

PSIR 403: Political and Economic Geography

(undergraduate level, mandatory)

Department of Political Science and Philosophy, Fall 2021

Khazar University

6 ECTS credits, 15 Weeks, 60 hours

Classroom / hours: 41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus), Room 405 N

Mondays: 13:40-15:10 / 15:20-16:50

Instructor: Farid Guliyev, PhD

Office: 511 (old building)

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Office Hours:

Tuesdays, 11:00-13:00 and by appointment

Course description

Political and Economic Geography (PEG) explores the connections between political power, economy and geographical dimensions. This course introduces students to the key topics in PEG including the following: states and territories, various concepts of modern state, the sources of government legitimacy, the emergence of modern states in Europe and beyond, the concept of political institutions and political institutionalization, resources and demographic growth, limits to economic growth, and geopolitical theories of inter-state relations.

Course objectives

- provide an overview of different approaches to key concepts in the field of study
- introduce a variety of theoretical debates from relevant scholarly literature
- explore the complex relationships between political power, space and economic resources

Learning outcomes:

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- gain a familiarity with a variety of perspectives to key debates in the field PEG;
- sharpen their understanding of different approaches to the major themes of the course;
- learn and be able to debate about some of the key analytical approaches used in PEG research.

Course requirements

Students are expected to attend all lecture and seminar sessions, to do the assigned readings before class meetings, and to participate actively in class discussions. The final grade will be based on attendance (10%), midterm exam (30%), two one-question checks (10% each), and final exam (40%). Failure to take an exam without a duly authorized written medical excuse will result in 0 points for that exam/ assignment. You are required to inform the instructor about your absence or family emergency *at least 2 workdays in advance* (no excuse will be granted retrospectively). Participation in a conference or other similar event is not a valid excuse.

Two “one question checks” (30 min, in-class) will be used to assess whether the student acquired the intended knowledge and skills. Performance will be graded using the following evaluation scheme: “excellent” (A to A-), “good” (B+ to B-), or “needs work” (C+ to D).

Assignment	Due	% of grade
Attendance	--	10%
One question check I	October 25	10%
Midterm exam	November 15	30%
One question check II	December 13	10%
Final exam	January 5-7 (TBD)	40%

Attendance in class is mandatory, and you are required to sign the attendance sheet I will distribute in class. Unexcused absences will result in deductions of participation points on a progressive scale as shown below. If you miss 8 (eight) or more class meetings without valid excuse (health issue or family emergency), you will automatically get an “F” for this course.

Attendance grade is calculated based on the following criteria:

Number of absences	Grade (max.100)
1-2	100-97
3	90
4	85
5	80
6	75
7	60
8	0 (F)

Use of laptop computers or mobile devices is not permitted in class. Please turn off your laptops and other electronic devices during lectures and discussions.

Reading Material:

Readings are accessible through the shared Google Drive folder:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1b5SC7Y0p9pjKPRIMr5Q5V_yE4zL3MjIu?usp=sharing.

Readings must be completed prior to class meetings.

Core texts:

- Jones, Martin, et al. 2014. *An Introduction to Political Geography: Space, Place and Politics*. Routledge.
- Cox, Kevin, 2002. *Political Geography: Territory, State and Society*, Wiley-Blackwell.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1. October 4

Introduction into the sub-field of Political Geography

- Jones, Martin et al. 2014. Ch.1: Introduction: power, space and ‘political geography’, pp.1-16
- Cox, 2002, Ch. 1: Fundamental Concepts of Political Geography: An Introduction
- Case study: The North-South Divide in Italy (The Economist, A tale of two economies, May 16, 2015, <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2015/05/16/a-tale-of-two-economies>)

Week 2: October 11

Max Weber – The Modern State

- Weber, Max “Politics as a vocation”, In: Gerth, H. H. and C. Wright Mills. 1958. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Oxford University Press, pp. 77-128.
- Anter, Andreas. 2019. The Modern State and Its Monopoly on Violence. In: Hanke et al. ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Max Weber*, pp. 241-252.

Week 3: October 18

Max Weber – Theory of Domination

- Breuer, Stefan. 2019. The Relevance of Weber’s Conception and Typology of Herrschaft. In: Hanke et al. ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Max Weber*, pp. 253-275.
- Médard, Jean-François. "Patrimonialism, neo-patrimonialism and the study of the post-colonial state in Subsaharian Africa." *Occasional Paper 17* (2014): 76-97.

Week 4: October 25

Charles Tilly: War, Geopolitical Competition and State Making

- Tilly, Charles. 2017. Ch. 7 “War making and state making as organized crime”. In: E. Castañeda and C. Schneider ed. *A Charles Tilly Reader*, Routledge.
- Tilly, C. 2012. States, State Transformation, and War. In J. Bentley ed. *The Oxford Handbook of World History*.

Week 5: November 1

Charles Tilly: State Making – European Experience

- Tilly, Charles, Coercion, capital, and European states, A.D. 990-1990: Ch.2 “European cities and states” (pp.38-66), and Ch.3 “How war made states, and vice versa” (pp. 67-95).

Week 6: November 8

State Making – European Experience

- Ertman, Thomas. 1997. *Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge University Press. Ch.1. Introduction
- Taylor, Brian D., and Roxana Botea. 2008. "Tilly tally: War-making and state-making in the contemporary third world", *International Studies Review* 10(1): 27-56.

Week 7: November 15

Midterm Exam

Week 8: November 22

Development of African States

- Jones et al. 2014. Ch. 3. The state's changing forms and functions, pp. 36-62
- Jackson, Robert H., and Carl G. Rosberg. 1982. "Why Africa's weak states persist: The empirical and the juridical in statehood." *World Politics* 35(1): 1-24.

Week 9. November 29

Samuel Huntington – Political Order in Changing Societies

- Huntington, 1973. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. Yale University, pp. 1-91
- Remmer, Karen L. 1997. "Theoretical decay and theoretical development: the resurgence of institutional analysis." *World Politics* 50(1): 34-61.

Week 10. December 6

Michael Mann - Infrastructural power

- Mann, Michael. 1984. 'The autonomous power of the state: its origins, mechanisms and results, *European Journal of Sociology* 25(2): 185-213.
- Soifer, Hillel. 2008. "State infrastructural power: Approaches to conceptualization and measurement." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 43(3-4): 231-251.

Week 11. December 13

Thomas Malthus: Resources and Population / Limits to Economic Growth

- Macfarlane, Alan: *Thomas Malthus and the Making of the Modern World*, 2002, Part 1 Malthus (pp. 15-44) and Part 3 (pp. 95-124)
- Victor, Peter A. *Managing Without Growth: Slower by Design, Not Disaster*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2018. Ch.1 "The idea of economic growth" and Ch.4 "Limits to growth – sources".

Week 12. December 20

World Systems Analysis

- Cox, 2002, Chapter 9: The Politics of Geographically Uneven Development, pp. 275-322.
- Flint Colin, and Peter J. Taylor. 2018. *Political Geography*. Ch. 1. A world-system approach to political geography. pp.11-45.

Week 13: December 27

Geopolitical thinking I: An Overview

- Flint Colin, and Peter J. Taylor. 2018. *Political Geography*. "Prologue: Episodes in the life and times of a sub-discipline" (pp. 1-8), and Ch. 4. "Geopolitics Rampant" (pp. 49-86).

Week 14: January 3, 2022

Geopolitical thinking II: Mackinder

- Mackinder, Halford (1904). Geographical Pivot of History, *The Geographical Journal* No.4, 421-437
- Knutsen, Torbjorn L. (2014) Halford J. Mackinder, Geopolitics, and the Heartland Thesis, *The International History Review*, 36:5, 835-857.

Week 15: January 5-7 (TBD)

Final exam