

Geography 4712
Fall Semester 2018
October

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY (last revised 20

Instructor:

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This course focuses on the international and cross-national perspectives of political geography. It deals with political, economic and social aspects of international relations from a geographical perspective and examines societies in transition in the post Cold War and 9-11 world. As such, the course has an integrative character and requires basic knowledge about international affairs. Frequent reading of a substantive newspaper or magazine, such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Economist* or the *BBC News* webpage (news.bbc.co.uk) would help significantly to acquire (or develop) knowledge of global locations and current events.

The course is designed for the upper-division level. It surveys some important aspects of the discipline of political geography but does not engage in a systematic survey of regional issues and conflicts. Instead, contemporary developments in the world's regions (especially the Balkans and the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and Africa) are used to illustrate the concepts from the lectures and readings.

All students are expected to come to the discussion sections with questions based on their reading of the materials. The website will have a list of key concepts/terms from the lectures and readings and the TA will organize discussion around them. Further details will be provided in the first recitation section meeting. The electronic readings are available on the course link in Canvas. **There is no course text** though we will read various text-like chapters as well as research articles on electronic reserve. Information on the electronic files and other class material are given on the course Canvas page

PDF files of the class materials (text-only and key diagrams/maps) used in lecture are also available a day or two before the respective lecture via Canvas for pre-lecture printing; these print-outs should help to alleviate frantic note-taking.

Success in this course is a function of the well-proven formula (class attendance, staying current with the readings, and asking for help when needed). Use of the lecture notes from the website is no substitute for class attendance. The TA will take weekly recitation attendance and you will be expected to have the recitation sheet completed before class. The TA may give small quizzes in order to assess students' comprehension of reading material especially if it's clear that the readings are being ignored. *Please note that recitations begin during the first week of classes.*

The exams are evenly divided between lecture and recitation material using a mixed essay and short-answer format. A supplemental review sheet of important concepts will be posted on Canvas about a week prior to exams. For the course research paper students are required to follow a specific framework by using a theory covered in class to explain/interpret a case study they have selected in consultation with their TA. Because of this format, students will find that the research paper is different than papers they have submitted to other courses. We strongly recommend that students carefully adhere to the paper guidelines, which will be posted on the course webpage.

Students are required to submit a paper proposal to their TA and the proposal must be approved before students continue with their research. Details about the format and requirements of the research paper will also be given in the discussion sections about early October.

Grades are assigned on the basis of 25% midterm; 25% final examination; 25% term paper; 25% discussion section attendance/performance.

NOTA BENE - KEY DATES FALL SEMESTER 2018:

Midterm examination will be held on **Wednesday 15 October 7-10pm**

Proposals for the paper are due to the Canvas assignments box on **Friday 26 October at 5pm**

The *paper* must be submitted to the Canvas assignments box by **5pm on Wednesday 21 November**

The *final examination* will be held on **December 19, 7:30pm-10pm**. (The final will cover the material in unit 2).

Course Overview:

In this course, we emphasize relative (and sometimes abstract) understandings of the geographic context within which life unfolds. Major concepts and theories from the field of international relations are included in our analysis of world politics alongside topics that anchor the discipline of political geography. The course is not purely theoretical, however, and our explicit goal is to tie theory to contemporary issues and case studies. This is especially true in weekly recitation sections. The course material also does not center on a single world region. Instead, we follow a thematic approach with topics such as U.S. foreign policy/geopolitics, civil war in African states, political transformations in the former Soviet Union, and international political economy are all examples in this course.

Placing the order of topics in the course for practical (many students write papers on nationalist topics) and pedagogical (more accessible and familiar material first) reasons, after some introductory material, we begin by analyzing the reasons why “nationalisms” and civil wars seem to be booming, both literally and figuratively. Then, we examine the “Third Wave of Democracy” and examine the recent developments in Russia, the Middle East and Africa. After the midterm, we begin with a short review of “geopolitics” particularly as the field developed in the U.S. before and after the Cold War before we turn to a comprehensive framework for understanding contemporary global economic and political changes, “world-systems theory” and we then use this theory to understand contemporary changes in the world regions.

Lecture Outline

Week 1: (Aug. 27) Introduction
What is political geography? Who gets what **where**, and how.

UNIT 1 NATIONALISM AND CONFLICT

Week 2: (Sep. 3) *Labor Day (no class)*
Theories of nationalism – non-geographic approaches

Week 3: (Sep. 10) Territorial bases of nationalism
Territory and resources

Week 4: (Sep. 17) Citizenship and belonging –Turkey and Russia
What causes conflicts? Political geography approaches

Week 5: (Sep. 24) Ethno-territorialism and democracy – Scotland and Russia

Week 6: (Oct. 1) Democracy and its challengers -Global perspectives

Week 7: (Oct. 8) The geographical study of conflicts
After the fighting stops – postwar outcomes

Week 8: (Oct. 15) Climate change and conflict – is there a connection?

