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 the Balkans 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_f07/](http://www.colorado.edu/geography/class_homepages/geog_4712_f07/) PDF files of the class materials (text-only and key diagrams/maps) 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**

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 Russia, the 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 how the political geography of the post 9-11 world might evolve.

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 **15th October at 7pm**. Proposals for the paper are due on **October 22** and the paper must be submitted by 5pm on **November 16**. The final examination will be held on **Thursday 20th December, 7:30am-10am** (the last day of final exams).

**Lecture Outline**

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<tr>
<th>Week 1: (Aug. 27)</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<td>What is political geography? Illustration from Bosnia-Herzegovina</td>
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<th>Week 2: (Sept 3)</th>
<th>Labor Day (no class)</th>
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<td>Classical Geopolitics</td>
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<th>Week 3: (Sept. 10)</th>
<th>Heartland Theory and Eurasia</th>
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<td>German Geopolitics</td>
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<th>Week 4: (Sept. 17)</th>
<th>U.S. (“Democratic”) Geopolitics</th>
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<td>Cold War US Geopolitics</td>
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<th>Week 5: (Sept. 24)</th>
<th>Critical Geopolitics</th>
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<td>US Geopolitics and the Promotion of Democracy</td>
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<th>Week 6: (Oct. 1)</th>
<th>Democratization and its Discontents</th>
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<td>Restructuring in the Third World</td>
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<th>Week 7: (Oct. 8)</th>
<th>Substantive and procedural democracy in post-Communist societies</th>
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<td>Review for Midterm Examination</td>
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<th>Week 8: (Oct. 15)</th>
<th>Review for <strong>MIDTERM EXAMINATION October 15 at 7pm</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<td>World-Systems Theory - Wallerstein</td>
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<th>Week 9: (Oct. 22)</th>
<th>World-Systems Theory - Modelski</th>
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<td>Critiques of World-System Theories</td>
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<th>Week 10: (Oct. 29)</th>
<th>Crises of the State in Capitalist Societies</th>
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<td>The Politics of Failure in the Third World</td>
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Week 11: (Nov. 5) Globalization and its Effects
World Cities as nodes in the global networks

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

THANKSGIVING WEEK – No classes or recitations

Week 13: (Nov. 26) Ethno-territorial conflicts
The political geography of civil wars

Week 14: (Dec. 3) The aftermath of war: Bosnia and the North Caucasus
US hegemony and conflicts

Week 15: (Dec. 10) The nature of conflicts in the future
Chaos and Cosmos in the World System

Geography 4712
Fall 2007

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; ‘see link’ refers to webpage in the bibliography below)

Week 1 (Aug.27) Introduction
Reading: Dahlman/O Tuathail “Broken Bosnia: localized displacement.” (BROKEN BOSNIA)

Week 2 (Sept 3) Classical Geopolitics
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 49-62 (TF_GEOPOLITICS_1)
Agnew “The three ages of geopolitics” (THREE AGES)

Week 3 (Sep. 10) 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. 18) U.S. (“Democratic”) Geopolitics
Reading: O’Loughlin “Ordering the Crush Zone.” (see link)
Agnew “A new age of global geopolitics” (NEW AGE)

Week 5 (Sep. 25) Critical Geopolitics
Reading: Ignatieff “The American empire – the burden” (IGNATIEFF)
O’Tuathail “Thinking critically” (from Geopolitics Reader) (THINKING CRITICALLY)
Flint and Taylor 65-77 (CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS)
Week 6 (Oct. 1) Globalization and Development
Reading: Taylor “Uneven development” (UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT)
Sachs, et al “Geography of poverty” (GEOG OF POVERTY)

Week 7 (Oct. 8) Democratization
Reading: O’Loughlin “Global democratization” (see link)
Dalby “Global geopolitics” (GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS)

Week 8 (Oct. 15) Post-Communism and Illiberal Democracy
Reading: Lieven “America –right or wrong” (LIEVEN)
Zakaria “Illiberal democracy” (ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY)

Week 9 (Oct. 22) World systems theory
Reading: Flint and Taylor, 1-65 (WORLD SYSTEMS)

Week 10 (Oct. 29) Politics of Failure in the Third World
Reading: Secor “Islamism, democracy, and the headscarf” (HEADSCARF)
Baxter “Cotton subsidies squeeze Mali” (COTTON SUBSIDIES)
Watts “Revolutionary Islam” (WATTS_ISLAM)

Week 11 (Nov. 5) Effects of Globalization
Reading: Luke “Postmodern geopolitics” (LUKE)
Watts “Conjunctures and crisis” (CONJUNCTURES)

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

Week 13 (Nov. 26) Ethno-territorial conflicts
Reading: Collier “What fuels civil war?” (CIVIL WARS)

Week 14 (Dec. 3) Aftermaths of wars
Reading: O’Loughlin “All are cold but few are frozen: Ossetia” (see link)
O’Loughlin and Ó Tuathail “Accounting for separatist sentiment” (see link)

Week 15 (Dec. 10) Conflicts in the Post Cold War world
Reading: O’Loughlin “The political geography of conflict” (see link)
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.


O'Loughlin, J. “All are cold but few are frozen: Secessionist conflicts, with a focus on Ossetia” Paper, Fall 2007.


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 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, 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.

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 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. 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.