Department of Political Science  
College of Charleston  
Spring 2013  

**POLLS 368 Political geography**

Instructor: Mark Long

Lectures: MWF 10.00-10.50am (Mybk.316)

Office Hours: T: 9.00-10.30am; W: 2.00-3.30pm, Room 101, 26 Coming St.  
Other times by appointment – E-mail: longm@cofc.edu; Tel.: 953-1883

**Required Reading:**

4. ERES readings.

**Suggested Reading:** Reading a quality daily newspaper (*every day*), US or international, will greatly enhance this and other classes. It’s a great idea to get into the habit of being informed as early as possible in your third level education (and it’s never too late to start!). Moreover, many such newspapers are available free online.

Please note, in this regard, that TV news is NO substitute for a newspaper such as the *New York Times*. Please see me if you would like to talk about which newspapers might fit this class best.

**Course Description:** Political geography is about control over space. The key vehicle for controlling space over recent centuries has been the state, and states continue to look for new ways to control space on into the twenty-first century, with laws on smoking in public spaces likely to increasingly be the norm in the developed world, for example. Over the semester, we will look at the emergence and consolidation of the modern state system in Europe. We will see how states take control over their territory, through, in the US for example, key decisions of the Supreme Court and the putting in place of a transcontinental railroad.
States have exercised huge measures of control by socializing populations into new political identities in the form of nations since the nineteenth century. The French state very deliberately made Frenchmen through schools and military service; so too other states. Political identities are also central to political geography and will be a second component of the course.

The objective of the course is to allow students to discover and understand taken-for-granted institutions central to our lives: states and nations. It will also provide insight into the geographies and histories of particular states and nations, for example Spain, France, Israel, Sudan and the US.

**Exams and Grading:** Grades will be determined out of a total of 500 points. The grading scale will be as follows: A: 93-100%, A+: 90-92, B+: 88-89, B: 83-87, B-: 80-82, C+: 78-79, C: 73-77, C-: 70-72, D+: 68-69, D: 63-67, D-: 60-62. 59 percent or less will constitute a failing grade. There are 5 components to your grade. Please be advised that poor performance in any of these components will most likely cost you *at least* half a letter grade.

1. There will be **2 exams** in this course.
   - I. Exams will be administered in class (you will have to bring a blue book) and each exam will count for 100 points. Exams will not be cumulative.
   - II. A make-up exam will be offered on the assigned exam day during finals week and will be cumulative. *Taking the make-up will be contingent on an “official” excuse with requisite paperwork.*

2. Students are also required to complete **2 projects** over the course of the semester, and each project affords you the leeway of choice. Each project is worth 100 points.

   **Project number 1** requires that you build on your reading of the overview of Political Geography offered by Toal and Shelley in 2004 and produce an annotated bibliography of political geographic research. You will choose one of the currents of political geography they highlight and that we will *not* focus on over the semester, and begin your exploration through the key readings suggested by these authors.

   Then you will take central themes or authors from within your chosen current (“Techno-Political Geographies, Development and the Environment in Risk Society” or “Critical Geopolitics: Problematizing Geopolitical Practices”, for example) and work to update Toal and Shelley’s list of seminal readings. Your purpose here will be to trace a facet of recent political geographic research through a reading list which you yourself will design of not less than 15 scholarly books and articles. You will be required to submit a one to two page review of each of your texts, which will move beyond a summarization of the author’s key arguments *to relate it to your other self-selected readings and the class materials.*

   Strong reviews discuss the contents of the book/article/chapter in question. They will summarize the author’s/authors’ main contentions and conclusions. Importantly, they will also evaluate the usefulness of the article, and this will include identifying connections to other literature and any limitations the articles may have; so too any questions you may have from your reading.

   You will also submit a ‘map’ of your research with this project. We will discuss this map in class.

   **Project number 2** requires you to view 3 films and submit an eight to ten page paper relating the subject matter of the movies to the class and reading materials of POLS368. The 3 films in question are Zhang Yimou’s *Hero* (2002), Neil Jordan’s *Michael Collins* (1996) and James McTeigue’s *V for Vendetta* (2006). Be advised
from the outset that you are not asked here to summarize these films but rather to showcase your understanding of the stuff of political geography in your viewing and analysis of them.

OR

Read George Orwell’s *1984* and relate his dystopic vision to the materials we read and discuss over the semester, again in a 8-10 page paper. Again here, I am not interested in a summary of 1984 but rather a political geographic reading of the novel.

We will discuss these projects in class, but it is a good idea to begin thinking about what you would like to study early in the semester.

