GEOG 211: Political and Economic Geography
University of Victoria, Winter Term 2022
Monday & Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:20am

Room: Cornett A221
Instructor: Neil Nunn
Office: DTB B208
Office Hours: Monday & Thurs 11:30-12:30pm
(or by appointment)

Email: neil.j.nunn@gmail.com
(basic questions only; please use
office hours for other inquiries)

Teaching Assistants:
Mack Ross (DTB 206, office hours TBD) Email: mackross97@gmail.com
Lab Sections: B02 (Wednesday 10:30-12:20, DTB B307) & B03 (Wednesday 2:30-4:20, DTB B307)
Chris Fortney (DTB B331, office hours TBD) Email: cfortney@uvic.ca
Lab Sections: B01 (Wednesday 2:30, DTB B307) & B04 (Friday 12:30-2:20 DTB B307)

Course Description:
What are the dominant political and economic structures that shape the world today? How do these structures operate and with what effects? How to respond to the harms of political and economic structures in their wake? This course examines the co-constitutive relationship between political (power) and economic (production-consumption-exchange) geographies. We explore political and economic processes through a spatial and historic lens and consider how to address various pressing global and regional challenges. The year 1492, the beginning of early modernism, provides a point of departure to think about a global spread of dominant economic and political systems, ideologies, and material processes that shape the world. The subdisciplines of cultural, physical, environmental, historical, and (of course) political and economic geography, provide a lens to consider how political and economic processes operate within such topics as: pipeline politics; colonial reconciliation; environmental justice (e.g. climate change, collapsing salmon population, mass mine-waste disasters); slavery and mass incarceration in the US; and the production, consumption, and disavowal of nonhuman animal lives. The central objective of this class is for you to develop a firm grasp of key concepts and frameworks, but more importantly, to think about these political and economic processes relationally, that is, always embedded within an expansive web of relationships.

Course Objectives:
My aims as a course instructor are to help you develop the skills to

• think relationally about how political and economic systems shape collective life
• apply aspects of political and economic geography to your lives outside the classroom
• carefully examine and critique the political and economic aspects of the world around you, while learning to mobilize critique in practical and meaningful ways
• engage a diversity of voices, perspectives, and worldviews to come to a richer understanding of the political and economic geographies
• develop verbal communication, concise writing, careful reading, and critical thinking skills
• learn to engage in difficult discussions carefully, openly, and with respect to maximize the potential to learn from the experiences of your classmates

The Class Environment:
Classroom spaces are produced collectively. Given this, it is your responsibility to:
(1) read/listen to the specified materials and to come to class prepared to engage with the related lecture content.
(2) participate in creating an open, and respectfully environment for learning. Some of the material covered in this course will be unsettling and could be upsetting. An important aspect of this course will be to confront and work through discomfort together through open conversation. It is important that we create a classroom space that is both challenging and safe. Please feel free to come and speak with me after class, during office hours, or by email, if you are ever uncomfortable in this class for any reason.

Texting or using your cell phones for anything other than emergency situations is not permitted. You may use your computer to take notes, but do not use the Internet unless it is for class related purposes. When students engage in non-class related activities in class it is distracting to those around you and compromises your learning experience. From experience I have found that students learn more and enjoy class more when they are present with the lecture.

Evaluation:
Lecture attendance: 5%
Mid term quiz I: 10%
Mid term quiz II: 10%
Assignment one (precise summary of research topic for final paper, one page single spaced): 10%
Assignment two (final research essay, 7-8 pages double spaced): 25%
Final take home exam: 15%
Lab evaluation
Attendance: 5%
Critical reflection and sit spot journal 1: 10%
Critical reflection and sit spot journal 2: 10%

The Readings and Course Materials:
There is no textbook assigned for this class. The reading list is drawn from academic journal articles, book chapters, and web-based material. Readings will be uploaded to Course Space (CS). As an alternative, you can access journal articles and some book chapters through the Library’s online search database. Web-based readings can be accessed with URLs provided in the syllabus and Brightspace. Podcasts can be most easily found by searching the title in your phone’s podcast app, or your usual internet search engine. If you are unable to access any of the materials please get in touch with your TA or me.

