

ADVANCED POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
Power, Place, Identity:
Geographies of Identification and Differentiation

Geography 518
Spring 2017
M 4:00-6:30
350 Science Hall

Professor Robert Kaiser
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Office Hours: TR 11-12, or by appointment

COURSE OUTLINE

The purpose of this course is to explore the main concepts and research themes in political geography today. As one of the primary perspectives within the field of human geography, political geography represents a broad engagement with the interactive relationships between power and place, and the construction, contestation and reconfiguration of political geographic spaces that result. Processes of identification and differentiation are integral to this dynamic interaction between power and place, in some cases resulting in the creation of more inclusive multicultural socio-spatial places and practices, while in others leading to more exclusionary settings. During the semester, we will investigate the various intersections and interactions among power, place and identity; review the reconceptualizations of borders and bordering in political geography; examine the specific case of nationalism and the place and identity discourses and practices that result from it; explore the cultural politics of memoryscapes; and consider the geographies of resistance through which subaltern political actors seek to empower themselves and their communities. Finally, we will assess the post-national political geographies associated with diasporas and globalization, and discuss the new spaces of citizenship identification that are said to be resulting from these processes.

Performativity
Spaces of exception
Citizenship and statelessness

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Readings

No texts are assigned for this course. Our readings will consist of journal articles and book chapters, which are listed in the course schedule below. I have also provided a list of supplemental readings for most of the weekly topics.

Articles and book chapters: available at our learn@UW page – under “content”

Current affairs will be discussed in the context of course concepts and themes

throughout the semester, as an applied complement to more general readings.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Critically assess engagements related to power, place, identity, and difference, particularly those from geographers.
- Evaluate major trends, themes, and approaches that have emerged in the field of political geography, especially as they are related to geographies of identification and differentiation.
- Be able to use a performative approach in understanding processes of place-making, bordering and identification.
- Engage theoretical debates through the in-depth analysis of a case study.
- Express major themes and approaches related to questions of power, place, identity, difference, and nationalism.
- Be able to identify research questions related to course themes in ways that are responsive to major debates in the literature.

To accomplish these goals, various assignments will be employed, in addition to weekly readings and discussions. These include:

- **Weekly critical analyses of readings** – All students will be asked to write **EIGHT** critical assessments of the weekly readings throughout the semester, distributing these via learn@UW to other class members the day before the class—**by Sunday noon** (this means that there will be several weeks you will not have to turn in the assessments, at your discretion). A separate sheet will provide guidelines for these write-ups.
- **Participation in seminar discussions** – This course will be run as a graduate level seminar. This means active participation in discussion by all class members is critical to the success of the course and your own learning. Additionally, all students will sign up to facilitate at least one class discussion (given our class size, most weeks will have multiple discussion facilitators. For the day you have signed up to lead discussion, you should come to class having read all of the critical summaries circulated the day before, as well as some of the recommended readings suggested for that week. At the beginning of class, you should plan to speak for about ten minutes, highlighting the major points and themes of the week, with a one-page summary of key issues, debates, and questions to distribute to the entire class. In your discussion, it would be helpful if you could provide background information on the authors to share and close with several questions to stimulate discussion.
- **Research paper based on case study** – All students should select a case study early in the semester that you will use as a vehicle to engage the varied theoretical discussions we consider, also interrogating other empirical works comparatively with your own case. You will be expected to write a research paper of approximately 15 pages on your case study, with a topic to be developed in consultation with me, and related to at least one of the course themes. Please turn

in a one-page summary of your proposed topic, listing at least ten possible sources by the sixth week of class, **March 1**. Final papers are due in class **April 26**.

- **Presentation of case study to class** – All students will present their research to the class during weeks 14 and 15. Details on timing and scheduling of presentations to follow.

Basis for Grade:

Weekly analyses:	25%
Seminar participation:	35%
Research paper:	30%
Presentation:	10%

SCHEDULE OUTLINE

Week 1 (1/23):	Introducing Power, Place, Identity
Week 2 (1/30):	Identity as Practice/Narrative; Geographies of Identity and Difference
Week 3 (2/6):	Territorializations: B/Ordering Space
Week 4 (2/13):	Performativity: B/Ordering Identity
Week 5 (2/20):	Performativity of Place, Space, Scale
Week 6 (2/27):	Embodying the Nation-State; The Performative State
Week 7 (3/6):	Citizenship/Statelessness
Week 8 (3/13):	Asylum Seeking/Domopolitics
Spring Recess, March 18 – 26	
Week 9 (3/27):	Spaces of Exception
Week 10 (4/3):	Geographies of Resistance
Week 11 (4/10):	Globalization, Governmentality and New Spaces of Citizenship?
Week 12 (4/17):	The Nation-State Strikes Back! Rising Nativism and Anti-Globalism in the 21 st Century
Week 13 (4/24):	Student Presentations
Week 14 (5/1):	Student Presentations

DEADLINES!

February 27: Paper Proposals Due in Class
April 24: Papers Due in Class

DETAILED SCHEDULE

Week 1 (1/23)	Introducing Power, Place, Identity
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- Readings:** Lynn Staeheli, "Place," in *A Companion to Political Geography*, J. Agnew et al., eds (Oxford: Blackwell, 2003), 158-170.
- Joe Painter, 2015. "Power," in *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Political Geography*, J. Agnew et al., eds (NY: John Wiley and Sons, 2015), pp. 144-151.
- Doreen Massey, 2004. "Geographies of responsibility," *Geografiska Annaler* 86 (1): 5-18.
- M Foucault, *Power* (NY: The New Press), "The subject and power," and "Space, knowledge and power," pp. 326-364.
- Jonathan Darling, 2009. "Thinking beyond place: The responsibility of a relational spatial politics," *Geography Compass* 3 (5): 1938-1954.

Week 2 (1/30)	Identity as Practice/Narrative; Geographies of Identity and Difference
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- Readings:** Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper, "Beyond 'identity'," *Theory and Society* 29, 1 (2000): 1-47.
- Margaret Somers, "The narrative constitution of identity: A relational and network approach," *Theory and Society* 23 (1994): 605-49.
- Geraldine Pratt, "Geographies of identity and difference: marking boundaries, in *Human Geography Today*, edited by D. Massey et al. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1999), chapter 8 (151-67).
- Wolfgang Natter and John P. Jones III, "Identity, space, and other uncertainties," in *Space and Social Theory*, edited by G. Benko and U. Strohmayer (Oxford: Blackwell), pp. 140-61.

Week 3 (2/6)	Territorializations: B/Ordering Space
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- Readings:** David Newman and A. Paasi, "Fences and neighbors in the postmodern world: boundary narratives in political geography," *Progress in Human Geography*, vol. 22, no. 2 (1998): 186 - 207.
- Etienne Balibar, *We, the People of Europe?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), chapter 1 (1-10).
- Reece Jones, "Categories, borders and boundaries," *Progress in Human Geography*, 33 (2009): 174-189.
- Louise Amoore, "Biometric borders: governing mobilities in the war on terror," *Political Geography*, 25 (2006): 336-51.
- Stuart Elden, *The Birth of Territory*, Introduction.

- Recommended:** Anssi Paasi, "The changing discourses on political boundaries," in *B/Ordering Space*, edited by Henk van Houtum et al. (Ashgate, 2005), chapter 1 (17-31).
- M. Coleman, "U.S. statecraft and the US-Mexico border as security/economy nexus," *Political Geography*, 24 (2005): 185-209.
- Madeleine Reeves, "Travels in the margins of the state: everyday geography in the Ferghana Valley borderlands, in *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, ed. By J Sahadeo and R Zanca (Indiana UP, 2007).

Week 4 (2/13)	Performativity: B/Ordering Identities
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- Readings:** Butler, J. *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of 'Sex'* (New York, Routledge: 1993), Introduction, Chapters 7 and 8.
- Lise Nelson, "Engaging Butler: Subjects, Cernment, and the Ongoing Limits of Performativity," in M Glass and R Rose-Redwood, eds., *Performativity, Politics and the Production of Social Space* (NY and London: Routledge, 2014), pp. 62-94.

Week 5 (2/20)	Performativity of Place, Space and Scale
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- Readings:** R Rose-Redwood and M Glass, "Introduction: Geographies of Performativity," in M Glass and R Rose-Redwood, eds., *Performativity, Politics and the Production of Social Space* (NY and London: Routledge, 2014), pp. 1-34.
- Nicky Gregson and Gillian Rose (2000) 'Taking Butler elsewhere: performativities, spatialities and subjectivities', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, vol. 18, no. 4, pp. 433-52.
- Robert Kaiser and Elena Nikiforova, "The performativity of scale: the social construction of scale effects in Narva, Estonia, *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 26 (2008): 537-562.
- Mary Thomas, "I think it's just natural': the spatiality of racial segregation in a US high school," *Environment and Planning A*, vol. 37, no. 7 (2005): 1233 - 1248.

- Recommended:** Gillian Rose, "Performing space," in *Human Geography Today*.
- Harris, L. "Irrigation, Gender, and the Social Geographies of the Changing Waterscapes in Southeastern Anatolia." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 24 (2006): 187-213.
- Thomas, M. "Pleasure and propriety: teen girls and the practice of

straight space.” *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 22(2004): 773 -789.

Secor, A. “Belaboring gender: the spatial practice of work and the politics of 'making do' in Istanbul.” *Environment and Planning A* 35 (2003): 2209 - 2227.

