

The University of Oklahoma

College of Continuing Education

Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:

Seminar in Human Geography: Geopolitics of Natural Resources

Course Number:

GEOG 6220-221

Course Description:

Conflict over natural resources more than likely dates to the early days of warfare when Neanderthals fought over prime hunting and gathering grounds. As new technologies have changed both *what is a resource* and how resources *are exchanged and controlled*, the potential for conflict over resources has greatly expanded. Pressures on resources have increased with the planet's population thus placing greater strain on many finite resources.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: January 17-22, 2012
Location: Aviano AB, Italy. Classroom location to be determined.
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 19, 2011

Site Director:

Amy Negron. Phone 39-0434-30-5977; DSN: 6322-5977. E-mail: apaviano@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Dr. Darren Purcell
Mailing Address: 100 East Boyd St., SEC 684,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-9193
Fax Number: (405) 325-6090
E-mail Address : dpurcell@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

1. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at <http://learn.ou.edu>; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Course Objectives:

This set of readings explores the definitions of natural resources, the types of pressures on resources and the global political economic conditions governing their use, and the possible conflicts and solutions facing people in the near future.

Course Outline:

January 17th Geopolitics from the Geographer's View

- Chapters 1 and 2 – Agnew, John (2002) “How Political Geography is Made” in *Making Political Geography*. New York: Arnold Publishers.
- Chapters 2 and 3 – Cohen, Saul B. (2009) *Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations, Second Edition*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

January 18th Resource Curses?

- Auty, R. (2004) “Natural Resources and Civil Strife: A Two-Stage Process” in *Geopolitics*. 9:1, 29-49
- Watts, M. (2004) “Resource Curse? Governmentality, Oil and Power in the Niger Delta.” in *Geopolitics*. 9:1, 50-80.
- Ali, S. (2006) “VIEW: Curing the resource curse.” *Daily Times*.
http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2006\08\12\story_12-8-2006_pg3_3
- Faris, S. (2007) “Fool’s Gold.” *Foreign Policy*.
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3914
- Le Billon, P.(2001) “The Political Ecology of War: Natural Resources and Armed Conflicts.”

January 20th Resource Curses? (Part II)

- Aspinall, E. (2007) “The Construction of Grievance: Natural Resources and Identity in a Separatist Conflict.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.
- Fjelde, H. (2009) “Buying Peace? Oil Wealth, Corruption and Civil War, 1985-99” *Journal of Peace Research*. 46:199-218.
- Brass, J. (2008) “Djibouti’s Unusual Resource Curse” *Journal of Modern African Studies*. 46 (4): 523-545.

January 21st Morning Session - Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend?

- Snyder, R. (2006) “Does Lootable Wealth Breed Disorder? A Political Economy of Extraction Framework.” In *Comparative Political Studies*. 39:943-968.
- Wilson, S. (2009) Sierra Leone’s Illicit Diamonds: the Challenges and the Way Forward.” *GeoJournal*. DOI 10.1007/s10708-009-9321-6
- Le Billon, P. and Levin, E. (2009) “Building Peace with Conflict Diamonds? Merging Security and Development in Sierra Leone.” In *Development and Change*. 40(4): 693-715.

Afternoon Session - Oil/Energy

- Stent, A. (2008) “An Energy Superpower? Russia and Europe.” In *The Global Politics of Energy*. Washington, D.C.:The Aspen Institute
- Klare, M. (2009) Selections from *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet: The New Geopolitics of Energy*. New York: Holt Publishing.

January 22nd Morning Session – Water

- Gleick, P. (1993) “Water and Conflict: Fresh Water Resources and International Security.” *International Security*, 18(1):79-112.
- Swyngedouw, E. (2009) “The Political Economy and Political Ecology of the Hydro-Social Cycle.” *Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education*. 142:56-60.
- Wolf, A. (2009). “A Long Term View of Water and International Security.” *Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education*. 142:67-75.
- Selby, J. (2005) “The Geopolitics of Water in the Middle East: Fantasies and Realities” *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 26 (2): 329-349

Afternoon Session – The Future and Methods: How do we Study and Prevent Natural Resource Conflict.

- O’Lear, S. and Diehl, P. (2007) 'Not Drawn to Scale: Research on Resource and Environmental Conflict', *Geopolitics*, 12: 1, 166-182
- Buhaug, H.(2007) 'The Future is More than Scale: A Reply to Diehl and O'Lear', *Geopolitics*, 12: 1, 192-199
- Ebinger, C. and Zambetakis, E. (2009) “The Geopolitics of Arctic Melt.” *International Affairs*. 85:6, 1215-1232.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Paper 1

30% of the grade. Due first day of class, 3-4 page reaction essay addressing the following questions: After reading chapters by Agnew and Cohen, outline the differences in their approaches to understanding geopolitics and address the idea that one approach may be better for understanding the causes of natural resource conflict. Your answer should identify which perspective you think is superior in this regard and clearly argue why you come to this conclusion. Please upload this to the Dropbox found on the Desire to Learn site for the course.

Discussion Board

10% of the grade - Over the two week course period, I will pose several questions for consideration by the students. Students must post a comment on each set of questions AND to at least one other post in the topic thread. Students will be evaluated on the quality of the contribution in addition to complying with the minimum number of post. Please note, the instructor will also be posting. Feel free to chime in on peers’ or Instructor posts.

Final Exam

20 %of the grade – Exam will cover key ideas from the course readings. This will be a take-home exam with one week to complete the exam. This should be submitted to the electronic dropbox on Desire to Learn.

Research Paper

30 % of the grade. Due 21 days after end of the class. This will be a research paper; the topic will be of your own choice to explore an issue related to the course theme. Students may form groups or work as individuals. Group work will be evaluated differently than individual projects. See Desire to Learn for the “Writing Guide” file along with some suggested topics. The topic must be approved by the instructor before the class meetings end, but can be approved before the class actually starts for the go-getters in the class.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and ... [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the [student code](#) of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the "Student's Guide to Academic Integrity" found at <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>

Accommodation Statement

The [College of Continuing Education](#) [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Darren Purcell, Ph.D.

Education

- BA, Geography, University of Kentucky (1991)
- MA, Geography, University of Kentucky (1996)
- Ph.D., Geography, Florida State University (2003)

Current Positions

- Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma, Dept. of Geography (2005-Present)
- Affiliate Faculty, School of International and Area Studies, Univ. of Oklahoma
- Advanced Programs professor since 2006

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- Graduate Seminar in Human Geography – Geographies of Cyberspace and the Information Economy
- Graduate Seminar in Economic Geography – Geographies of Money and International Finance
- Graduate Seminar in human Geography – Geopolitics in the Information Age.

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Regional Specialization – Central and Eastern Europe, Former Soviet Union.
- Thematic Specializations – Political Geography, Geopolitics, Economic Geography, Communications.

Representative Publications and Presentations

- Anaz, N. and Purcell, D. (2010) “Geopolitics of Entertainment: An Audience Responds in the Case of Valley of the Wolves-Iraq.” *Arab World Geographer*,. 13(1): 34-49.
- Longan, M. and Purcell, D. (2010) Facebook as Social Mega-Engineering” In Brunn, S. And Wood, A. (eds.) *Engineering Earth*.
- Purcell, D; Brown, M. and Gokmen, M. (2010) “Achmed the Dead Terrorist and Humor in Popular Geopolitics”. *GeoJournal*.
- Purcell, D. and Champion, A. (2007) “E-government and Slovenia’s Multiple Transitions.” In *E-Government in Europe: Rebooting the state*. Paul Nixon, and Vassiliki Koutrakou, (eds.) Routledge.
- Purcell, D. (2005) “The Military in the Noosphere: NCT Adoption and Website Development in the Slovenian Ministry of Defense” *Information, Communication and Society*. 8(2):194-216.
- Purcell, D. and Cobb, S. (2004) “Geographies of Cooperative Finance: A Case Study of Florida Credit Unions” *The Industrial Geographer*. 2(1):49-71.
- Purcell, D. (2003) “*Terra Incognita*: Mapping the Causes of Geopolitical Realities.” *Political Geography*. 22(1):43-47.
- Purcell, D. and Kodras, J. (2001) “Information Technologies, Representational Spaces, and the Marginal State: Redrawing the Balkan Image of Slovenia.” *Information, Communications and Society*. 4(3): 1-29.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- 2011 – National Council for Geographic Education, Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award.
- 2009 – Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award, OU Campus.
- 2006 – Most Inspiring Faculty, Student-Athlete Academic Council

Major Professional Affiliations

- Association of American Geographers
- Southwestern Association of American Geographers
- Association of Internet Researchers
- National Council for Geographic Education
- International Communications Association