

GEOG 316 POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

Burnside 306
Tuesdays + Thursdays, 8:35 to 9:55 AM
Fall, 2018

Chris Erl
christopher.erl@mail.mcgill.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 to 11:00 AM

This course will take an *interdisciplinary* approach to space, place, and power. We will examine:

- origins of the state
- concepts of nation and national identity
- political representation
- territoriality
- electoral geography
- methods of democratic organization
- urban government and elections
- federalism, in Canada and internationally
- the impact of class, race, sexuality, gender, migrant status, and identity on present government systems

This course will focus heavily on Canada, but will incorporate cases from the United States, Europe, and the Global South.

READING RESPONSES 10%
weekly

END OF UNIT TEST #1 15%
October 2, 2018

END OF UNIT TEST #2 15%
October 25, 2018

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 30%
November 27, 2018 +
November 29, 2018

FINAL EXAM 30%
During December Exam
Period

Note: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

You are responsible for reviewing the information on university and department policies concerning student assessment at: www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

READING RESPONSES
weekly

10%

Select one of the assigned readings for a week, and provide a 1 to 2 paragraph response to that reading, critically analyzing the texts and relating them to course materials and concepts.

Include the author's main thesis, some key points, and how it may connect to some of the other points raised in lecture.

Responses are due Mondays at 11:59 PM.

END OF UNIT TESTS

October 2, 2018
October 25, 2018

15%
each

End of Unit Tests will focus on the materials covered over the previous lectures. They will be a mix of short and long answers, with questions drawn from any and all relevant course material.

These tests will be scheduled during regular class times.

**CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION**
November 27, 2018 +
November 29, 2018

30%

The final project for the course will involve students coming together to design a new electoral and representative system for a state emerging from a civil war.

Instructions will be posted on myCourses and the project will be discussed in more detail during the semester. This will incorporate a poster session and short presentation about a designed system of government for a distinct geographic region to be held during the last week of class.

FINAL EXAM

During December Exam
Period

30%

The exam for this course will cover all material, both texts and information from lecture, and will be scheduled during McGill's designated exam period prior to winter break.

Roughly, the final exam will draw equally from the concepts covered through the entire class, with no special emphasis placed on any one section or theoretical body.

GENERAL POLICIES

GENERAL:

Assignments, including readings, should be completed in a timely fashion. Generally speaking, you will not receive credit for late assignments unless prior arrangements have been made. Active participation from students during the discussions, presentations, and lectures is expected.

DEFERRALS AND MEDICAL NOTES:

Students will only be allowed to take a deferred examination if they provide a signed note from a doctor attesting specifically that the student was too ill to take the exam on the scheduled day. Similarly, other requests to delay or defer submitting an assignment must state that the student was too ill on that particular day. All such notes will be verified by the instructor, and therefore must include the physician's correct phone number. Students who miss a test must notify me by email or phone within 24 hours of the exam (preferably before the exam begins), but do not need to provide the medical note until the date of the deferred exam.

Non-medical reasons, such as a death or serious illness in the family, will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but all cases must include satisfactory documentation.

LANGUAGE POLICY:

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits des étudiants de l'Université McGill, les étudiants inscrits à ce cours ont le droit de soumettre en anglais ou en français tout travail écrit à noter.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/integrity).

REASSESSMENT POLICY:

Information on university and department policies concerning student assessment can be found at www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment.

GRADING:

Grading will use the standard McGill grading grid (A=100 to 85; A- = 80 to 84.9; etc.)

OUTLINE

UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS

Lecture 1

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Welcome

Lecture 2

Thursday, September 6, 2018

Traditional Political Geography

- Ethington, P. J. and J. A. McDaniel (2007). "Political Places and Institutional Spaces: The Intersection of Political Science and Political Geography." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 127 - 142.
- Claval, P. (2006). "The scale of political geography: An historic introduction." *Tijdschrift Voor Economische En Sociale Geografie*, 97, 209-221.

