CARLETON UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE

GEOGRAPHY 5400/ INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 5402, FALL 2009

"TERRITORY AND TERRITORIALITY"

Schedule: Seminars on Monday, 14:35-17:25, B220 Loeb

Professor: Simon Dalby, Office: B450B Loeb, Phone: 520-2600 x 8741
Email: simon_dalby@carleton.ca   URL: www.carleton.ca/~sdalby

Office Hours: Mondays 13:00-14:00, or by appointment.

Geopolitical changes at the end of the cold war challenged then conventional notions of the importance of boundaries and territories in the political organization of (post) modernity. Shifting political identities after the cold war were no less dramatic; new states appeared regularly; often justified in terms of self-determination. The concurrent debate about globalization was in part one about the new geographies of politics and culture as well as recognition of the new economic realities of the times. Academic studies of territoriality and boundaries have evolved to reflect and analyze these changing geopolitical patterns and processes. But now too the capabilities of territorially defined political entities seem ever more doubtful in the face of processes of urbanization, globalisation, the “war on terror” and contemporary militarization.

Critical thinking of many forms – poststructural, feminist and post-colonial only most obviously – have engaged the assumptions of stable territorial political identities and suggested that spatial assumptions are part of what need to be investigated if scholars are to unravel the complexities of contemporary forms of violence, culture, economy and politics. The ethics of inter-cultural dialogue are set in the contexts of boundaries and immigration, diasporic politics and mobile subjectivities. Interdisciplinary investigations of all these things have repeatedly queried the spatial premises of contemporary political thinking; in doing so the territorial specifications of politics are repeatedly put in question.

Objectives:
This course investigates territoriality as a political and intellectual strategy through an investigation of contemporary writings on international relations, geopolitics, security, war, sovereignty, ethics and identity politics. To do so it draws on the contemporary literature in international relations, political geography and more generally on literature in contemporary social and political theory. The first portion of the course will examine theoretical issues drawing from geographical, international relations and social theory literatures. Subsequently these theoretical perspectives will be used to interrogate specific topics selected by course participants for seminar presentations.

Course Evaluation:
Participation and seminar presentation 40%; paper 60%. (Participation will be judged on the basis of thoughtful contributions to the weekly discussion and a single page commentary on the assigned readings submitted at the beginning of the seminar each week.)
REQUIRED TEXTS

Ronnie Lipschutz The Constitution of Imperium Boulder: Paradigm 2009. (Available in Carleton University Bookstore). All the other required readings for this course are journal articles available online through Carleton University Library. Please also note there are resources related to this course in the NPSIA reading room, DT1326.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SEMINAR TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week 1. (14 September) Introduction and Orientation

Week 2. (21 September) Knowing Spaces

Week 3. (28 September) Imperial Cartographies: Mapping Territories
Reece Jones “Geopolitical boundary narratives, the global war on terror and border fencing in India” Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers NS 34: 2009. 290–304.

Week 5. (5 October) War, States and Security
Justin V. Hastings “Geographies of state failure and sophistication in maritime piracy hijackings” Political Geography 2009. (in press)

Week 6 (12 October) Statutory holiday, University closed, no seminar.

Week 7 (19 October) Geopolitics and ‘Imperium’
(Class probably will be rescheduled to Thursday 15 October)
Week 8. (26 October) Global Society?
(Deadline to finalize readings/seminar topics and schedule for weeks 10-13)

Week 9. (2 November) Ethics and Geography

Weeks 10, 11, 12, 13 (9, 16, 23, 30 November) Student Presentations/Discussions

Week 14 (7 December) Conclusion (Course wrap up, paper deadline, evaluations etc.)

GRADES AND EVALUATION

Participation: This is an important component of this course, the seminar will only work as a venue to explore the difficult issues raised by contemporary literature on territoriality if there is sustained dialogue among all students. The weekly single sheet commentary on the required readings is designed to focus attention on the key issues in the readings and to provide a vehicle for clarifying questions and comments to be raised in the seminar. It may be written as a series of questions, comments, meditations or personal reflections on the readings. It will not be formally graded but students will be notified if their contributions are not adequately coming to terms with the themes in the literature.

As part of the participation component of the course students will also be expected to respond to each other's presentations in the latter part of the course; students will be assigned to briefly respond to two presentations by posing the presenter a number of prepared questions.

Seminar presentations: Presentations will, so far as possible, be grouped into thematically logical clusters, so that presentations on similar themes will occur on the same day. They may offer a critical interrogation of a particular text, or deal more broadly with the application of the theories discussed in the first half of the course to some particular historical or contemporary problem involving territorial claims or conflicts. Each presenter is responsible for selecting their own topic, and for selecting one reading that acts as background and/or theoretical
contextualization for the presentation. These have to be selected early enough so that they can
be made available for reading in advance of the presentation. A single page outline of the
presentation should be circulated in the seminar during the presentation. Presentations must be
focused and to the point; they ought to be ten minutes long. They will be strictly limited to
twelve minutes to allow plenty of discussion time.

Papers: Papers, which may be an elaborated version of the seminar presentation, are open to
any empirical or theoretical issue that is germane to the course themes. The key requirement for
an acceptable paper for this course is that the theoretical material on territoriality is put to work
in the paper to interrogate some historical or contemporary theme. Theoretical papers on the
themes of territory, territoriality and related matters of international relations, geopolitics and
social theory are also acceptable.

Papers must be original, in that they will be written specifically for this course. They will
be clearly organized and articulate a coherent theme or argument. They must use the appropriate
literature and sources that would normally be expected for a scholarly paper being prepared for
publication. They will be approximately 5,000, but no longer than 6,000 words in length,
correctly and completely referenced, using any one of the standard academic reference or
footnoting styles. Each of these factors will be taken into consideration in evaluating the paper.
Deadline: 7 December in class.

Note on Institutional Offences and Academic Accommodations

Students are requested to read the section ‘Instructional Offences’ in the University’s Graduate
Calendar and in the case of NPSIA students, appropriate material in the NPSIA Information
Package. Cheating, plagiarism and/or complementarity will be severely penalised. Penalties
range from a zero mark to expulsion or suspension from studies at the University. The University
Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of
ideas or work of others as one’s own.”

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to
contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the
necessary letters of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to
meet and discuss your needs with me. This is necessary in order to ensure sufficient time to
make the necessary arrangements. Please note the deadlines for submitting completed forms to
the Paul Mention Centre.
BACKGROUND READING

The discussions in this course draw on a wide variety of intellectual sources in many disciplines. Various editions of *The Dictionary of Human Geography* may provide useful geographical reference material. The special double issue of *Theory, Culture & Society* 23(2&3), May 2006 containing their new "encyclopedia" may be helpful for many aspects of contemporary social theory.

