



Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Texas at El Paso

LABS 5306/SOCI 5341/MAIS 5360

Spring 2020

COMPARATIVE REGIONS

Syllabus

Meeting Times & Location: T 6-8:50pm, Miners Hall 201

Instructor: Prof. Bilge O'Hearn (bohearn@utep.edu)

Office & Hours: Old Main 312, MW 10:30-11:30am or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Regional integration and the search for greater unity are neither new nor uncontentious phenomena. Since the 1950s, the nation-states' claim over territory, sovereignty and cultural unity are challenged by proponents of substate and supranational regions and regional integration as new forms of reorganizing economy, politics and society and providing a new sense of identity and belonging. Through theoretical and ethnographic readings, in this course, we will comparatively examine cases of region-formation from around the world. We will study different visions and mechanisms (trade, infrastructure, culture and so on) behind various region-building efforts. We will assess to what extent efforts in region-making accomplished greater unity in representing economic, political and cultural aspirations of its people and/or its architects.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On the successful completion of the course you, the student will be able to:

- Develop scholarly lexicon on local, national and supranational region-making movements and projects
- Analytically discern different theoretical approaches to region-making, regionalism and regionalization from anthropology, history, sociology, and political sciences,
- Critically discuss scholarly texts,
- Develop critical skills in scholarly writing.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

We will read the following required books according to the reading schedule:

- Acharya, Amitav. 2013. *The Making of Southeast Asia: International Relations of a Region*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. [E-book available through UTEP Library]
- Bach, Daniel C. 2016. *Regionalism in Africa: Genealogies, Institutions and Trans-State Networks*. New York: Routledge. [E-book available through UTEP Library]
- Ben-Yehoyada, Naor. 2017. *Mediterranean Incarnate: Region Formation between Sicily and Tunisia since World War II*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Cole, John W., and Eric R. Wolf. 1999. *The Hidden Frontier: Ecology and Ethnicity in an Alpine Valley*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [On Course Reserves at UTEP Library]
- Folch, Christine. 2019. *Hydropolitics: The Itaipu Dam, Sovereignty, and the Engineering of Modern South America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Högselius, Per, Arne Kaijser and Erik van der Vleuten. 2015. *Europe's Infrastructure Transition: Economy, War, Nature*. London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.



Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Texas at El Paso

- Khan, Mariama. 2019. *The Gambia-Senegal Border: Issues in Regional Integration*. New York: Routledge.
- Love, Thomas F. 2017. *The Independent Republic of Arequipa: Making Regional Culture in the Andes*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- Reeves, Madeleine. 2014. *Border Work: Spatial Lives of the State in Rural Central Asia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. [E-book available through UTEP Library]
- Scheele, Judith. 2012. *Smugglers and Saints of the Sahara: Regional Connectivity in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [On Course Reserves at UTEP Library]
- Scott, James C. 2009. *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Uribe, Simón. 2017. *Frontier Road: Power, History, and the Everyday State in the Colombian Amazon*. New York: Wiley Blackwell.

All of the above are available also at the UTEP Bookstore, but you are not obliged to acquire them through the Bookstore.

Other required readings may include articles and book chapters that are NOT found in any of the required texts; instead, these readings will be made available electronically on Blackboard. These electronic reserves are available to all students registered for this course as full text PDF files that may be downloaded and printed from our course page on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

You will be assessed based on the following three (3) forms of assessment, which are weighted differently:

Participation and Discussion: Graduate-level seminars depend on class members' active participation in class discussions. Each of you will be assigned two weeks' readings. You will do a brief introduction to the assigned reading, emphasizing the main points/take-aways and prepare 2-3 critical questions for class discussion. You will also facilitate class debate on the reading you are assigned, guided by your discussion questions. It is therefore very important that other class members have enough time to process your questions. Your discussion questions, along with a paragraph of your review of the assigned reading, need to be posted on Blackboard by **3pm on the day of our class**. As always, your overall satisfaction with this class depends highly on your and your peers' participation in class discussions. Please be ready to read and discuss! Please bring to class all your energy and dynamism and encourage others to do so. **[10 points]**

Discussion Papers (DPs): You will write ten (10) pieces of critical discussion papers, each for 1000 words, on books and sets of articles, which we will discuss in class. **[5 points each, 50 points in total]**. Please submit your DPs by **2pm** in the afternoon via Blackboard on the day the reading is due. Late submissions will not be accepted.



Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Texas at El Paso

Final Paper or Research Proposal: Due May 11, 2020 [40 points]

GRADING SCALE

The following grading scale will be used for all graded work in this course: A = 100-95% B = 94-85% C = 84-75% D = 74-65% F = 64% and below

POLICIES, INTEGRITY AND EXPECTATIONS

This course involves participation in discussions and activities. We each have different experiences that influence our perspectives of the world. The classroom should be a lively, interactive and comfortable place where information is shared ideas tested and issues debated. You are expected to treat your instructor and all other participants in the course with courtesy and respect. Your comments to others should be factual, constructive, and free from harassing statements. You are encouraged to disagree with other students, but such disagreements need to be based upon facts and documentation (rather than prejudices and personalities). Unprofessional or disrespectful conduct will result in a lower grade on an assignment since part of the learning process in this course is respectful engagement of ideas with others. You should expect the professor of the course to be prepared for each class, to treat each student with respect and compassion. Students will in turn come to each class prepared, complete assignments on time and will adhere to the university's academic standards including those governing academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, or fraud. The following link will provide further guidance on the University's student rules and policies:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services.

Academic integrity Misconduct in research or scholarship includes cheating, fabrication, falsification, multiple submission, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting research, as well as complicity in any or all of the above. Most serious breach of the said code is **plagiarism [pley-juh-riz-uhm, -jee-uh-riz-]**, which is defined as "the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit." Plagiarism includes:

- Intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without crediting the author or creator).
- Failing to credit sources used in a work product in an attempt to pass off the work as one's own.
- Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources. Students are permitted to use the services of a tutor (paid or unpaid), a professional editor, or the University Writing Center to assist them in completing assigned work, unless the instructor explicitly



Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Texas at El Paso

prohibits such assistance. If the student uses such services, the resulting product must be the original work of the student. Purchasing research reports, essays, lab reports, practice sets, or answers to assignments from any person or business are strictly prohibited. Sale of such materials is a violation of both these rules and State law.

- Failing to cite the World Wide Web, databases and other electronic resources if they are utilized in any way as resource material in an academic exercise.
- Other similar acts.

Plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty are subject to punitive action. For more information please consult the handbook of Operating Procedures at <https://www.utep.edu/vpba/hoop/section-2/student-conduct-and-discipline.html> . IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT ANY PART OF THE HANDBOOK, PLEASE COME SEE ME.

Professionalism, attendance and make up Attendance; timely completion of reading and written assignments; thoughtful contribution to class discussions, including participation in class exercises. The University views class attendance as the responsibility of the student; attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. Attendance in this class is generally mandatory, unless your absence is excused. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences can be found at <http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/academic-regulations/curriculum-and-classroom-policies/>. You are responsible for providing prior notification and accurate documentation for excused absences.

Use of Technology Technology is part of our lives and learning experience. You are thus permitted to use your laptop, phone, tablet etc. in class. However, please pay utmost attention not to distract yourself and others or disrupt our collective learning environment. If there is any complaint from your classmates or from myself regarding your excessive use of technology other than for course purposes, you will be asked to stop this behavior immediately.

READING SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, you are required to come to class having done the assigned reading(s) on the day they are scheduled.

WEEK 1 Jan 23 Introduction to Comparative Regions

Europe, European (Dis)integration, and the European Union

WEEK 2 Jan 31

- ✘ *Hidden Frontier* (especially Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 [119-120; 145-152]; 7 [153-154]; 8; 9; 10 [242-262], 11)

WEEK 3 Feb 6

- ✘ *Europe's Infrastructure Tradition* (especially Introduction; Part I & III)

WEEK 4 Feb 13



Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Texas at El Paso

- ✦ *Mediterranean Incarnate* (especially Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 [103-122]; 5 [143-162]; 67; Conclusion)

One or many Africas, African (Dis)integration), the African Union

WEEK 5 Feb 20

- ✦ *Smugglers and Saints of the Sahara*

WEEK 6 Feb 27

- ✦ *The Gambia-Senegal Border*

WEEK 7 Mar 5

- ✦ *Regionalism in Africa*

Asia's (Dis)integration: From State-making to Chinese Developmentalism

WEEK 8 Mar 12

- ✦ *Border Work*

WEEK 9 Mar 19 NO CLASS (begin reading *Arts of Not Being Governed*)

WEEK 10 Mar 26

- ✦ *Arts of Not Being Governed*

WEEK 11 Apr 2

- ✦ *The Making of Southeast Asia*

South and Central America: From Colonialism to NAFTA, Mercosur and Beyond

WEEK 12 Apr 9

- ✦ *No Class (@AAG)*

WEEK 13 Apr 16

- ✦ *The Independent Republic of Arequipa*

WEEK 14 Apr 23

- ✦ *Hydropolitics*

WEEK 15 Apr 30

- ✦ *Frontier Road*

WEEK 16 May 7

- ✦ Course wrap-up