



# EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE *of* PROFESSIONAL  
*and* CONTINUING STUDIES

## **GEOG 6220-102: Critical Geopolitics**

### **Course Description:**

This course explores key themes in the sub-disciplines of geopolitics and critical geopolitics. This involves challenging questions about the nature of international relations, including:

- Who acts internationally? Critical geopolitics reconsiders the status of nation-states, emphasizing the ways that various non-state actors retain power to make choices even in larger-than-national decision-making.
- What kinds of acts count? Critical geopolitics foregrounds the ways that actions in domains that are often conceptualized as personal, artistic, or purely economic have effects at scales and distances where it is often imagined that only states can matter.
- Can geopolitics be different? Critical geopolitics asks not only whether the nation-state's power is less complete than is believed, but also whether or not non-state actors can (and ought to) strategically reduce the power of states over time.

### **Class Dates, Location and Hours:**

Dates: April 30 – May 6, 2018

Location: Washington, D.C. Liaison Office - 2189 Crystal Plaza Arcade, Arlington, VA, 22202.

Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: April 1, 2018

### **Site Director:**

Email: [apwashington@ou.edu](mailto:apwashington@ou.edu). Phone: 703-418-4800.

### **Professor Contact Information:**

Course Professor: Joseph Pierce, Ph.D.

Mailing Address: 100 E. Boyd Street, Suite 510  
Norman, OK 73069

Telephone Number: (405) 325-5325

Email Address: [jpierce@ou.edu](mailto:jpierce@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.

### **Instructional Materials:**

All class materials will be available via Canvas/online. 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.

## Course Objectives:

- To understand and apply the distinction between geopolitics and critical geopolitics.
- To understand how different modes of critical geopolitical thought suggest distinct approaches to “real world” situations, and how key scholars would differently choose frames for what kind of action is productive.

## Course Outline:

### Day 1 - Classical Geopolitics/International Relations

- Hagan, C. (1942). Geopolitics. *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (Nov., 1942), pp. 478-490
- Jones, Jones, & Woods (2004). *Power, space and ‘political geography: An introduction to political geography*. pp 1-17.

### Day 2 - Critiquing Classical Geopolitics

- Murphy, A. (ed.) (2004). Is there a politics to geopolitics? *Progress in human geography*. 28:5, pp. 619-640.
- Dalby, S. (2008). Imperialism, domination, culture: The continued relevance of critical geopolitics. *Geopolitics*, 13:3, 413-436,
- Mercille, J. (2008). Critical Geopolitics and the 1950s Bomber Gap. *Geopolitics*, 13:3, 498-518.

### Day 3 - The Art of Not Being Governed/Negative Refusal

Scott, J.C. (2010). *The Art of Not Being Governed*. Chaps 1 and 2.

### Day 4 - Feminist Geopolitics/Care/Scale

- **Due Before Class: Midterm Paper**
- Massaro, V. and William, J. (2013). Feminist Geopolitics. *Geography Compass* 7/8 (2013): 567–577, 10.1111/gec3.12054.
- Christian, Dowler, & Cuomo (2016). Fear, feminist geopolitics and the hot and banal. *Political Geography* 54 (2016) 64e72.

### Day 5, Session One - “Popular” Geopolitics/Media

- Dittmer, J. (2005). Captain America's empire: Reflections on identity, popular culture, and post-9/11 geopolitics. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 95, No. 3 (Sep., 2005), pp. 626-643.
- Dittmer, J. (2011). Captain Britain and the narration of nation. *The Geographical Review* 101(1): 71–87, January 2011.
- Bus, D. (2018). Answering the **Call of Duty**: Everyday encounters with the popular geopolitics of military-themed videogames. *Political Geography*, Volume 63, March 2018, Pages 54-64.

### Day 5, Session Two - The Art of The Art of Not Being Governed/Positive Autonomy

- Naylor, L. (2017). Reframing autonomy in political geography: A feminist geopolitics of autonomous resistance. *Political Geography* 58 (2017) 24e35.
- How Mexico’s Zapatistas helped inspire a feminist, Chicana art movement in East L.A.: <http://www.laweekly.com/arts/how-mexicos-zapatistas-helped-inspire-a-feminist-chicana-art-movement-in-east-la-7988774>
- The Zapatista’s CompArte art festival in images: <https://newint.org/features/web-exclusive/2016/08/15/zapatista-art-festival>

### Day 6. Session One - “Doing Critical Geopolitics” in a Realist Geopolitical World?

- Mercille, J. & Jones, A. (2009). Practicing Radical Geopolitics: Logics of Power and the Iranian Nuclear “Crisis.” *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 99(5). <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00045600903203176>

- Fluri, J. (2009). Geopolitics of gender and violence ‘from below.’ *Political Geography* 28: 259-265.

## **Day 6, Session Two - Presentations: Critical Geopolitical Interventions**

### **Distributed: Take-home examination**

#### **Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

##### **Class Participation (40%):**

Successful students will be present, will demonstrate they have read, will engage actively in discussion, and will demonstrate respect for the diversity of perspectives within the classroom. Readings should be completed **before** the date listed above.

##### **Midterm (20%):**

An 1100 - 1500-word essay exploring your reactions, cumulatively, to the readings up to this point. **Due May 3, 2018.**

##### **Presentation (20%):**

A 10-minute group presentation to the class proposing a “critical geopolitical” intervention that improves the condition of the world by an actor you identify. Interventions must be realistic / plausible, and the identified actors must be actually capable of such an intervention. **Due May 5, 2018.**

##### **Take-home final (20%):**

A 5-question, medium-length exam to be completed within one week of the end of class. **Due May 13, 2018.**

##### **Grading:**

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

**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](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](mailto: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

**Joseph Pierce, Ph.D.**

### Education

- Ph.D., Clark University, Graduate School of Geography.
- M.A., NYU, Gallatin School.
- B.A., Hampshire College.

### Current Positions

Assistant Professor, Geography & Environmental Sustainability, University of Oklahoma.

### Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Urban Geography
- Political Geography
- Sustainability

### Representative Publications and Presentations

- Early online: (2018) The right to move: informal use rights and urban practices of mobility. Joseph Pierce and Mary Lawhon, *Urban Geography*.
- 2018, Provincializing urban appropriation: agonistic transgression as a mode of actually existing appropriation in South African cities. Mary Lawhon, Joseph Pierce, and Anesu Makina, *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 39(1) 117-131.
- 2018, Scale and the construction of environmental imaginaries in local news. Mary Lawhon, Joseph Pierce, and Roy Bouwer. *South African Geographical Journal*, 100(1) 1-21.
- 2017, The law is not enough: seeking the theoretical frontier of urban justice via legal tools. Joseph Pierce and Deborah G. Martin, *Urban Studies*, 54(2) 456-465.
- 2017, Inserting scales of urban politics: the possibilities of meso-urban governance shims. Olivia R. Williams and Joseph Pierce, *Urban Geography*, 38(6) 795-812.
- 2017, Place-making at a national scale: framing tar sands extraction as 'Canadian' in The Globe and Mail. Toby Davine, Mary Lawhon, and Joseph Pierce, *The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe Canadien*, 61(3) 428-439.
- 2016, Against power? Distinguishing between acquisitive resistance and subversion. Joseph Pierce and Olivia R. Williams, *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*, 98(3) 171-188.

### Major Professional Affiliations

American Association of Geographers