**Worldings: Regions, Peoples and States**

Geography 10  
Professor Jake Kosek  
Meeting Time: Tues & Thurs 12:30-2:00  
Room: Stanley 105

**Course Description**
This course is designed to transform how you think about, understand and engage in the making and remaking of the worlds we inhabit. Concepts central to Geography pepper the pages of newspapers almost every day – in stories of toxic waste sites, immigration policies, international finance capital, the military industry, genetic engineering, global warming, surveillance, racial profiling, sexuality, poverty and terrorism. Ideas central to the field of geography such as space, nature, and inequality animate the histories and politics of each of these issues and many other cases. Our approach will not be to simply learn about the regions of the world, but to think critically and geographically about how regions, peoples and states and other foundational concepts have come into being and how they might be otherwise. The unifying theme of the class is the contested relationships, practices, and processes in the making of these central geographic concepts (space, nature and inequality) that often go unexamined.

Starting with the concept of space, such as the world, the region, and the nation, we will examine the politics and power of space not as an empty stage upon which events happen but as a deeply contested field with specific histories and profound consequences. This course will take the map seriously by learning the empirical order of our day via map quizzes throughout the semester; however, we will also seek to disrupt the maps authority at objectively representing space and to disrespect its seeming fixity by exploring some of the politics of the broader concepts of space, region, territory and nationalism. Next, we will examine the idea of nature, both as a concept of the external environment but also as an internal essence such as human nature. We will look at the work that ideas of nature have in our lives from our understandings of the global environment, to our most intimate formations of race, gender and sexuality. Ultimately, we hope to demonstrate how the concept of nature, that is often presented as the opposite of that which is social and political, is anything but. The third section of the class deals with global inequalities. Here we will discuss modern disparities between and within regions, nations, states and communities. We will begin this section by studying economic globalization starting with its history and component parts such as property, the commodity, and labor and then explore the processes and institutions that have shaped the modern form of global production and exchange and the contemporary consequences of these formations. We will then raise key geographical questions about the politics of indigeneity, race and sexuality and how political economy and identity become intertwined as people make claims to rights, resources and redistribution in powerful and significant ways.

**Course Requirements**

Class/section participation: 40% of final course grade  
Map Quizzes: 10%  
Assignments (x2): 20%  
Final exam: 30%

Course grades will be based on a curve using the total points earned on all assignments, participation and exams.
CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND PARTICIPATION
Lectures will be complemented by review sections devoted to fuller class discussion of the readings and lecture material. Class assignments on topics related to the class lectures will be given two weeks in advance of their due dates. Attendance in lecture and discussion sections is mandatory and will be factored into your grade. Sections will begin on Tuesday, September 1st, the last day of sections will be Friday, December 4th. If you miss a class you are responsible to find out what material you missed and what announcements were made during your absence.

PLAN FOR LECTURES AND READINGS
Readings are listed in italics under each lecture. You are expected to complete all of the readings before the lecture for which they are assigned.

FINAL EXAM
Questions, including ones on the final exam, will be handed out December 3rd to allow you to prepare for the proctored final exam on December 18th 8am-11am. The final exam will consist of some of these questions, other short-answer questions, and key terms. The final exam will comprise 50% of the course grade.

COURSE INFORMATION
Contact Information
Jake Kosek  jake@berkeley.edu  Tues 2:30-4:30  585 McCone
Elis Courson  elias.courson@berkeley.edu  Tues 2:30-3:30  583 McCone
Michael Drane  michaelrdrane@gmail.com  TBA
Jeff Martin  j.vance.martin@berkeley.edu  TBA
Alex Werth  awerth@berkeley.edu  TBA

Course Website
We will use bcources for posting announcements, distributing readings, maps and list items for map quizzes, and for other purposes. Please go to bcources and log on using your CalNet ID and passphrase. If you are registered (or waitlisted) for the course, a tab should appear automatically for Geography 10.

Academic Integrity
Any test, paper, report or homework submitted under your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course. All words and ideas written by other people must be properly attributed: fully identified as to source and the extent of your use of their work. Cheating, plagiarism and other academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on the assignment, paper, quiz or exam in question and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.
Introduction
August 27th:
Introduction:

I. SPACE
Week 1: The Politics of Space
September 1st: Making Maps


Optional:

September 8rd: Producing Spaces


Optional:

Week 2: State e3 Territory
September 10th: The Spaces of Sovereignty

Map Quiz #1


Optional:
**September 11th: Walls, Borders and Flows**


*Optional:*


**Week 3 Nationalism & Segregation: September 15th: Imagined Communities**

Assignment #1 due


*Optional:*


**September 17th: Segregation**


*Optional:*


Week 4: Region & Empire
September 22th: The Orient & The Occident

Map Quiz #2


September 24th: Regionalisms


Optional:


II. Nature
Week 5: Purity and Essence

September 28th: Essence


October 1st: Natural Disasters


Optional:


Week 6: Resource Degradation and Extraction

October 6th: The Political Ecology of Oil and Carbon

Assignment # 2 due and Map Quiz # 3


October 8th: The Political Ecology of Oil and Carbon Continued

**Week 7: The Politics of Climate Change**

*October 15th: Global Discourses on Climate Change*


*October 15th: The Science and Politics of Weather*


*Optional:*


**Week 8: The Politics of Nature Continued’**

*October 20th: The Nature and Science of Race*

Map Quiz # 4


*Optional:*


*October 22nd: The Nature and Science of Sex*


*Optional:*

III. \textbf{INEQUALITY}

\textit{Week 9: Colonialism \& Globalization}  
\textit{October 27\textsuperscript{th}}: Making Markets


\textit{October 29\textsuperscript{th}}: Neoliberal Intimacies


\textit{Week 10: The Commodity and Property}  
\textit{November 3\textsuperscript{rd}}: On Commodities and Other Objects

\textbf{Map Quiz \# 5}


\textit{Optional:}


\textit{November 5\textsuperscript{th}}: The Political Lives of Property


\textit{Optional:}


\textit{Week 11: Labor \& Value \& Uneven Development}  
\textit{November 10\textsuperscript{th}}: What Makes Wealth?


Optional:


November 12th: What Makes Poverty?


Optional:


Week 12: Democracy & Capitalism

November 17th: Debt

Map Quiz # 6


Optional:

November 19th: Freedom & Democracy


Optional:

Week 13: Violence and Security

November 24th: War, Poverty and Racism


November 26th: No Class Thanksgiving
Week 14: The Geographies of Surveillance
December 1st: The Geographies of Surveillance

Map Quiz # 7


Optional:

December 3rd: Rethinking Politics
TBA Final Exam Review

Final Exam: Friday, December 18th 8am-11am

WORLDINGS: REGIONS, PEOPLES AND STATES
Geography 10

IMPORTANT DATES

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