National PhD Course in Political Geography
Spring 2017, 7.5 ECTS

Course organizers:

Dr. David Jansson, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University (david.jansson@kultgeog.uu.se)

Dr. Madeleine Eriksson, Department of Geography and Economic History, Umeå University (madeleine.eriksson@geography.umu.se)

Dr. Mekonnen Tesfahuney, Department of Geography, Media and Communication, Karlstad University (mekonnen.tesfahuney@kau.se)

Course description:

The subdiscipline of political geography has had a fascinating journey. Present at the very beginning of the founding of human geography as an academic discipline in the late 1800s, political geography suffered several decades of intellectual exile in the mid-1900s as a result of its connections, through the field of geopolitics, to theories that supported both Nazi Germany’s aggressions and the more enduring Cold War conflict. But since the 1980s political geography has experienced a revival, and it is now an exciting and vibrant field of study for geographers interested in both theoretical innovations and “real-world” relevance.

This course provides an introduction to a range of contemporary debates in political geography. Students will receive an overview of the ways in which political geographers, broadly defined, understand events at various scales, and of the theoretical and methodological approaches that have been brought to bear on the problems being studied. The course considers the “political” of political geography to relate not solely to the actions of states (and of those contesting the actions of states), but to refer more broadly to struggles over power at various scales.

The course will consist primarily of seminars, where the emphasis will be on student participation. Examination will occur by a final paper of approximately 5000 words. The language of instruction is English.

TO APPLY:

Send an email to David Jansson (david.jansson@kultgeog.uu.se) confirming your interest in taking the course and including an explanation of how the course might relate to your research interests. Seats in the course are limited, so we cannot guarantee everyone admission. Applications will be accepted up until 27 January 2017, and the organizers will inform all applicants whether or not they are admitted to the course shortly after this deadline.

Preliminary list of instructors (subject to change):

David Jansson, Uppsala University
Madeleine Eriksson, Umeå University
Mekonnen Tesfahuney, Karlstad University
Don Mitchell, Uppsala University
Richard Ek, Lund University
Joanne Sharp, University of Glasgow
PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE:

Module 1: 23-24 February 2017, Uppsala University
Theme: Theory in Political Geography

23 February:
10.00 – 12.30: Seminar 1
14.00 – 16.30: Seminar 2

24 February:
9.30 – 12.00: Seminar 3
13.15 – 14.30: Public lecture
15.00 – 16.30: Dissertation workshop

Module 2: 23-24 March 2017, Umeå University
Theme: The Politics of Place

6 April:
10.00 – 12.30: Seminar 4
14.00 – 16.30: Seminar 5

7 April:
9.30 – 12.00: Seminar 6
13.15 – 14.30: Public lecture
15.00 – 16.30: Dissertation workshop

Module 3: 22-23 May 2017, Karlstad University
Theme: Geopolitics and Security

22 May:
10.00 – 12.30: Seminar 7
14.00 – 16.30: Seminar 8

26 May:
9.30 – 12.00: Seminar 9
13.15 – 14.30: Public lecture
15.00 – 16.30: Dissertation workshop

Subjects and literature:

The specific seminar topics will be announced at a later date. The themes of the three modules of the previous course in 2014 were: Nationalism and geopolitics, Political geography and theory, and Migration, security and public space. The topics of the individual seminars were: Nationalism; Popular geopolitics 2.0; Spatial selves and Others; Territory; The politics and publics of democratic
space; Articulations of sovereignty, government and spaces of exception; Scale; Political geographies of attention and decision-making; European Capital of Culture/living with difference; Migrant spaces; and Activism and the politics of public space.

The literature for this course will be announced later. The literature assigned for the previous edition of the course included the following readings:


