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*, or the *Economist* 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 Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and Africa) are used to illustrate the concepts from the lectures and readings.

In response to student requests, we restructured the course in 1996 as a two lectures- one discussion period per week. (Formerly we had 3 lectures per week). This experiment is successful when all students come to the discussion sections having already read the material and with questions. The TA will pass out a list of key concepts/terms from the lectures and readings and will organize discussion around them; students will be assigned to a group for purposes of leading a discussion. Further details in the first recitation section meeting. Details about the format and requirements of the research paper will also be given in the discussion sections.

There is no text though we will read various text-like chapters as well as research articles on electronic reserve. Details on accessing the electronic files are given on the course webpage - [http://www.colorado.edu/geography/class_homepages/geog_4712_f06/](http://www.colorado.edu/geography/class_homepages/geog_4712_f06/). PDF files of the class materials used in lecture are also available via the website for pre-lecture printing and this should help to alleviate frantic note-taking. The username for these notes is geog4712 and the password is XXXXXX (see the hardcopy syllabus or ask the instructor/TAs).

Success is this course is a function of the usual formula (class attendance, staying current with the readings, and asking for help when needed). Use of the lecture notes from the website is no substitution for class attendance. The TAs will take weekly recitation attendance.
Course Overview:

We begin with a short review of “geopolitics” particularly as the field developed in the U.S. before and after the Cold War. Then we examine the “Third Wave of Democracy” and examine the recent developments in Eastern Europe, Russia, Middle East and Africa. After the midterm, 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. We examine economic changes first, particularly under the rubric of “globalization” and look at what effects these dramatic changes have on localities in parts of the Third World. Finally, we analyze the reasons why “nationalisms” and civil wars seem to be booming, both literally and figuratively. By looking at postwar scenarios, we consider the possibilities of further conflict. We conclude with some considerations of what the political geography of the post 9-11 world might resemble.

Grades are assigned on the basis of 30% midterm; 30% final examination; 30% term paper and 10% discussion section performance. The midterm will be held on 18th October at 7pm. The final examination will be held on Saturday 16th December, 1:30pm-4pm (the first day of final exams).

Lecture Outline

Week 1: (Aug. 28) Introduction
   What is political geography? Illustration from Bosnia

Week 2: (Sept 4) Labor Day (no class)
   Classical Geopolitics

Week 3: (Sept. 11) Heartland Theory and Eurasia
   German Geopolitics

Week 4: (Sept. 18) U.S. (“Democratic”) Geopolitics
   Cold War US Geopolitics

Week 5: (Sept. 25) Critical Geopolitics
   US Geopolitics and the Promotion of Democracy

Week 6: (Oct. 2) Democratization and its Discontents
   Restructuring in the Third World

Week 7: (Oct. 9) Geopolitics of Oil

Week 8: (Oct. 16) Substantive and procedural democracy in post-Communist societies
   Review for Midterm Examination
   MIDTERM EXAMINATION October 18 at 7pm

Week 9: (Oct. 23) World-Systems Theory - Wallerstein
   World-Systems Theory - Modelski

Week 10: (Oct. 30) Crises of the State in Capitalist Societies
   The Politics of Failure in the Third World
Week 11: (Nov. 6) Globalization and its Effects  
World Cities as nodes in the global networks

Week 12: (Nov. 13) Theories of Nationalism  
Applications of Theories of Nationalism

THANKSGIVING WEEK – No classes or recitations

Week 13: (Nov. 27) Ethno-territorial conflicts  
The political geography of civil wars

Week 14: (Dec. 4) The aftermath of war: Bosnia and the North Caucasus  
The nature of conflicts in the future

Week 15: (Dec. 11) Political Geography – US hegemony and conflicts  
Chaos and Cosmos in the World System

Geography 4712  
Fall 2005

Discussion Sections and Readings

NOTE: DISCUSSION SECTIONS BEGIN ON WEEK OF AUGUST 28th.  
(The keyword in ALL CAPS after the title is the name of the electronic reserve)

Week 1 (Aug.28) Introduction  
Reading: O'Tuathail/Dahlman “Post-domicide Bosnia-Herzegovina.” (DOMICIDE)

Week 2 (Sept 4) Classical Geopolitics  
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 49-62 (TF_GEOPOLITICS_1)  
Agnew “The three ages of geopolitics” (THREE AGES)

Week 3 (Sep. 11) German Geopolitics  
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 74-104 (TF_GEOPOLITICS_2)  
O'Tuathail (from Critical Geopolitics) pp. 111-136 (GERMAN GEOPOLITICS)

Week 4 (Sep. 19) U.S. (“Democratic”) Geopolitics  
Reading: O'Loughlin “Ordering the Crush Zone.” (CRUSH ZONE)  
Agnew “A new age of global geopolitics” (NEW AGE)

Week 5 (Sep. 26) Promoting Democracy  
Reading: Ignatieff “The American empire – the burden” (IGNATIEFF)  
O'Tuathail “Thinking critically” (from Geopolitics Reader) (THINKING CRITICALLY)
Week 6 (Oct. 2) Globalization and Democratization
Reading: O’Loughlin “Global democratization” (GLOBAL DEMOCRATIZATION)
Sachs, et al “Geography of poverty” (GEOG OF POVERTY)

Week 7 (Oct. 9) Geopolitics of Oil
Reading: LeBillon/El Khatib “From free oil to “freedom oil” (FREEDOM OIL)
Belton “Caspian Great Game Back On” (GREAT GAME)

Week 8 (Oct. 16) Post-Communism and Illiberal Democracy
Reading: Lieven “America –right or wrong” (LIEVEN)
Zakaria “Illiberal democracy” (ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY)

Review for midterm

Week 9 (Oct. 23) World systems theory
Reading: Taylor and Flint 1-24, 62-74 (TF_WORLD SYSTEMS)

Week 10 (Oct. 30) Politics of Failure in the Third World
Reading: Secor “Islamist politics” (SECOR)
Baxter “Cotton subsidies squeeze Mali” (COTTON SUBSIDIES)

Week 11 (Nov. 6) Effects of Globalization
Reading: Luke “Postmodern geopolitics” (LUKE)
Watts “Conjunctures and crisis” (CONJUNCTURES)

Week 12 (Nov. 13) Theories of Nationalism
Reading: Taylor and Flint 192-234 (TF_NATIONALISM)

Week 13 (Nov. 27) Ethno-territorial conflicts
Reading: Collier “What fuels civil war?” (CIVIL WARS)

Week 14 (Dec 4) Aftermaths of wars
Reading: O’Tuathail, O’Loughlin and Djipa (DAYTON)
O’Loughlin and O’Tuathail (SEPARATISM)

Week 14 (Dec. 11) Conflicts in the Post Cold War world
Reading: O’Loughlin “The political geography of conflict” (CONFLICT)
Barnett “The Pentagon’s New Map” (PENTAGON’S MAP)

It is imperative that all students come prepared to the discussion section with the weekly reading completed. The same readings will be the basis for the questions on half of the mid-term and final examinations.
**CLASS READINGS**


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.


Honor Code and Plagiarism

The College of Arts and Sciences passed an Honor Code a couple of 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 and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion.

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, the University has subscribed to TurnItIn.com. It is the instructor’s intent to submit the student papers in Geog. 4712 to TurnItIn.com and to give a grade of F in the course to any student in violation of the CU Honor Code. Note that you cannot submit the same paper or part of a paper for two different classes 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. You can see more about this issue at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/Pass_Code.html

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

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 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. 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 and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with the politically-sensitive subject matter of this class.