Class Schedule and Required Readings:
Readings will be folded into lectures. Lectures will include additional cases and details. We will be discussing the readings and podcasts in labs. The lecture slides will be posted online, however in-person class attendance is required to gain full context from lectures.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weekly topic and reading</th>
<th>Lab Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Course introductions</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 17 &amp; 20</td>
<td>Exploring political and economic geographies</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Modernity I: Modernity and “Man”</td>
<td>Lab 1: TBD</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 27 &amp; 30</td>
<td>Modernity II: Slavery and legacies of slavery in the US</td>
<td>Lab 2: TBD</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 31 &amp; Feb 3</td>
<td>Modernity III: settler colonialism, genocidal relations, and ecological devastation</td>
<td>Lab 3: TBD</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 7 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Climate change and a politics of devastation</td>
<td>Lab 4: TBD</td>
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Assignment 1 due Friday (Feb 11th) 10 pm on Brightspace
Midterm quiz 1 Feb 10 at beginning of class

| Week 7 | Reading week (Feb 21-25) No lecture, enjoy! | No Lab |
| Week 8 | Rethinking politics, rethinking economies: Indigenous law | Lab 5: TBD |
| Week 9 | Sovereignty and resource extraction: Pipeline politics and the Uni’sto’ten land defense | Lab 6: TBD |
| Week 10 | Canadian politics 101 & lobbying, and agency/regulatory capture | Lab 7: TBD |
| | Mid term quiz 2 March 17 | |
| Week 11 | Black BC & political and economic displacement in Vancouver | Lab 8: TBD |
Week 12
March 28 & 31

The political and economic erasure of animal life: ‘Trophy’ Documentary


Podcast: NYT’s Still Processing “Frosted Flakes” (April 9, 2021)

Week 13
April 4 & 7

Reconciling and repairing modernist political and economic legacies


April 7th take home final exam given to students.
Final paper due via Brightspace Friday April 8th (10pm)

Evaluation and assignment descriptions:

Lecture Attendance (5%) lecture attendance will count towards 5% of your grade. If you aren’t able to make it to class throughout the semester and would like to make up this mark, let me know in advance and I will be happy to accommodate this.

Mid-term open book quiz 1 and 2 (10% each): Throughout the semester we will have 2 open book online quizzes. The quiz will be 20 multiple choice or true or false questions in 15 minutes. The questions should seem straightforward if you have attended all lectures, engaged all course materials, and keep your reading and lectures notes well organized.

Lab Attendance (5%) lab attendance will count toward 5% of your grade. If you have to miss (a) lab(s) throughout the semester and would like to make up this mark, let your TA know in advance and we can arrange an accommodation to make up these marks.

Critical reflection and sit spot journal 1 and 2 (10% each): part of your lab requirements you will be asked to practice a sit spot in a “natural” setting. Twice throughout the semester you will be asked to submit a journal from your sit spot, and a one page reflection that will invite you to think about your sit spot in relation to ideas and materials from class.

Assignments 1 and 2: The course will include two writing assignments and two coinciding peer-review sessions. Each of the assignments are intended build on each other in preparation for the final paper. General details for these assignments are below. For both assignments, you will pick
a topic(s) of your choice that is reflective of an interconnection between political and economic process in the context of North America. It is important that the political and economic processes figure largely in the final paper, with a sustained discussion about why your topic is both political and economic. We will discuss each of these assignments in greater detail in class.

Assignment 1 (10%). This assignment is a summary of your final paper. Here you will summarize the main ideas and arguments for the paper you will be handing in for the final assignment. A key element of this will be developing and clearly highlighting the central thesis for your paper. Think of it as a detailed summary of your future paper. This means this assignment will be more than a proposal. Therefore, you should not explain what you plan to do, rather what you are doing your final paper. This assignment will give you the chance to: (a.) properly outline your paper well in advance of the final deadline, (b.) think about how you are presenting your assignment (title, intro section, thesis statement, subsequent sections that support your thesis statement, conclusion), (c.) think about how you will support and carry out what you are putting forward in your thesis.