Week 6 (2/27) Embodying the Nation-State; The Performative State

Readings: Alison Mountz, “Embodying the nation-state,” *Political Geography* 23 (2004): 323-45.
Tim Mitchell, “Society, economy and the state effect,” in *State/Culture*, edited by G Steinmetz (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1999), pp. 76-97.
Other readings TBA

PAPER PROPOSALS DUE IN CLASS

Week 7 (3/6) Citizenship/Statelessness

Readings: V Redclift, *Statelessness and Citizenship: Camps and the Creation of Political Space* (NY and London: Routledge, 2013), Chapters 1-2.
M Somers, *Genealogies of Citizenship: Markets, Statelessness, and the Right to Have Rights* (Cambridge UP, 2008), Chapter 3.
R Kaiser, “Performativity, events and becoming stateless,” in *Performativity, Politics, and the Social Production of Space*, edited by R. Rose-Redwood and M Glass (London and NY: Routledge, 2014), pp. 121-143.
P Nyers, “The accidental citizen: acts of sovereignty and (un)making citizenship,” *Economy and Society* 35 (2006): 22-41.
W Walters, “Deportation, expulsion and the international police of aliens,” *Citizenship Studies* 6 (2002): 265-292.

Week 8 (3/13) Asylum Seeking/Domopolitics

Readings: W. Walters 2004. “Secure borders, safe havens, domopolitics,” *Citizenship Studies* 8 (3): 237-260.
Didier Bigo, 2002. “Security and immigration: toward a critique of the governmentality of unease,” *Alternatives* 27 (special issue): 63-92.
Matthew Sparke, 2006. “A neoliberal nexus: economy, security and the biopolitics of citizenship on the border,” *Political Geography* 25: 151-80.
P Nyers, “Abject cosmopolitanism,” *Third World Quarterly* 24 (2003): 1069-1093.

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 18-26

Week 9 (3/27) Spaces of Exception

- Readings:** G Agamben, selected readings.
A Mountz, "Stateless by geographic design," in *Seeking Asylum* (Minnesota UP, 2010), Chapter 5.
D. Martin 2015. "From spaces of exception to 'campscapes': Palestinian refugee camps and informal settlements in Beirut," *Political Geography* 44: 9-18.
D. Gregory 2006. "The Black Flag: Guantánamo Bay and the Space of Exception," *Geografiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geography* 88 (4): 405-427.

Week 10 (4/3) Geographies of Resistance

- Readings:** W Walters, "No borders, games with(out) frontiers," *Social Justice* 33 (2006): 21-39.
P Nyers, "No one is illegal between city and nation," *Studies in Social Justice* 4 (2010): 127-143.
Lise Nelson, "Decentering the movement: collective action, place and the 'sedimentation' of radical political discourses," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 21 (2003): 559-81.
L Cadman 2010. "How (not) to be governed," *EPD: Society and Space* 28: 539-556.
S. Pieck 2013. "To be led differently: neoliberalism, road construction and counter-conducts in Peru," *Geoforum* 64: 304-313.
Mitch Rose, "The seductions of resistance: power, politics, and a performative style of systems," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, vol. 20 (2002): 383-400.

- Recommended:** James Scott, *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday forms of Peasant Resistance* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985).
Steve Pile and Michael Keith, eds., *Geographies of Resistance* (London and NY: Routledge, 1997).

Week 11 (4/10) Globalization, Governmentality and New Spaces of Citizenship?

- Readings:** Wendy Larner and William Walters, "Globalization as governmentality," *Alternatives*, 29 (2004): 495-514.
Erik Swyngedouw, "Governance innovation and the citizen: the Janus face of governance-beyond-the-state," *Urban Studies*, 42, 11 (2005): 1991-2006.

- Katharyne Mitchell, "Neoliberal governmentality in the European Union: education, training, and technologies of citizenship," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 24 (2006): 389-407.
- Cheryl McEwan, "New spaces of citizenship? Rethinking gendered participation and empowerment in South Africa," *Political Geography*, 24 (2005): 969-91.
- Luke Desforges, "The formation of global citizenship: international non-governmental organizations in Britain," *Political Geography*, 23 (2004): 549-69.
- Ulf Hedetoft, "Constructions of Europe: territoriality, sovereignty, identity," in *Territoriality in the Globalizing Society*, pp. 153-71.

Week 12 (4/17)	The Nation-State Strikes Back! Nativism and Anti-Globalism in the 21st Century
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- Readings:** M Foucault, *Society Must Be Defended!* Select Chapters.
Ghassan Hage, "The spatial imaginary of national practices: dwelling-domesticating/being-extminating," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 14 (1996): 463-85.
Other readings TBA.

Weeks 13-14 (4/24, 5/1)	STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS
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PAPERS DUE IN CLASS 4/24.

ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL TOPICS:

Sites Of Memory - Cultural Politics Of Memoryscapes
Race, Space, Race Wars (Society Must Be Defended!)
Homeland Politics - Geographies of Nationalism
Governmentality and Biopolitics
Politics of Scale