Moreover, to ensure that students do not dig themselves the hole of letting this slide until the eleventh hour, you will be required to decide which field of political geography you will follow for project#1 and to choose film or text in project#2 and by Tuesday, February 12. Further, once you choose you will be required to stick, an incentive, I trust, to get you thinking about this soon. In the case of project#2 you can simply signal your choice; for project#1, however, 2 reviews will be due at that point. These reviews will be evaluated and returned to you. 20 points accrue here.

Be advised that I expect competency in English and fully ten percent of the points for all written work will be awarded on this basis.

All work in POLS368 can be turned in class or placed in my mailbox at 114, Wentworth St. before 4pm on the appointed days. All work submitted past its due-by dates will see its scores reduced by 10 points per day late. *Please do not incur late penalties in POLS368.*

All work in 368 must be signed by you and along with your signature must go the words: “honor code upheld” (If in doubt, see [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/index.php)). Failure to thus sign will see your scores reduced by 10 points and your work will not be graded until you have duly signed it.

3. We will have in-class **presentations** of the project of your choice at the end of the semester (30 points). We will do these presentations in reverse alphabetical order and your purpose will be to concisely explain to your peers the results of your exploration of political geography over the semester.

4. There will be 10 **reading tests** over the duration of the course. These tests will be administered with no prior notification on random days throughout the semester. They are designed to do precisely what the name suggests – test your comprehension of the assigned class readings that you are required and expected to have read for the class in question. These tests will require you to answer a series of true/false questions, or to define a series of terms, or to give an account of some geographic process or processes, or some combination of the above. There will be 10 minutes of class time at the beginning of class to answer these tests. Each reading test is worth 5 points. *There will be no make-up reading tests,* and no excuses will be accepted concerning illness or forced absences for these quizzes. However, to compensate students who may have genuine reasons for absence on these days, we will automatically discount your 2 lowest scores in these quizzes, so that over the entire semester they will be worth a total of 40 points (8x5). The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage you both to read the material for class and to attend regularly.

5. Finally, 30 points are available for in-class **participation.** Students are encouraged to participate in class. Feel free to interrupt lectures with pertinent questions, observations and
comments, and to express agreement or disagreement with me or with your fellow students. *Decorum consonant with a scholarly setting is, however, expected at all times.* Note also that participation hinges on at least two things: being in class and keeping abreast of the readings.

*In the event that you do not have time to pose a question in class, please feel free to send me an e-mail to the address listed here. Please note, however, that such e-mail correspondence is not a substitute for engaging in scholarly exchange in class.*

*Note also that participation hinges on at least two things: being in class and keeping abreast of the readings.*

**Students are required to take all exams, complete 2 projects (as specified here), present their work, take the reading quizzes, and participate in class.**

**SNAP** students, student athletes, or anyone with special circumstances, please be advised that I expect you to contact me early in the semester, and certainly well in advance of our first exam, so that we can arrange a schedule that accommodates your needs.

**Attendance:** Students are required and expected to attend all lectures. Roll will be taken passively but you may be required to sign attendance on given days. There may also be pop-quizzes, which would constitute an extra credit by the end of the semester. **Significantly,** students with poor attendance records will not receive favorable consideration in assignment of final grades if they fall into a marginal category between grades on the basis of their overall performance.

Finally, you are expected to do your own work in this class. This will be especially important in your essays. Failure to meet this expectation will result in a score of zero in the essay in question for as many people as may be involved in plagiarism, **including** the person(s) who drafted the original essay(s). Likewise, use of non-required texts, journal articles, and the Internet for research purposes is encouraged in this class, but you will need to be scrupulous about citing your sources. Unethical behavior will be reported to the Dean of Students. Unethical behavior will be reported to the Dean of Students. If in doubt, see [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/index.php).

Further, and significantly, I reserve the right to assign a failing grade for this course for any instance of plagiarism. This failing grade, further, will show in your transcript as *XF* as per CofC policy, underlining your failing the course for academic dishonesty.

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus. In that case, you will be notified in class and/or via e-mail. (**You are expected to check your CofC e-mail regularly.** Please see [http://registrar.cofc.edu/pdf/STUDENTEMAILPOLICY.pdf](http://registrar.cofc.edu/pdf/STUDENTEMAILPOLICY.pdf).)

**Key dates to remember**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams</th>
<th>Projects</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Decision</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>2/12 (2 annotations due)</td>
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**PS:** By all means bring mobile phones, boom boxes, and vacuum cleaners to class if you’d like to, but please ensure that they are **TURNED OFF** at all times.

- Beyond the syllabus proper, and for your convenience, the study skills seminars schedule at the *Center for Student Learning* will be posted on OAKS. Please use this resource as necessary. If you are not familiar with the Center, please see [http://csl.cofc.edu](http://csl.cofc.edu).
- *You should be proactive here:* if you have had problems taking notes in the past, for example, then consider attending that session.

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### POLI 368 – spring 2013 – CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course introduction</td>
<td>* OAKS</td>
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<tr>
<td>The breadth of political geography</td>
<td>Toal and Shelly*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political geography and the state</td>
<td>Cox*</td>
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<tr>
<td>The rise of the state</td>
<td>VanCreveld* pp.59-75</td>
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PS 368 Political Geography, spring 2013
Wed. Jan. 23  
Fri. Jan. 25  

*The rise of the state (contd.)* VanCreveld* pp.75-103  
VanCreveld* pp.104-125

Week 4  
Mon. Jan. 28  
Fri. Feb. 1  

*Research skills Attendance required*  
We will meet in Room 122, Addlestone Library

*Conducting the state: war and rail*  
Tilly*  

*Constructing the state: education*  
Baker*  
Tilly*  

*Measuring the state*  
Linklater*  
Cosgrove5*

Week 5  
Mon. Feb. 4  
Wed. Feb. 6  
Fri. Feb. 8  

*Conducting the state: education*  
Baker*  

*Tilly*  

*Weber schools*  

*Linklater*  

*Cosgrove5*

Week 6  
Mon. Feb. 11  
Tues. Feb 12  
Wed. Feb. 13  
Fri. Feb. 15  

*Legal geographies, USA and Israel*  
Clark*  
Kedar *

*Project decisions/annotations due*  
MacDonald A*  
Weizmann*  

View [www.simmonnorfolk.com](http://www.simmonnorfolk.com)  
Israel/Palestine: Mnemosyne  
MacDonald B*

Week 7  
Mon. Feb. 18  
Wed. Feb. 20  
Fri. Feb. 22  

*Digital spaces*  
Klinkenberg*  
Dobson*  
Curry*  
Graham*  
Gray*  

*Taboo spaces*  
Paglen 1-5

Week 8  
Mon. Feb. 25  
Wed. Feb. 27  
Fri. Mar. 1  

*Exam #1*  
Paglen 5-9  
Paglen 16. Epilogue

Week 9  
Mon. Mar. 4 – Fri. Mar. 8 no class: spring break

Week 10  
Mon. Mar. 11  
Wed. Mar. 13  
Fri. Mar. 15  

*Taking stock: making France*  
Robb 1-5  
Robb 6-8, interlude  
Robb 9-12

Week 11  
Mon. Mar. 18  
Wed. Mar. 20  
Fri. Mar. 22  

*Multiple state spaces*  
Robb 13-17, epilogue  
Lefebvre*  

*Defining the nation*  
Gellner*; Billig 1

*Project 1 due*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Mon. Mar. 25</td>
<td>Building nations</td>
<td>Hroch*</td>
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<td>Weber press*</td>
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<td>Tues. Mar. 26</td>
<td>Geography Lecture</td>
<td>Dr. Derek Alderman, University of Tennessee, Physicians Auditorium 4.30pm <strong>attendance required</strong></td>
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<td>Wed. Mar. 27</td>
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<td>Johnson*</td>
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<td>Fri. Mar. 29</td>
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<td>Moore Conference – no class</td>
<td>Billig 2</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Mon. Apr. 1</td>
<td>Conflicted nations</td>
<td>Breen*</td>
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<td>Merrit*</td>
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<td>Wed. Apr. 3</td>
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<td>Seeing nation and nationalism</td>
<td>Smith*</td>
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<td>Billig 3</td>
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<td>Fri. Apr. 5</td>
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<td>Whose nation?</td>
<td>Mosley-Lesch*</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Mon. Apr. 8</td>
<td>Project 2 due</td>
<td>Raento*</td>
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<td>Batuman*</td>
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<td>Wed. Apr. 10</td>
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<td>Pervasive nationalism</td>
<td>Billig 4, 5</td>
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<td>Fri. Apr. 12</td>
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<td>Dittmer*</td>
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<td>Pei*</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Mon. Apr. 15</td>
<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>In class presentations 1</td>
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<td>In class presentations 2</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Mon. Apr. 22</td>
<td>In class presentations 3</td>
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<td>In class presentations 4</td>
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<td>Week 17</td>
<td>Wed. May 1</td>
<td>Make-up exam (NB: see syllabus)</td>
<td>8-11am Mybk 316</td>
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**Notes:**