Lecture 3

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

The State

- Tilly, C. (1985). *War Making and State Making as Organized Crime. Bringing the State Back In.* P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer and T. Skocpol. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 169 - 191.
- Mann, M. (2005). *The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms, and Results.* *Political Geography: Critical Concepts in the Social Sciences.* K. Cox. New York, Routledge. 1: 328 - 353.

Lecture 4

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Power and Ordering

- Scott, J.C. (1998). *Cities, People, and Language.* In *Seeing Like A State.* New Haven and London: Yale University Press: 53-83.

◆ *FIRST READING RESPONSES DUE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 11:59 PM.* ◆

DROP/ADD DEADLINE

Lecture 5

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Scale, Territoriality, Boundaries

- Wastl-Walter, D and L. A. Staeheli. (2004). *Territory, Territoriality and Boundaries,* in *Mapping women, making politics: Feminist perspectives on political geography,* eds.: Lynn A Staeheli, Eleonore Kofman, and Linda Peake. New York: Routledge: 141-151.
- Herbert, S. (1997). "Territoriality and the Police." *The Professional Geographer* 49(1): 86-94.

Lecture 6

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Visualizing Expressions of Power

- Cormack, L. B. (2001). *Britannia rules the waves?: Images of empire in Elizabethan England.* in *Literature, Mapping, and the Politics of Space in Early Modern Britain.* A. Gordon and B. Klein. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 45 - 68.
- Castonguay, S. (2016). "Cartographic productions and historiographical representations: Geographical imaginations of the St. Lawrence River." *The Canadian Geographer* 60(4): 425-434.

OUTLINE

UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS + UNIT 2: IDENTITIES

Lecture 7

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Nations and Nation-States

- Penrose, J. and R. C. M. Mole. (2008). Nation-States and National Identity. In *The Sage Handbook of Political Geography*, eds. K. R. Cox, M. Low, and J. Robinson. London: SAGE Publications: 271-283.
- Mayer, T. (2004). Embodied Nationalism, in *Mapping women, making politics: Feminist perspectives on political geography*, eds.: Lynn A Staeheli, Eleonore Kofman, and Linda Peake. New York: Routledge: 153-167.

END OF UNIT TEST #1

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

TEST

Lecture 8

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Nationalism and Identity

- Antonsich, M. (2015). Nation and Nationalism, in *The Wiley Blackwell companion to political geography*, eds: John Agnew, Virginie Mamadouh, Anna J. Secor, and Joanne Sharp. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons: 297-310.
- ◆ NO READING RESPONSES DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 1. ◆
- ◆ QUEBEC PROVINCIAL ELECTION: MONDAY, OCTOBER 1. ◆

Lecture 9

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Ownership and Public Space

- Harvey, D. (2012). *Rebel Cities*. London, Verso. Chapter 3: The creation of the Urban Commons.
- Jacobs, J. (1993). *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York, The Modern Library. Chapter 1, Introduction 5 - 36.

UNIT 2 BEGINS

Lecture 10

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Class and Space

- Harvey, D. (1975). The geography of capitalist accumulation: a reconstruction of the Marxian theory. *Antipode* 7(2): 9-21.
- Bérubé, A. (2011). *My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History*. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press. Chapter 16: No Race-Baiting, Red-Baiting, or Queer-Baiting, pp. 294 - 320.

Lecture 11

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Gentrification and Place

- Smith, N. (1982). "Gentrification and uneven development". *Economic Geography*. 58(2): 139-155.
- Komakech, M. D. C. and S. F. Jackson (2016). "A Study of the Role of Small Ethnic Retail Grocery Stores in Urban Renewal in a Social Housing Project, Toronto, Canada." *Journal of Urban Health* 93(3): 414-424.

OUTLINE

UNIT 2: IDENTITIES + UNIT 3: SELECTED CONTEXTS

Lecture 12

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Expressions of Power over Gender and Sexuality

- Andersson, J. (2015). "Wilding' in the West Village: Queer Space, Racism and Jane Jacobs Hagiography." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 39(2): 265-283.
- Kofman, E. (2008). Feminist Transformations of Political Geography *The SAGE Handbook of Political Geography*. London, SAGE Publications Ltd: 73-87.