MIDTERM Exam *October 15, Monday, 7-10pm*

Week 8: (Oct. 17) Global climate change – geopolitical implications - class discussion

UNIT 2 GEOPOLITICS AND THE WORLD-SYSTEM

Week 9: (Oct. 27) Classical geopolitics – “Family Tree”
Heartland theory and Eurasia

Week 10: (Nov. 3) German (Nazi) geopolitics
U.S. (“Democratic”) geopolitics

Week 11: (Nov. 10) Cold War US geopolitics
Post-911 American geopolitics

Week 12: (Nov. 17) Critical geopolitics I
Critical geopolitics II

Fall Break November 19-26

Week 13: (Nov. 26) Understanding contemporary geopolitical orientations

Week 14: (Dec. 3) World-systems Theory – Wallerstein

Week 15: (Dec 10) World-systems theory - Modelski
Critiques of World-System Theory

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Discussion Sections and Readings

NOTE: DISCUSSION SECTIONS BEGIN ON WEEK OF AUGUST 27th.

(The keyword in ALL CAPS after the title is the title of the electronic reserve on Canvas)

Week 1 (Aug . 27) Introduction

Reading: “War in Bosnia-Herzegovina” (DAHLMAN-TOAL)

Week 2 (Sep. 3) Nationalism

Reading: Taylor and Flint 192-234 (TF_NATIONALISM)

Anderson –chapters of “Imagined Communities” (IMAGINED COMMUNITIES)

UNIT 1 NATIONALISM AND CONFLICTS

Week 3: (Sep. 10) Territorial Control

Reading: Sachs, et al “Geography of poverty” (GEOG OF POVERTY)

LeBillon “Political geography of resource conflicts” (LEBILLON)

Week 4 (Sep. 17) Citizenship and identity

Reading: Secor “Islamism, democracy, and the headscarf ”(HEADSCARF)

Sabirova “Young Muslim Tatar girls” (TATAR GIRLS)

Week 5 (Sep. 24) Civil wars and coups

Reading: Collier “What fuels civil war?” (CIVIL WARS)

Week 6 (Oct 1) Geography of democratization and anti-democracy

Reading: O’Loughlin “Global democratization” (GLOBAL DEMOCRATIZATION)

Zakaria “Illiberal democracy” (ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY)

Week 7 (Oct 8) Nationalism and conflicts

Reading: O’Loughlin “The political geography of conflict” (GEOGRAPHY CONFLICT)

Week 8 (Oct 15) Conflicts in the Post Cold War world

Reading: UNEP “From conflict to peacebuilding” (UNEP)

Watts “Conjunctures and crisis” (CONJUNCTURES)

Midterm October 15 - 7pm

Unit 2 GEOPOLITICS AND THE WORLD_SYSTEM

Week 9 (Oct. 22) Climate change and conflict and introduction to geopolitics

Reading: Barnett “Geopolitics of climate change” (GEOPOLITICS CLIMATE)

Week 10 (Oct 29) Classical Geopolitics

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 49-62 (TF_GEOPOLITICS_1)

Agnew “The three ages of geopolitics” (THREE AGES)

Week 11 (Nov 5) German Geopolitics

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 74-104 (TF_GEOPOLITICS_2)

Ó Tuatháil (from *Critical Geopolitics*) pp. 111-136 (GERMAN GEOPOLITICS)

Agnew "A new age of global geopolitics" (NEW AGE)

Week 12 (Nov. 12) U.S. ("Democratic") Geopolitics

Reading: O'Loughlin "Ordering the Crush Zone. (CRUSH ZONE)
Ignatieff "The American empire: The burden" (AMERICAN EMPIRE)
Johnson "Roots of American militarism." (AMERICAN_MILITARISM)

Fall Break

Week 13 (Nov. 26) Critical Geopolitics

Reading: Barnett "The Pentagon's New Map" (PENTAGON'S MAP)
Roberts, Secor, and Sparke, "Neoliberal Geopolitics" (NEOLIBERAL GEOPOLITICS)
Flint and Taylor 65-77 (CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS)
Kolstø, "The Sustainability and Future of Unrecognized Quasi-States" (QUASI-STATES)

Week 14 (Dec. 3) World-system theories and its critiques

Reading: Flint and Taylor , 1-65 (WORLD SYSTEMS)

Week 15 (Dec. 10) Flat-worlders versus geographers

Reading: Kaplan "Revenge of geography" and critics (KAPLAN&CRITICS)
Friedman "It's a flat world, after all" (FLAT WORLD)
Grant and Nijman, "Re-Scaling of Uneven Development in Ghana and India,"
(RESCALING OF UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT)

It is imperative that all students come prepared to the discussion section with the weekly reading completed and review sheet consulted. The same readings will be the basis for the questions on half of the examinations and quizzes.

CLASS READINGS

Agnew, J. **Geopolitics: Revisioning World Politics.** London: Routledge, 2003.

