

Geography 4712
Fall Semester 2009

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

Instructor:

John O'Loughlin
201h Guggenheim
303-492-1619 or 303-492-3671
email: johno@colorado.edu

Office Hours: MW 4-5pm or by appt.

Personal Homepage: <http://www.colorado.edu/IBS/PEC/johno/johno.html>

Teaching Assistants:

Andrew Linke
Guggenheim 312
492-3728
Andrew.M.Linke@colorado.edu
Office Hours: MW 2-3pm

Cole Akeson
Guggenheim 311
492-4279
cole.akeson@colorado.edu
Office Hours: T 2-3pm; W 11:30am-12:30pm.

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. 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_f09/ 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 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 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 25% midterm; 25% final examination; 25% term paper; 15% quizzes and 10% discussion section attendance/performance. ***NOTA BENE***: The midterm will be held on **21th October at 7pm in Education 220**. Proposals for the paper are due on **October 23 at 5pm** and the paper must be submitted to the TA by 5pm on **November 20**. The final examination will be held on **Wednesday 16th December, 7:30pm-10pm**. There will also be 2 shorter quizzes given in class on September 16th and November 9th.

Lecture Outline

Week 1: (Aug. 24)	Introduction What is political geography? Illustration from Bosnia-Herzegovina
Week 2: (Aug. 31)	Classical Geopolitics Heartland Theory and Eurasia
Week 3: (Sept. 7)	<i>Labor Day (no class)</i> German Geopolitics
Week 4: (Sept. 14)	U.S. (“Democratic”) Geopolitics Quiz 1
Week 5: (Sept. 21)	Cold War US Geopolitics Critical Geopolitics
Week 6: (Sept.28)	US Geopolitics and the Promotion of Democracy Democratization and its Discontents
Week 7: (Oct. 5)	Restructuring in the Third World Globalization and Geopolitics
Week 8: (Oct 12)	Globalization and its Effects World Cities and Uneven Development
Week 9: (Oct. 19)	Review for <i>MIDTERM EXAMINATION October 21 at 7pm</i> World-Systems Theory - Wallerstein
Week 10: (Oct. 26)	World-Systems Theory - Modelski Critiques of World-System Theories

- Week 11: (Nov. 2) Crises of the State in Capitalist Societies
The Politics of Failure in the Third World
- Week 12: (Nov. 9) Quiz 2
Theories of Nationalism
- Week 13: (Nov. 16) Applications of Theories of Nationalism to Conflicts
The political geography of civil wars
- THANKSGIVING WEEK – No classes or recitations*
- Week 14: (Nov. 30) The aftermath of war: Bosnia and the North Caucasus
US hegemony and local conflicts
- Week 15: (Dec. 6) The nature of territorial units in the future (quasi-states)
Chaos and Cosmos in the World System
-

Geography 4712

Fall 2009

Discussion Sections and Readings

NOTE: DISCUSSION SECTIONS BEGIN ON WEEK OF AUGUST 24th.

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

Week 1 (Aug.24) Introduction

Reading: Dahlman/ Ó Tuathail “Broken Bosnia: localized displacement.” (BROKEN BOSNIA)

Week 2 (Aug. 31) Classical Geopolitics

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

Week 3 (Sep. 7) 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. 14) 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. 21) 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.28) Democratization

Reading: O’Loughlin “Global democratization” (GLOBAL DEMOCRATIZATION)
Kaplan “Revenge of geography” and critics (KAPLAN&CRITICS)

Week 7 (Oct. 5) Post-Communism and Illiberal Democracy

Reading: Ignatieff, M. “The American empire: The burden” (AMERICAN EMPIRE)
Zakaria “Illiberal democracy” (ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY)
Johnson “Roots of American militarism.” (AMERICAN_MILITARISM)

Week 8 (Oct 12) 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. 19) World systems theory

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

Week 10 (Oct. 26) Effects of Globalization

Reading: Friedman “It’s a flat world, after all” (FLAT WORLD)
Watts “Conjunctures and crisis” (CONJUNCTURES)

Week 11 (Nov. 2) 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. 9) Theories of Nationalism

Reading: Taylor and Flint 192-234 (TF_NATIONALISM)
Anderson chapters Imagined Communities (IMAGINED COMMUNITIES)

Week 13 (Nov. 16) Ethno-territorial conflicts

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

Week 14 (Nov. 30) Aftermaths of wars

Reading: O’Loughlin “post-conflict geographies” (POST_CONFLICT)
UNEP “From conflict to peacebuilding” (UNEP)

Week 15 (Dec. 7) Conflicts in the Post Cold War world

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

Baxter, J. "Cotton subsidies squeeze Mali" May 19, 2003 (*news.bbc.co.uk*).

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.

O'Loughlin, J "Ordering the 'Crush Zone': Geopolitical Games in Post-Cold War Eastern Europe." in Nurit Kliot and David Newman (Eds.), **Geopolitics and Globalization: The Changing World Political Map**. London: Frank Cass, 2000, pp. 34-44 (only).

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, 2004, 85-110

O'Loughlin, J. "Post-conflict geographies." In N. Thrift and R. Kitchen (eds) **International Encyclopedia of Human Geography**. Oxford: Elsevier, 2009.

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

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 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 and to recommend 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 (current or earlier) without the express permission of the 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, 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 CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS.***