

# Geography 511: Advanced Political Geography

Winter 2015

Wednesdays, 11:35 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.

Burnside 429

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Department of Geography

McGill University

**Course Calendar Description:** Questions of space and power in contemporary political geography. Range of topics, including territoriality, the state, the politics of space, critical geopolitics, symbolic landscapes, and GIS and mapping. Emphasizes theoretical issues but includes empirical material and/or case studies. Intended to appeal broadly to graduate students in human geography.

The course focuses on questions of space and power in contemporary political geography, and is intended to appeal broadly to graduate students in human geography. The class will address a range of topics, including territoriality, the state, the politics of space, critical geopolitics, symbolic landscapes, and GIS and mapping. Most weeks will include empirical material and/or case studies, but the set readings emphasize theoretical concerns. The class is open to all graduate students, and – with the permission of the instructor -- advanced undergrads.

**Course Requirements:** Students must prepare short summaries of the readings each week (which serve as a basis for discussion), and must present these summaries to the class on a rotating basis. Student will also need to find, read, and summarize articles and/or book reviews on certain weeks. In addition, students must submit either 3 analytic essays based on the assigned readings, or 1 major research paper on a topic related to the student's thesis or dissertation. Undergrads are expected to write the 3 essays, graduate students may do either option (subject to my approval). Finally, students may be required to periodically attend talks in the department's Geospectives lecture series or other venues.

Reading summaries/responses/reviews	25%
Class participation	25%
3 analytic essays (6-8 pages) or	15%/15%/20%
Proposal for research paper	10%
1 research paper (>20 pages)	40%

Information on university and department policies concerning student assessment can be found at the following website: [www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment](http://www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment)

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**Due Dates:** All papers are due by email as properly formatted PDF or Word documents by 11 PM on the dates listed below.

Analytic Essay 1: February 14\*

Analytic Essay 2: March 16\*

Analytic Essay 3: April 11\*\*

(or)

Proposal: March 10\*

Research paper: April 11\*\*

\* If the schedule of readings is adjusted, the Essay 1 is due ten days after we read *The Birth of Territory*; and Essay 2 is due ten days after we cover “State Knowledge/Local Knowledge”.

\*\* Extensions may be granted for Essay 3 and the Research Paper. All other assignments **must** be submitted by their deadlines. The penalty for late papers is one full grade per day.

**Expectations:** This class is a graduate-style seminar. This means that in addition to the usual standards regarding academic integrity (listed below), students have responsibilities and freedoms different from undergraduate classes. In particular, all students – graduate and undergraduate - are expected to take considerable responsibility for understanding, digesting, and synthesizing the material. Taking the class is not a passive activity! You are expected to complete all readings and assignments on time, to actively participate in class discussions, and to generally take the initiative in engaging the material.

**Analytic Essays.** Your analytic essay should address material that we have read for class, but may also include any of the recommended readings. Please do not use texts that I have not assigned for the class. In your essay, you should offer a detailed analysis and critique (typically of two or more readings), rather than broad summaries and general arguments. I am interested more in depth than in breadth; this is your opportunity to explore the nuances and subtle details of the arguments beyond what we can do during class discussions.

There are several models for successful essays, but the most common is to explore a particular idea, concept, or theory that is used in several readings. Do the authors mean two different things but use the same term? Do they use different terms for the same concept? What are the (theoretical) consequences of these differences? Purcell’s (2003) article on the Marston-Brenner debate is a good example of this sort of analysis.<sup>1</sup>

Similarly, you can offer a critique of the assumptions that underlie a set of readings. The focus here may not be on the explicit disagreements between the texts, but on the (unacknowledged) assumptions that they share. Agnew (1994) is a great example of this approach.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Purcell, M. 2003. Islands of practice and the Marston/Brenner debate: Toward a more synthetic critical human geography. *Progress in Human Geography* 27 (3): 317-332.

<sup>2</sup> Agnew, J. 1994. The Territorial Trap: The Geographical Assumptions of International Relations Theory. *Review of International Political Economy (RIPE)*, 1: 53-80.

For questions about formatting, advice about writing papers, and for writing tips, please see my [Research Paper Guide](#) on my the teaching page of my website:

<http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/faculty/forest/teaching.html>

**Research Papers.** The research paper option is intended primarily for graduate students working on a thesis or dissertation; it is often a useful way to draft a chapter of such a document, or to explore a set of literature relevant to your research. Guidelines for the proposal and papers will be distributed in class. As with the Analytic essays, please see the Research Paper Guide on my website.

**Any student who wishes to take the research paper option must receive my permission prior to due date of Essay #1.**

*McGill University policy requires the inclusion and wording of the following sections on Academic Integrity and Language Policy on all syllabi.*

**Academic Integrity:** McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity)).

**Language Policy:** In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

**Readings:** *Books and the course pack will be available at the McGill Bookstore. All readings other than the books listed below are in the course pack.*

GEOG 511 Course pack

Agnew, J. A. & L. Muscarà. 2012. *Making political geography*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield.

Blomley, N. K. 2011. *Rights of passage: Sidewalks and the regulation of public flow*. New York: Routledge

Desbiens, C. 2013. *Power from the North: Territory, identity, and the culture of hydroelectricity in Quebec*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Elden, Stuart. 2013. *The birth of territory*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Foucault, M. 1979. *Discipline and punish: the birth of the prison*. New York: Vintage Books.

Schulten, Susan. 2012. *Mapping the nation: History and cartography in nineteenth-century America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Scott, J. C. 1998. *Seeing like a state: how certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. New Haven; London: Yale University Press.

**Required and recommended readings:** Students must read all required readings each week. The recommended readings are provided as a resource if students want to address the topic further, *e.g.*, for an analytic essay, research paper, or comprehensive examinations.

## Topics

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Disciplinary History of Political Geography

Week 3: Territoriality, Boundaries, and the State

Week 4: **Workshop:** Searching the Scholarly Literature

Week 5: The Birth of Territory

Week 6: Foucault: Power Without Boundaries

Week 7: Governmentality

Week 8: State Knowledge/Local Knowledge

Week 9: Natural Resources, Identity and Power

Week 10: **Workshop:** Scholarly Writing

Week 11: Cartography, GIS, and Power

Week 12: Urban Public Space

Week 13: TBD

## Background, Textbooks, and Surveys of Political Geography

*These books provide a broad background to the discipline and study of political geography. Students who are not familiar with the subfield may find it helpful to consult them either prior to the class or during the semester.*

Agnew, J. A. 1987. *Place and politics: The geographical mediation of state and society*. Boston: Allen & Unwin.

Agnew, J. A., K. Mitchell, and G. Tuathail, eds. 2003. *A companion to political geography*. Malden, MA; Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Cox, K. R., ed. 2005. *Political geography: critical concepts in the social sciences (4 volumes)*. London: Routledge.

———. 2002. *Political geography: territory, state, and society*. Oxford; Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.

Cox, K. R., M. Low & J. Robinson. 2008. *The SAGE handbook of political geography*. Los Angeles; London: SAGE Publications.

Flint, C., and P. J. Taylor. 2007. *Political geography: world-economy, nation-state, and locality*. Harlow, England; New York: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

## Schedule of Classes

### Week 1: January 7

#### Introduction

### Week 2: January 14

#### Disciplinary History of Political Geography

*The two readings for this week are rather straightforward, both offering histories of political geography and addressing what the authors see as the major developments in the field in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Agnew 2002) and in the last 40 years or so (Johnston 2001). For discussion, please think about the “big picture” each author tells: How would you describe the general development of political geography? What are the major concepts in the field, and how have they changed?*

#### Required

Johnston, R. J. 2001. Out of the 'moribund backwater': territory and territoriality in political geography, *Political Geography* 20 (6): 677-693.

Agnew, J. A. & L. Muscarà. 2012. *Making political geography*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield.

#### Recommended:

Clark, J. and A. Jones. 2013. The great implications of spatialisation: Grounds for closer engagement between political geography and political science? *Geoforum* 45: 307-316.

Claval, P. 2006. The scale of political geography: An historic introduction. *Tijdschrift Voor Economische En Sociale Geografie* 97 (3): 209-221.

Dalby, Simon. 2010. Recontextualising violence, power and nature: The next twenty years of critical geopolitics? *Political Geography* 29 (5): 280-288.

Elden, Stuart. 2010. Land, terrain, territory. *Progress in Human Geography* 34 (6): 799-817.

Farinelli, F. 2000. Friedrich Ratzel and the nature of (political) geography. *Political Geography* 19 (8): 943-955.

Mayhew, R. 2000. Halford Mackinder's "new" political geography and the geographical tradition. *Political Geography* 19 (6): 771-791.

Newman, D. 2006. The lines that continue to separate us: borders in our 'borderless' world. *Progress in Human Geography* 30 (2): 143-161.

Taylor, P. J. 1995. Beyond Containers: Internationality, Interstateness, Interterritoriality. *Progress in Human Geography* 19 (1): 1-15.

———. 1994. The State As Container: Territoriality In The Modern World-System. *Progress in Human Geography* 18 (2): 151-162.

### **Week 3: January 21**

#### **Territoriality, Boundaries, and the State**

*Murphy (2013) and Fall (2010) should be pretty straightforward. Both articles examine the nature of territorial claims or boundaries, but they are also implicit statements about how scholars should approach claims about state boundaries. Sack (1986) and Agnew (1994) are more challenging conceptually, but are well written and well organized. Sack (1986) attempts to define and offer a general theory of a fundamental concept in geography -- territoriality. Agnew (1994) critiques the use a fundamental concept in International Relations – the state – and illustrates some of the conceptual consequences of Sack’s theory. You should consider how both Murphy (2013) and Agnew (1994) provide examples of the phenomenon Fall (2010) alludes to (but does not necessarily explain): reification, naturalization, and fetishization.*

*I suggest reading them in this order: Sack (1986), Agnew (1994), Murphy (2013), and then Fall (2010). You may not understand everything, but figure out what you do understand, and what you do not. We will work through the more difficult parts in class.*

*Note that Fall’s (2010) article is a response to a paper titled “Artificial States”, available at <http://www.nber.org/papers/w12328.pdf>.*

#### *Required*

Sack, R. D. 1986. *Human territoriality: its theory and history*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press: Introduction, chapters 1 & 5 (pp. 1-27; 127-168).

Agnew, J. 1994. The territorial trap: The geographical assumptions of international relations theory. *Review of International Political Economy (RIPE)* 1: 53-80.

Murphy, A. B. 2013. Territory's continuing allure. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 103(5): 1212-26.

Fall, J. J. 2010. Artificial states? On the enduring geographical myth of natural borders. *Political Geography*, 29(3): 140-147.

#### *Recommended*

Agnew, J. 1999. Mapping political power beyond state boundaries: Territory, identity, and movement in world politics. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 28 (3): 499-522.

Cresswell, T. 2006. *On the move: Mobility in the modern Western world*. New York: Routledge.

———. 1996. *In place/out of place: Geography, ideology, and transgression*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Glassman, J. 1999. State power beyond the 'territorial trap': the internationalization of the state. *Political Geography*, 18(6): 669-96.

Murphy, A. B. 1990. Historical justifications for territorial claims. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 80 (4): 531-548.

Newman, D., and A. Paasi. 1998. Fences and neighbours in the postmodern world: boundary narratives in political geography. *Progress in Human Geography* 22 (2): 186-207.

Sibley, D. 1995. *Geographies of exclusion: Society and difference in the West*. London; New York: Routledge.

#### **Week 4: January 28**

##### **Workshop: Searching the Scholarly Literature**

*This week there is a special workshop led by super Librarian Julie Jones on the use of the Web of Knowledge, Scopus, and Google Scholar for searching the scholarly literature. Class will meet in one of the library's computer labs, rather than our regular classroom. The workshop will involve "hands-on" activities so it is very important for you to attend. These research skills will be critical for the course and for any future research endeavor.*

**Location:** 413 Schulich Library

Start reading Elden (2013) – see below.

#### **Week 5: February 4**

##### **The Birth of Territory**

*We continue the theme of territory this week, but turn to a book that takes a much deeper historical and theoretical approach, Stuart Elden's recently published *The Birth of Territory* (2013). This work is as much political theory as political geography, so be prepared to spend time reading and re-reading it.*

*Required*

Elden, Stuart. 2013. *The birth of territory*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

#### **Week 6: February 11**

##### **Foucault: Power Without Boundaries**

*This week, we read Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*, a seminal book in the study of power, politics, and space. In particular, Foucault is interested in how states exercise and apply power using space, but with strategies that are not necessarily territorial. Foucault offers an alternative way to think about space and power that goes beyond conventional issues of territoriality, boundaries, and borders. In particular, this book has Foucault's highly influential discussion of the Panopticon and panopticonic strategies of state power.*

*Finally, I would like everyone to find a book review of *Discipline and Punish* from a scholarly journal. These reviews will help you understand the book, and will illustrate how scholars have offered different interpretations and critiques of the work. Be prepared to summarize your review for the class. (Use the Web of Knowledge or Scopus to locate book reviews -- there are about 40 listed. You can navigate to either resource through the library page.)*

*Required*

Foucault, M. 1979. *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison*. New York: Vintage Books.

*Recommended*

Dodge, M. and Kitchin, R. 2005. Codes of life: identification codes and the machine-readable world. *Environment and Planning D-Society & Space*, 23(6): 851-81.

Foucault, M. 1965. *Madness and civilization: a history of insanity in the age of reason*. New York: Vintage Books.

———. 1973. *The order of things: An archaeology of the human sciences*. New York: Vintage Books.

———. 1980. *The history of sexuality*. New York: Vintage Books.

Neal, S. and Walters, S. 2007. 'You can get away with loads because there's no one here': Discourses of regulation and non-regulation in English rural spaces. *Geoforum*, 38(2): 252-63.

Neyland, D. 2006. The accomplishment of spatial adequacy: Analysing CCTV accounts of British town centres. *Environment and Planning D-Society & Space*, 24(4): 599-613.

Philo, C. 1992. Foucault Geography. *Environment and Planning D-Society & Space* 10 (2): 137-161.

Smith, R. J. 2011. Graduated incarceration: The Israeli occupation in subaltern geopolitical perspective. *Geoforum*, 42(3): 316-28.

Taylor, P. J. 1999. *Modernities: A geohistorical interpretation*. Cambridge: Polity Press.



## Week 7: February 18

### Governmentality

*This week we continue our discussion of Foucault by turning to the concept of governmentality, described by Foucault as “the art of government.” As with the Panopticon, Foucault explores the ways that power is exerted in non-territorial fashions by states, in part by defining the problems that governments must solve, and thereby expanding the reach of state power. Rose and Miller (1992) develop this concept in a widely cited article, illustrating the impact that such “translations” can have on the subsequent application of an idea. Hannah (2000) is one of the few book-length treatments in geography to apply the concept of governmentality, but we will read his 2009 article instead, along with Rose-Redwood’s (2006) application of the concept.*

#### Required

- Foucault, M. 1991. Governmentality. In *The Foucault effect: studies in governmentality*, eds. G. Burchell, C. Gordon and P. Miller. Chicago: University of Chicago Press: 87-104.
- Rose, N., and P. Miller. 1992. Political Power Beyond the State: Problematics of Government. *British Journal of Sociology* 43 (2): 173-205.
- Hannah, M. G. 2009. Calculable territory and the West German census boycott movements of the 1980s. *Political Geography*, 28, 66-75.
- Rose-Redwood, R. S. 2006. Governmentality, geography, and the geo-coded world. *Progress in Human Geography* 30 (4): 469-486.

#### Recommended

- Coleman, M. and Grove, K. 2009. Biopolitics, biopower, and the return of sovereignty. *Environment and Planning D-Society & Space*, 27(3): 489-507.
- Hakli, J. 1998. Discourse in the production of political space: decolonizing the symbolism of provinces in Finland. *Political Geography* 17 (3): 331-363.
- Hannah, M. G. 2006. Torture and the ticking bomb: The war on terrorism as a geographical imagination of power/knowledge. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 96(3): 622-40.
- . 2000. *Governmentality and the mastery of territory in nineteenth-century America*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- . 1993. Space and Social: Control in the Administration of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux), 1871-1879. *Journal of Historical Geography*, 19, 412-432.
- Luke, T. W. 1996. Governmentality and contragovernmentality: Rethinking sovereignty and territoriality after the Cold War. *Political Geography* 15 (6-7): 491-507.
- MacKinnon, D. 2000. Managerialism, governmentality and the state: A neo-Foucauldian approach to local economic governance. *Political Geography* 19 (3): 293-314.

Mitchell, K. 2006. Neoliberal governmentality in the European Union: Education, training, and technologies of citizenship. *Environment and Planning D-Society & Space*, 24(3): 389-407.

Murdoch, J., and N. Ward. 1997. Governmentality and territoriality: The statistical manufacture of Britain's 'national farm'. *Political Geography* 16 (4): 307-324.

## **Week 8: February 25**

### **State Knowledge/Local Knowledge**

*This week we turn to the work of James Scott, a political scientist qua anthropologist who explores the application of state power through non-territorial spatial strategies. Although the book does not make explicit reference to Foucault or to geography, its case studies are superb applications of many of the principles we have addressed to date. The recommended articles are simply a selection of the many works that subsequently drew on Scott's arguments in the book.*

#### *Required*

Scott, J. C. 1998. *Seeing like a state: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. New Haven; London: Yale University Press.

#### *Recommended*

Agrawal, A. 2002. Indigenous knowledge and the politics of classification. *International Social Science Journal*, 54(173): 287-98.

Demeritt, D. 2001. Scientific forest conservation and the statistical picturing of nature's limits in the progressive-era United States. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 19(4): 431-59.

Ferguson, J. 2005. Seeing Like an oil company: Space, security, and global capital in neoliberal Africa. *American Anthropologist*, 107(3): 377-82.

Forest, B. and Forest, P. 2012. Engineering the North American waterscape: The high modernist mapping of continental water transfer projects. *Political Geography*, 31(3): 167-83.

Kipnis, A. B. 2008. Audit cultures: Neoliberal governmentality, socialist legacy, or technologies of governing? *American Ethnologist*, 35(2): 275-89.

Maier, C. S. 2000. Consigning the twentieth century to history: Alternative narratives for the modern era. *American Historical Review*, 105(3): 807-31.

McCarthy, J. 2006. Neoliberalism and the politics of alternatives: Community forestry in British Columbia and the United States. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 96(1): 84-104.

Menoret, P. 2011. Development, Planning and Urban Unrest in Saudi Arabia. *Muslim World*, 101(2): 269-85.

- Mountz, A. 2003. Human smuggling, the transnational imaginary, and everyday geographies of the nation-state. *Antipode*, 35(3): 621-44.
- Robbins, P. 2000. The practical politics of knowing: State environmental knowledge and local political economy. *Economic Geography*, 76(2): 126-44.
- 2001. Tracking invasive land covers in India, or why our landscapes have never been modern. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 91(4): 637-59.
- Scott, J. C., Tehranian, J., and Mathias, J. 2002. The production of legal identities proper to states: The case of the permanent family surname. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 44(1): 4-44.

## **Winter Break: March 4**

### **Week 9: March 11**

#### **Natural Resources, Identity and Power**

*This week, we address the politics of natural resource governance in the context of culture and identity. There is obviously a vast literature on the political economy of natural resources, their role in (under)development, the “resource curse”, pollution, global warming, etc., but we take a more focused perspective, examining the intersection of resources and identity, with Desbiens’ (2013) book on Quebec and hydroelectricity. Her work compares usefully with Scott (1998). The recommended readings focus primarily on water, in either Canada or Israel/Palestine.*

*The first hour of class will be a GeoSpectives talk by Prof. Desbiens in Burnside 426.*

#### *Required*

- Desbiens, C. 2013. *Power from the North: Territory, identity, and the culture of hydroelectricity in Quebec*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

#### *Recommended*

- Agnew, J. 2011. Waterpower: Politics and the geography of water provision. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 101(3): 463-76.
- Alatout, S. 2006. Towards a bio-territorial conception of power: Territory, population, and environmental narratives in Palestine and Israel. *Political Geography*, 25(6): 601-21.
- Baldwin, A. 2009. Ethnoscaping Canada's boreal forest: liberal whiteness and its disaffiliation from colonial space. *Canadian Geographer-Geographe Canadien*, 53(4): 427-43.
- Cohen, A. 2012. Rescaling environmental governance: watersheds as boundary objects at the intersection of science, neoliberalism, and participation. *Environment and Planning A*, 44(9): 2207-24.

- Cohen, S. E. 2002. As a city besieged: place, Zionism, and the deforestation of Jerusalem. *Environment and Planning D-Society & Space*, 20(2): 209-30.
- Desbiens, C. 2004. Nation to nation: Defining new structures of development in northern Quebec. *Economic Geography*, 80(4): 351-66.
- 2004. Producing North and South: a political geography of hydro development in Quebec. *Canadian Geographer-Geographe Canadien*, 48(2): 101-18.
- Farish, M. and Lackenbauer, P. W. 2009. High modernism in the Arctic: Planning Frobisher Bay and Inuvik. *Journal of Historical Geography*, 35(3): 517-44.
- Forest, B. and Forest, P. 2012. Engineering the North American waterscape: The high modernist mapping of continental water transfer projects. *Political Geography*, 31(3): 167-83.
- Harris, L. M. and Alatout, S. 2010. Negotiating hydro-scales, forging states: Comparison of the upper Tigris/Euphrates and Jordan River basins. *Political Geography*, 29(3): 148-56.
- Katz, D. and Fischhendler, I. 2011. Spatial and temporal dynamics of linkage strategies in Arab-Israeli water negotiations. *Political Geography*, 30(1): 13-24.
- Peyton, J. 2011. Corporate ecology: BC Hydro's Stikine-Iskut project and the unbuilt environment. *Journal of Historical Geography*, 37(3): 358-69.
- Sneddon, C. and Fox, C. 2011. The Cold War, the US Bureau of Reclamation, and the technopolitics of river basin development, 1950-1970. *Political Geography*, 30(8): 450-60.

## **Week 10: March 18**

### **Workshop: Scholarly Writing**

*This week we will depart from our usual format to address scholarly writing. We will discuss a brief reading, but most of class will be devoted to peer review of either your proposals (due March 10), or Essay #2 (due March 16). Orwell's piece is a classic discussion of the political implications of writing, and not as you may have thought, a discussion of Quebec politics! Orwell was an essayist, a form of writing (now sadly in decline) that lies somewhere between political journalism and scholarship. He focuses on the distortions produced by lazy and imprecise prose in political essays, but his comments are directly relevant to scholarly writing as well.*

*The four recommended works are also worth reading, although Miller (2004) will be of use mostly to those of you working with quantitative data. Anyone who works with visual information (images, graphs, charts, maps, and the like) should read something by Edward Tufte. His book listed below is a good place to start. For writing, there are many style guides, including the perennial favourite The Elements of Style, but Williams (2005) is an outstanding modern guide and well worth buying. Finally, Biling (2013) is a delightfully acerbic commentary on contemporary writing in the social sciences.*

### **Required**

Orwell, George. (1946) "Politics and the English Language" *Horizon*. Available from:  
[http://www.orwell.ru/library/essays/politics/english/e\\_polit](http://www.orwell.ru/library/essays/politics/english/e_polit)

### *Recommended*

- Billig, M. 2013. *Learn to write badly: How to succeed in the social sciences*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Miller, J. E. 2004. *The Chicago guide to writing about numbers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Tufte, E. R. 1997. *Visual explanations: Images and quantities, evidence and narrative*. Cheshire, Conn: Graphics Press.
- Williams, J. M. 2005. *Style: Ten lessons in clarity and grace*. New York: Pearson Longman.

### **Week 11: March 25**

#### **Cartography, GIS, and Power**

*GIS technology – as Systems or Science – raises a host of issues regarding space, power, and technology, but many similar debates arose in the context of a much older technology: cartography. For this week, we will read a history of 19<sup>th</sup> century cartography in the United States, and how it was used to fundamentally reshape and rethink social relations. The recommended readings are a mixed bag but generally are efforts to place cartography, GIS and related technologies within a social context, to tie GIS to broader debates about cartography and mapping, and to offer critiques of the common hagiographical accounts of GIS. These works include other historical accounts of cartography and mapping technologies (Edney 1997; Harley and Laxton 2001; Harley, et al 1987; Thrower 2007), critical treatments of GIS (Curry 1998; Pickles 1995), and practitioners' guides to GIS (Duckham, Goodchild, and Worboys 2003, Goodchild and Janelle 2004).*

### *Required*

- Schulten, S. 2012. *Mapping the nation: History and cartography in nineteenth-century America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

### *Recommended*

- Crampton, J. W. 2011. Cartographic calculations of territory. *Progress in Human Geography*, 35(1): 92-103.
- 2003. *The political mapping of cyberspace*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Curry, M. R. 2005. Toward a geography of a world without maps: Lessons from Ptolemy and postal codes. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 95(3): 680-91.
- 1998. *Digital places: living with geographic information technologies*. New York: Routledge.
- Duckham, M., M. F. Goodchild, and M. Worboys. 2003. *Foundations of geographic information science*. London; New York: Taylor & Francis.

- Edney, M. H. 1997. *Mapping an empire: the geographical construction of British India, 1765-1843*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Forest, B. 2004. Information sovereignty and GIS: the evolution of “communities of interest” in political redistricting. *Political Geography*, 23(4): 425-51.
- Forest, B. and Forest, P. 2012. Engineering the North American waterscape: The high modernist mapping of continental water transfer projects. *Political Geography*, 31(3): 167-83.
- Goodchild, M. F., and D. G. Janelle. 2004. *Spatially integrated social science*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.
- Harley, J. B., and P. Laxton. 2001. *The new nature of maps: Essays in the history of cartography*. Baltimore, Md.; London; Santa Fe, N.M.: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Harley, J. B., D. Woodward, and G. M. Lewis. 1987. *The history of cartography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Kwan, M. P. 2002. Feminist visualization: Re-envisioning GIS as a method in feminist geographic research. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 92 (4): 645-661.
- Pickles, J., ed. 1995. *Ground truth: the social implications of geographic information systems*. New York: Guilford Press.
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## Week 12: April 1

### Urban Public Space

*In the literature on public space in geography, two interwoven issues are fundamental: How space is used to include or exclude individuals and groups as members of “the public”; and conversely, how the definition of certain individuals, groups, and practices as part of “the public” shape space. Mitchell has been particularly prominent in these debates, and much of this work draws on the French theorist Henri Lefebvre’s work. Mitchell’s book (1995), for example, takes its title from an essay by Lefebvre (1996). Blomley (2011, 2004) addresses the question’s geographic and legal dimensions, an approach that we will focus on this year.*

#### *Required*

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Blomley, N. K. 2011. *Rights of passage: Sidewalks and the regulation of public flow*. New York: Routledge.

#### *Recommended:*

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Blomley, N. K. 2004. *Unsettling the city: Urban land and the politics of property*. New York: Routledge.

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**Week 13: April 8**

TBD.