The elements I would like you to include:
1) A hook: I want you to experiment with one (or more) catchy opening sentence (have fun, be creative)
2) An introduction section that highlights a thesis statement
3) Road map/outline of the essay and a summary of the sections you will include in your essay. E.g. “I will support my thesis by doing three things...”. This will include a detailed outline of the paper and a summary of what the component parts are of each section. Given this, this assignment will take a lot of groundwork to think about how your final paper will be structured.
4) Conclusion. Some helpful strategies for building a strong conclusion include: (a.) The (infamous) “so what?” or “why is this topic important?” question. (b.) Return to the theme/themes in the introduction: come full circle, use key words, ideas, concepts from the introduction. Show your reader how it all fits together. (c.) Orient to the future: propose a course of action, a solution to an issue, or questions for further study.
5) Citations: a significant amount of research will be required for this assignment. Drawing on scholarly research and using proper in-text APA citation is a requirement. You will need to include at least 5 in-text peer-review and/or scholarly citations. Materials such as magazines, news articles, and reports can be used, but they will not count toward your 5 mandatory sources.

This assignment should be, 500-700 words, 1.5 spaced, 12-point font.

Assignment 2 (25%): This 6-7 page (double spaced) research essay (1500-1800 words), will ideally be an expansion of topic you have developed in the previous assignment. The topic must reflects and discussio both political and economic processes and geographies. This assignment is intended to demonstrate your research and writing skills, and academic knowledge of a subject, while drawing in understandings of political and economic processes from class. While assignment 1 is meant to convince the audience of the value of a research project, this research essay can be thought of as the finished product. Drawing on original peer-reviewed scholarly research and using proper in-text APA citation is mandatory for this assignment.

Take home final exam (15%, questions given to class April 2, deadline TBD): The final exam will challenge you to draw variously on course materials and answer 2 long answer questions (400-600 words) based on larger themes from the class. The exam will draw on materials from the entire term. I will highlight important points to note throughout the term and will provide a list of topics that will be examined in the first week, therefore, the questions given for the exam should not come as a surprise. In order to achieve the level of synthesis required for doing well in
this exam it is important that you keep up with, keep an organized database of, and fully engage with lecture, labs, and readings.

Marking rubric for each of the written assignments

Following instructions (20%). Did the student follow the instructions carefully?

Clarity and quality of writing (20%). Is the assignment concise, clear, and easy to read? Does the assignment demonstrate evidence of thorough editing? (For these assignments clarity is key; clarity is achieved with lots of editing).

Grammar and spelling (20%). Are there many simple grammatical mistakes throughout the piece? Does the piece demonstrate evidence of ample grammatical editing?

Informative and organized (20%). Is the piece informative? Does it clearly outline the answers posed in the assignment? Are the ideas written into sentences and paragraphs that are well organized and make sense for clearly communicating your ideas? Has the student thought about their topic in unique and critical ways?

Topic chosen (20%). Does it seem like the topic matters to the student? Does it feel like the student has put significant thought into engaging topics? Has the student presented the ideas in a way that is relevant to the course material?

Grading system as per the Academic Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade point value</th>
<th>Grade scale</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>85-89%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>80-84%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65-69%</td>
<td>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60-64%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50-59%</td>
<td>Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-49%</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-49%</td>
<td>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.</td>
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GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will be penalized at 5%/day unless arrangement with the instructor is made prior to or on the day of the deadline. A “day of lateness” is each 24 hour period following the day/time the assignment was expected to be handed in. An assignment that is handed in after the specified time will be considered late.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
It is every student’s responsibility to be aware of the university’s policies on academic integrity, including policies on cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat.
Policy on Academic Integrity: web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html
If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php.

ACCESSIBILITY:
Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/). The RCSD staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

POSITIVITY AND SAFETY:
The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC:
UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119
Phone: 250.721.8021
Email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca
Web: uvic.ca/svp

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES):
I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

DISCLAIMER:
The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

NOTE: A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You
are not alone.
Counselling Services - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students. uvic.ca/services/counselling/
Health Services - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. uvic.ca/services/health/
Centre for Accessible Learning - The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations uvic.ca/services/cal/. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.
Elders' Voices - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php

Further course readings: