96-118.
- Pickles, John. (1992) Texts, Hermeneutics, and Propaganda Maps. In *Writing Worlds: Discourse, Text, and Metaphor in the Representation of Landscape*, edited by Trevor J. Barnes and James S. Duncan. New York: Routledge, pp. 193-230.
- Dalby, Simon. (2007) The Pentagon's New Imperial Cartography: Tabloid Realism and the War on Terror. In *Violent Geographies: Fear, Terror, and Political Violence*, edited by Derek Gregory and Allan Pred, New York: Routledge, pp. 295-308.
- Staehli, Lynn, and Eleonore Kofman. (2004) Mapping Gender, Making Politics: Toward Feminist Political Geographies. In *Mapping Women, Making Politics: Feminist Perspectives on Political Geography*, edited by Lynn Staehli, Eleonore Kofman, and Linda Peake, London: Routledge, pp. 1-14.
- Gilmartin, Mary and Eleonore Kofman. (2004) Critically Feminist Geopolitics. In *Mapping Women, Making Politics: Feminist Perspectives on Political Geography*, edited by Lynn Staehli, Eleonore Kofman, and Linda Peake, London: Routledge, pp. pp. 113-126.

Day Six: Popular Geopolitics

- Dodds, Klaus. (2014) chapter 6: Popular Geopolitics. In *Geopolitics: A very short introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 119-146.
- Klaus Dodds (2008) Hollywood and the Popular Geopolitics of the War on Terror, *Third World Quarterly*, 29:8, 1621-1637.
- Sharp, Joanne. (2000) Refiguring Geopolitics: The Reader's Digest and Popular Geographies of Danger at the End of the Cold War. In *Geopolitical Traditions: A century of geopolitical thought*, edited by Klaus Dodds and David Atkinson, New York: Routledge: pp. 332-352.
- Dittmer, Jason. (2003) Captain America's Empire: Reflection on Identity, Popular Culture, and Post-9/11 Geopolitics. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 95(3): 626-643.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Participation:

This class will operate as a seminar and so the quantity and quality of your participation will comprise 25% of your grade for the course. So that our class meetings are as engaging as possible, all seminar colleagues are expected to have completed all reading materials **and** prepared a list of observations comparing & contrasting the readings and **at least 2** questions for each item. This will help to assure enough ammunition for a quality discussion in which everyone participates. Should contributing to class conversation make you uncomfortable, you will need to let me know from the get-go so that I may coordinate alternative arenas for discussion, such as D2L forums. Kindly respect all participants' perspectives and note that discriminatory behavior of any sort will not be tolerated.

Paper: 25% of your grade.

Drawing on class materials, compose a 10- to 12-page paper that identifies and discusses the difference between realist and critical geopolitics and then illustrates these differences by consider some of the key geopolitical forces shaping contemporary Albania, first from the perspective of realist geopolitics and then from the perspective of critical geopolitics. Please don't forget to consider environmental matters as distinctly geopolitical (and note that this includes agriculture, especially in relation to markets). Also, allow me to point out that historical patterns and other long-term processes remain pertinent to the contemporary scene. **This paper is due October 15, 2018 .**

Presentation: 25% of your grade.

During the course of our class, each student is expected to give a 15-30-minute presentation (exact length will depend on class size) that introduces and expands upon one of the sources listed for a particular class. Your presentation will be assessed by you, your classmates, and the professor.

Final Exam: 25% of your grade.

Toward the end of our class meetings, you will be asked to submit a question that you believe would make a good final exam essay question. Taking seminar participants' questions into account as much as possible, I will craft a final exam that asks you to compose an 8- to 10-page paper that answers one of three possible questions about critical geopolitics. **The paper is due October 22, 2018.**

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Class participation	N/A	25%
Presentation	During class sessions	25%
Paper	Monday, October 15, 2018	25%
Final Exam	Monday, October 22, 2018	25%

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Laurel C. Smith, Ph.D.

Education

- Ph.D. Geography, University of Kentucky (2005)
- M.A. History of Science, University of Oklahoma (1994)
- B.A. History, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (1989)

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 2009
- Assistant Professor in Department of Geography and Honors College, University of Oklahoma (2007-present)
- Affiliate Faculty Women's and Gender Studies, University of Oklahoma
- Affiliate Faculty Film and Video Studies, University of Oklahoma
- Adjunct Assistant Professor in Department of Geography and Visiting Scholar in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2005-2007)

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- GEOG 6220: Seminar in Human Geography: Critical Geopolitics
- GEOG 6240: Seminar in Resource and Environmental Geography: Indigenous Development in Latin America

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Teaching interests: political, cultural, and urban geography; studies of technoscience; critical theory (especially contemporary geographic thought); and qualitative research methodologies
- Research interests: geopolitics of representation, indigenous geographies and the cultural geographies of technoscience, the identity politics of development, postcolonial and feminist theory
 - Regional focus in North America, especially Mexico and the United States

Representative Publications and Presentations

Publications:

- 2012. Visualizing Indigenous women in Oaxaca: Mexico at the end of the twentieth century. AND Visualización de mujeres indígenas en Oaxaca: México a finales del siglo veinte *Historical Geography* Special Issue "Digital Historical Geography: Representation, Archive and Access. 40: 61-83 and 85-109.
- 2012. Decolonizing hybridity: Indigenous video, knowledge, and diffraction. *cultural geographies* 19 (3): 329-348.
- 2010. Locating post-colonial technoscience: through the lens of Indigenous video. *History and Technology* 16 (3): 249-77.
- Smith, Laurel. The Search for Well Being: Placing Development with Indigenous Identity. pp. 183-196, In *Global Indigenous Media: Cultures, Practices, and Politics*, eds., Pamela Wilson and Michelle Stewart. Durham: Duke University Press (2008).
- Smith, Laurel. Mobilizing indigenous video: The Mexican Case. *The Journal of Latin American Geography* vol. 5(1): 113-128 (2006).
- Smith, Laurel. The "cultural turn" in the classroom: Two examples of pedagogy and the politics of representation. *The Journal of Geography* vol. 101: 240-249 (2002).
- Smith, Laurel. Chips off the old ice block: *Nanook of the North* and the relocation of cultural identity. pp. 94-122, In *Engaging Film: Geographies of Mobility and Identity*, eds., Tim Cresswell and Deborah Dixon. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield (2002).

Presentations:

- Introducing (some) geographies of Indigenous videos produced in Oaxaca, Mexico. For International Symposium on Media and Indigenous Peoples: Appropriations, Negotiations and Resistances, Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla, Puebla, Mexico (November 2013)
- Mediating Indigenous Geographies. For the Oklahoma State University Geography Department's Colloquium Series, Stillwater, Oklahoma (March 2013)
- Produciendo saberes híbridos acerca de un video indígena. For the Encuentro Internacional "Saberes Híbridos" at the Centro Peninsular en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales, UNAM and Escuela Superior de Artes de Yucatán, Mérida (September 2011)
- Mediating Indigenous geopolitics: a feminist inquiry into activism, advocacy, and access in Oaxaca, Mexico. For the 'Género, Etnicidad y Migración' workshop organized for the Colegio Internacional de Graduados: Entre Espacios at the Instituto de Estudios Latinoamericanos Freie Universität Berlin (February 2011)

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- South Central Climate Science Center Research Grant (Lead-PI) for "Intertribal Workshops on Climate Variability and Change," \$55,407 (2012-2013)
- University of Oklahoma Research Council Funding -- Faculty Investment Program (FIP) Award for "Publishing in Spanish," \$2,420 (2012)
- Junior Faculty Research Award from University of Oklahoma Vice President for Research for "Visualizing Indigenous Women: Target Audience Reception of Indigenous Media in Oaxaca, Mexico," \$6,000 (2009)
- Ed Cline Faculty Development Awards from OU Faculty Senate, \$2,500 for enriching collection of Indigenous videos (2009), and \$1,892 for computer to use for intertribal workshops (2013)
- Presidential Travel Fellowship from OU, \$1,200 to attend the Institute of British Geographers Annual Meeting in Manchester, England (2008)
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation Science and Technology Program, *Mediating Indigenous Identity: Video, Advocacy, and Knowledge in Oaxaca, Mexico*, \$12,000 (2002)

Major Professional Affiliations

- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group of the AAG