SYLLABUS

Course Description: The study of political phenomena and the impact of decision-making in their spatial context.

Pre-requisites: POLS 2310 and POLS 2311.

Course Context: The course will survey and analyze the basic concepts used in the study of Political Geography and relate them to the national policies and decision-making of specific countries. It will further delve into relative strengths of individual countries stemming from their geographical locations. The course will review the political, economic, demographic and social resources at selected countries and relate them to their policies, alliances and conflicts. Lectures based on the Atlas and the textbook will provide particular examples of differences and similarities between countries. The particular emphasis will be paid to the ethno-national composition of each nation as well as its physical, human, political and economic potential.

The goals of the course are to disseminate knowledge of political geography of the world and political perspectives determining individual countries' policies. The course is set in the broad comparative and international context. It aims to advance the understanding of the foreign challenges and consequences confronting American decision-making. The framework of contemporary world's problems and dangers emanating from the existence of some 200 different nation-states, will be discussed and assessed.

Course Development: Part I of the course will be based on the Atlas (which you have to bring to class for every lecture), and the xerox material "History Cannon" distributed in class. Part I aims at developing a firm base of knowledge of Political Geography in order to be able to understand and assess the theoretical models involved in the geographic linkages with world economic issues and the decision-making on the nation-state and local levels). Part II will be based on the textbook material and lectures.

Course Obligations: They include study and discussion of assigned reading materials and lecture-originated discussion, 3 course exams, term paper and final exam. No late assignments or exams will be accepted except under special (and documented) circumstances. Class attendance is expected and participation in discussion will be evaluated. Students are expected to follow the on-going developments in international politics by reading newspapers and following the TV and radio reports (e.g. CNN, PBS,BBC – on cable Channel 22.)
Textbooks:
3. Xerox materials on Political Geography theories distributed in class / “Historic Cannon”.

Exams: There will be 3 course exams, a term paper, and a Final. Type of potential exam questions will be given prior to exams in class.

FINAL Exam: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – 1:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Exam Dates / Material to be covered and deadlines:

- Exam I – 2/6/14 – Xerox “History Cannon”; based on Atlas
- Exam II – 2/27/14 – based on Xerox “History Cannon”


Course Policies & Attendance: Academic dishonesty will be immediately reported to the Dean of Students (cheating, collusion, plagiarism, etc.) for disciplinary action. Students will be dropped for persistent absences. No cell phones in class. Last day to drop 4/4/14. Complete withdrawal from the University – 5/8/14.

Office Location:

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