Anderson, B. **Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism.** New York: Verso, 1991.

Barnett, Jon, "The geopolitics of climate change." **Geography Compass** 1 (6), 2007, 1361-1375.

Barnett, T.J. "The Pentagon's new map: It explains why we are going to war and why we will keep going to war." **Esquire** (March 2003) 174-179, 227-228.

Collier, P. et al. **Breaking the Conflict Trap.** Washington DC: World Bank, 2003.

Dahlman, C. and G Ó Tuathail "Broken Bosnia: The Localized Geopolitics of Displacement and Return in Two Bosnian Places" **Annals, Association of American Geographers** 95 (2005) 644-662.

Flint, C. and P.J. Taylor **Political Geography: World-system, nation-state and locality.** 5th ed. New York: Pearson, 2007.

Friedman, T. "It's a Flat World, After All" **The New York Times Magazine**, (April 3, 2005).

Grant, R. and J. Nijman, "The Rescaling of Uneven Development in Ghana and India", **Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie** 95 (2004) 467-481.

Ignatieff, M. "The American empire: The burden." In G. Ó Tuathail, S. Dalby and P. Routledge (eds) **The Geopolitics Reader**. 2nd edition. London: Routledge, 2006, pp. 155-163.

Johnson, C. 2003. **The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic**. New York: Metropolitan Books.

Kaplan, R. "The revenge of geography" **Foreign Policy** 172: May-June 2009, pp. 96-105, and responses by political geographers "Revenge of geographers" at *Foreign Policy* online

Kolstoe, P. "The sustainability and future of unrecognized quasi-states" **Journal of Peace Research** 43, 2006, 723-740.

LeBillon, P. "The political geography of resource wars", in C. Flint (ed) **The Geography of War and Peace: From Death Camps to Diplomats**. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005, 217-241

National Academy of Sciences Report "Climate and Social Stress: Implications for Security Analysis" Washington DC: National Research Council, 2012 (executive summary)

O'Loughlin, J "Global democratization: Measuring and explaining the diffusion of democracy" In C. Barnett and M. Low (eds) **Spaces of Democracy**. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2004, 23-46.

O'Loughlin, J "The political geography of conflict: Civil wars in the hegemonic shadow" in C. Flint (ed) **The Geography of War and Peace: From Death Camps to Diplomats**. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005, 85-110

Ó Tuathail, G **Critical Geopolitics**. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.

Ó Tuathail, G "Thinking critically about geopolitics" in G. Ó Tuathail, S. Dalby and P. Routledge (eds) **The Geopolitics Reader**. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2006, pp. 1-14.

Roberts, S., A. Secor, and M. Sparke "Neoliberal Geopolitics" **Antipode** 35 (2003) 886-897.

Sachs, J, et al. "The geography of poverty" **Scientific American** March 2001, 70-75.

Secor, A. "Islamism, democracy, and the political production of the headscarf issue in Turkey", In G. Falah and C. Nagel (eds) **Geographies of Muslim Women**. New York: Guilford Press, 2005

Taylor, P.J. and C. Flint **Political Geography: World-system, nation-state and locality**. 4th ed. London: Longman, 2000.

Watts, M. "Conjunctures and crisis: Food, ecology and population and the internationalization of capital." **Journal of Geography** 86 (1987), 292-299.

Zakaria, F. "The rise of illiberal democracy." **Foreign Affairs** 76 (6), 1997, 22-43.

Honor Code and Plagiarism

The College of Arts and Sciences passed an Honor Code a few years ago. All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member (grade of F) and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion)
<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Turnitin.com

A key element of this code is that CU students will not plagiarize (using the words and thoughts of others as your own). As part of the effort to control plagiarism and to ensure that submitted works from students are fully their own, it is the instructor's intent to submit the student papers in Geog. 4712 to TurnItIn.com via Canvas and to recommend a grade of F to any student in violation. Note that you cannot submit the same paper or part of a paper for two different classes (current or earlier) without the express permission of both instructors. If a student has any questions about this procedure or about any matter regarding proper citation and the Honor Code, he or she should talk to a TA or the instructor. We will provide full instructions on proper citation and referencing in the recitations leading up to the paper deadline.

Disability Accommodations:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices. This office will give you a letter for the instructor that lists the accommodations.

Religious Accommodation:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you believe that you might have such a conflict, please see the instructor.

Classroom Behavior:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline, including exclusion from the class. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy is especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with the politically-sensitive subject matter of this class. Diversity of opinion is welcomed. ***PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS (EXCEPT FOR NOTE_TAKING) DURING CLASS and RECITATIONS.***

Exam Conflicts:

Midterm or Final examination conflicts: if you have 3 final exams on the same day, you can reschedule one. See the university policy on this procedure. Please don't schedule a departure from Boulder before December xx (day of our final at 1:30pm). If you have a conflict with the midterm on the evening of October 15, please talk to the instructor or your TA.