Lecture 14

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Settler Colonialism

- Stanger-Ross, J. (2008). "Municipal Colonialism in Vancouver: City Planning and the Conflict over Indian Reserves, 1928-1950s." *Canadian Historical Review* 89(4): 541-580.
- Tomiak, J. (2017). "Contesting the Settler City: Indigenous Self-Determination, New Urban Reserves, and the Neoliberalization of Colonialism." *Antipode* 49(4): 928 - 945.

Lecture 13

Thursday, October 18, 2018

Segregation

- Nightingale, C. H. (2012). Segregation : A Global History of Divided Cities. Chicago, University of Chicago Press: Chapter 10, Camouflaging the Color Line in Chicago

◆ NO READING RESPONSES DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 22. ◆

END OF UNIT TEST #2

Thursday, October 25, 2018

TEST

UNIT 3 BEGINS

Lecture 15

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

The Formation of Canada

- Smyth, W. J. (2015). Toronto, the Belfast of Canada. Toronto, University of Toronto Press: Chapter 2, A Tale of Two Cities: Belfast and Toronto, pp. 33 - 74.

Lecture 16

Thursday, November 1, 2018

Canadian Federalism

- Kaplan, D. H. (1994). Two nations in search of a state: Canada ambivalent spatial identities. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 84(4): 585-606.
- Balthazar, L. (1995). Quebec and the Ideal of Federalism. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 538: 40-53.

OUTLINE

UNIT 3: SELECTED CONTEXTS

Lecture 17

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Federalism and State Fragmentation Internationally

- Smith, G. (1995). Mapping the Federal Condition: Ideology, Political Practice and Social Justice. In *Federalism: The Multiethnic Challenge*, ed. G. Smith. New York: Longman Publishing: 1-28.
- Hale, H. E. (2004). Divided we stand: Institutional sources of ethnofederal state survival and collapse. *World Politics*, 56, 165-193.

Lecture 19

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Drawing the Lines

- Courtney, J. C. (2001). Commissioned Ridings: Designing Canada's Electoral Districts. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press: "Drawing the Maps, 74-93" and "Community of Interest and Effective Representation, 204-234".

Lecture 21

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Who do we elect?

- Young, L. (2013). Slow to Change: Women in the House of Commons. Stalled: The Representation of Women in Canadian Governments. L. Trimble, J. Arscott and M. Tremblay. Vancouver, UBC Press: 253 - 272.
- Bird, K. (2008). Many Faces, Few Places: The Political Under-Representation of Ethnic Minorities and Women in the City of Hamilton. *Electing a Diverse Canada*. C. Andrew, J. Biles, M. Siemiatycki and E. Tolley. Vancouver, UBC Press: 136 - 155.

Lecture 18

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Electoral Geography and Electoral Systems

- Forest, B. (2017). "Electoral geography: From mapping votes to representing power." *Geography Compass* 12(1): 1 - 17.
- Johnston, R. J. (1980). "Electoral geography and political geography." *Australian Geographical Studies* 18(1): 37-50.

Lecture 20

Thursday, November 15, 2018

Gerrymandering, Voting Rights, and the Struggle for the Ballot

- Monmonier, Mark. (2001). In *Bushmanders and Bullwinkles*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press: Chapter 1, Twist and Clout and Chapter 2, Gerry's Legacy, pp. 1 - 30.

Lecture 22

Thursday, November 22, 2018

Municipal Government

- Tindal, C. R., S. N. Tindal, K. Stewart, P. J. Smith. (2013). "The Promise of Local Government" (Chapter 1), in *Local Government in Canada*, 8th Edition, Toronto: Nelson Education: 1-25.

OUTLINE

FINAL CLASSES

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
Tuesday, November 27, 2018

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
Thursday, November 29, 2018

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
PRESENTATIONS - DAY 1**

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
PRESENTATIONS - DAY 2**

FINAL CLASS
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

WRAP UP AND EXAM REVIEW

CLASSES END

FINAL EXAM
DECEMBER EXAM PERIOD - TBD

END OF TERM