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.

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_f08/ 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 (see print copy or ask the TAs)

Success is 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 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. NOTA BENE: The midterm will be held on 20th October at 7pm in Humanities 150. Proposals for the paper are due on October 24 at 5pm and the paper must be submitted to the TA by 5pm on November 21. The final examination will be held on Saturday 13th December, 7:30pm-10pm (the first day of final exams).

Lecture Outline

Week 1: (Aug. 25) Introduction
What is political geography? Illustration from Bosnia-Herzegovina

Week 2: (Sept 1) Labor Day (no class)
Classical Geopolitics

Week 3: (Sept. 8) Heartland Theory and Eurasia
German Geopolitics

Week 4: (Sept. 15) U.S. (“Democratic”) Geopolitics
Cold War US Geopolitics

Week 5: (Sept. 22) Critical Geopolitics
US Geopolitics and the Promotion of Democracy

Week 6: (Sept.29) Democratization and its Discontents
Restructuring in the Third World

Week 7: (Oct. 6) Globalization and Geopolitics

Week 8: (Oct 13) Globalization and its Effects
World Cities and Uneven Development

Week 9: (Oct. 20) Review for MIDTERM EXAMINATION October 20 at 7pm
World-Systems Theory - Wallerstein

Week 10: (Oct. 27) World-Systems Theory - Modelski
Critiques of World-System Theories

Week 11: (Nov. 3) Crises of the State in Capitalist Societies
The Politics of Failure in the Third World

Week 12: (Nov. 10) Theories of Nationalism
Applications of Theories of Nationalism

Week 13: (Nov. 17) Ethno-territorial conflicts
The political geography of civil wars

THANKSGIVING WEEK – No classes or recitations

Week 14: (Dec. 1) The aftermath of war: Bosnia and the North Caucasus
US hegemony and conflicts

Week 15: (Dec. 8) 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 25th.
(The keyword in ALL CAPS after the title is the title of the electronic reserve.)

Week 1 (Aug.25) Introduction
Reading: Dahlman/ Ó Tuathail “Broken Bosnia: localized displacement.” (BROKEN BOSNIA)

Week 2 (Sept 1) Classical Geopolitics
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 49-62 (TF_GEOPOLITICS_1)
Agniew “The three ages of geopolitics” (THREE AGES)

Week 3 (Sep. 8) German Geopolitics
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 74-104 (TF_GEOPOLITICS_2)
Ó Tuathail (from Critical Geopolitics) pp. 111-136 (GERMAN GEOPOLITICS)

Week 4 (Sep.15) U.S. (“Democratic”) Geopolitics
Reading: O’Loughlin “Ordering the Crush Zone. (CRUSH ZONE)
Agniew “A new age of global geopolitics” (NEW AGE)

Week 5 (Sep. 22) 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)

Week 6 (Sept.29) Democratization
Reading: O’Loughlin “Global democratization” (GLOBAL DEMOCRATIZATION)

Week 7 (Oct. 6) Post-Communism and Illiberal Democracy
Reading: Ignatieff, M. “The American empire: The burden.”
Zakaria “Illiberal democracy” (ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY)
Week 8 (Oct 13) Poverty and Uneven Development
**Reading:** Sachs, et al “Geography of poverty” (GEOG OF POVERTY)
Grant and Nijman, “Re-Scaling of Uneven Development in Ghana and India,” (RESCALING OF UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT)

Week 9 (Oct. 20) World systems theory
**Reading:** Flint and Taylor , 1-65 (WORLD SYSTEMS)

Week 10 (Oct. 27) Effects of Globalization
**Reading:** Friedman “It’s a flat world, after all” (FLAT WORLD)
Watts “Conjunctures and crisis” (CONJUNCTURES)

Week 11 (Nov. 3) Politics of Failure in the Third World
**Reading:** Secor “Islamism, democracy, and the headscarf ”(HEADSCARF)
Baxter “Cotton subsidies squeeze Mali” (COTTON SUBSIDIES)

Week 12 (Nov. 10) Theories of Nationalism
**Reading:** Taylor and Flint 192-234 (TF_NATIONALISM)
Anderson chapters Imagined Communities (IMAGINED COMMUNITIES)

Week 13 (Nov. 17) Ethno-territorial conflicts
**Reading:** Collier “What fuels civil war?” (CIVIL WARS)

Week 14 (Dec. 1) Aftermaths of wars
**Reading:** O’Loughlin, Ó Tuathail, Tsutsiev, Kolossov “An unresolved Caucasian conflict” (OSSETIA)
O’Loughlin “Post-conflict geographies” (POST-CONFLICT GEOGRAPHIES)

Week 15  (Dec. 8) Conflicts in the Post Cold War world
**Reading:** O’Loughlin “The political geography of conflict” (GEOGRAPHY CONFLICT)
Kolsto, “The Sustainability and Future of Unrecognized Quasi-States” (QUASI STATES)

*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 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. PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES.