

Carleton University
Department of Political Science
Political Science 5915A

Politics, Law and Space
Summer 2013

Instructor: Mathew Coleman
Email: coleman.373@osu.edu

In this seminar we will explore how political geographers have conceptualized the law as a socio-spatial problem. We will start the course by working our way through signal 1980s and 1990s “legal geography” scholarship, heavily influenced by “law and society” research in Sociology, Critical Legal Studies, and Criminology. We will read work by Nick Blomley, Gordon Clark, David Delaney, Richard Ford, Audrey Kobayashi, and others. We will then move on to consider more recent political theory focused specifically on the traffic between law and violence, or what is sometimes called “the force of law without law”. We will read work from Giorgio Agamben, Judith Butler, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Elizabeth Povinelli, and Carl Schmitt. Our task will be to consider what impact recent theorizations of “states of exception”, “biopolitics”, and “abandonment” have had on the study of law in political geography. We will pay particular attention to recent feminist geography scholarship on the problem of embodiment (or lack thereof) in the “states of exception” literature.