

Geography 4712
Fall Semester 2002

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

Instructor:

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Sections 012, 013 and 015 – Lisa Jordan. Sections 011, 014 and 016 - Sam Schueth

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. It also helps significantly to acquire (or develop) knowledge of global locations and current events through frequent reading of a substantive newspaper or magazine, such as *The New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, or the *Economist*.

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.

The readings are on electronic reserve. Details on accessing the electronic files are given via the course webpage - http://www.colorado.edu/geography/courses/geog_4712_f02/ The text is Peter J. Taylor and Colin Flint, **Political Geography** 4th ed. (New York: Longman, 2000). 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 login is **geog4712** and the password is ____.

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. We then turn to a comprehensive framework for understanding contemporary global economic and political changes, “world-systems theory”. After these two short theoretical exegeses, we then use the theories 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. Then we turn to the “Third Wave of Democracy” and examine the recent developments in Eastern Europe, Russia, Middle East and Africa. Finally, we analyze the reasons why “nationalisms” seem to be booming, both literally and figuratively. 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 or about 14 October. The final examination will be held on **Tuesday 17th December, 1:30- 4pm**. Please plan your travel accordingly.

Lecture Outline

Week 1: (Aug. 26)	Introduction The New Geopolitics
Week 2: (Sept. 2)	<i>Labor Day (no class)</i> Classical Geopolitics
Week 3: (Sept. 9)	Heartland Theory and Eurasia German Geopolitics
Week 4: (Sept. 16)	“Democratic Geopolitics” Cold War US Geopolitics
Week 5: (Sept. 23)	NATO in Kosovo - Aberration or Model for the Future US Geopolitics and the Promotion of Democracy
Week 6: (Sept. 30)	World-Systems Theory - Wallerstein World-Systems Theory - Modelski
Week 7: (Oct. 7)	Hegemonic Cycles US Hegemony in the post 9-11 World
Week 8: (Oct. 14)	Midterm Examination Globalization and its Effects
Week 9: (Oct. 21)	Challenging Globalization Restructuring in the Third World
Week 10: (Oct. 28)	Democratization and its Discontents Islamist Politics and Globalization

Week 11: (Nov. 4)	Crises of the State in Capitalist Societies The Politics of Failure in the Third World
Week 12: (Nov. 11)	Political Transitions in Africa and Middle East Islam and Democracy
Week 13: (Nov. 18)	Democrats, Stalinists, Socialists and Patriots in post-Communist societies Transition to Democracy; The case of Russia
Week 14: (Nov. 25)	Theories of Nationalism Applications of Theories of Nationalism
Week 15: (Dec. 2)	Ethno-territorial conflict in the former Soviet Union The nature of conflicts in the future
Week 16: (Dec. 9)	Political Geography - The New World Disorder Chaos and Cosmos in the World System

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Discussion Sections and Readings

NOTE: DISCUSSION SECTIONS BEGIN ON AUGUST 26TH.
(The keyword in ALL CAPS after the title is the name of the electronic reserve)

Week 1 (Aug.26) Introduction

Reading: *Economist* "The road to 2050: A survey of the New Geopolitics." (ROAD TO 2050)
Taylor and Flint, 1-12

Week 2 (Sep. 2) Classical Geopolitics

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 49-62
O'Tuathail (*Critical Geopolitics*) pp. 111-136 (GERMAN GEOPOLITICS)
(Note – students in Monday recitations attend another section this week – Labor Day)

Week 3 (Sep. 9) US Geopolitics

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 62-104
O'Tuathail "Thinking critically" (*Geopolitics Reader*) (THINKING CRITICALLY)

Week 4 (Sep. 16) Post Cold War Geopolitics

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 12-48
O'Loughlin "Ordering the Crush Zone." (CRUSH ZONE)

Week 5 (Sep. 23) World Systems Theory

Reading: Taylor and Flint, 105-144

Week 6 (Sept. 30) Hegemonic Cycles

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 144-172
Wallerstein "Twin Towers as Metaphor" (see web address)

Week 7 (Oct. 7) Contemporary World (Dis)Order

Reading: O'Loughlin and Kolossov "Still not worth the bones" (POMERANIAN GRENADIER)

NOTE: Students in sections on TH/F attend another section this week – Fall Break)

MIDTERM

Week 8 (Oct. 14) Globalization

Reading: K. Ohmae (*End of the Nation-State*), pp. 7-57 (END OF THE NATION STATE)
Taylor and Flint, 321-328

Week 9 (Oct. 21) Localities in the Globalized World

Readings: M. Watts "Conjunctures and crisis" (CONJUNCTURES)
Economist "Globalisation: Expelled from Eden" (BANANAS)

Week 10 (Oct. 28) Notions of Democracy

Reading: Taylor and Flint, 172-191
Kramer "Islamist notions of democracy" (ISLAMIC DEMOCRACY)
Hefner "September 11 and the Struggle for Islam" (see web link)

Week 11 (Nov. 4) Politics of Failure in the Third World

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 245-266, 270-285
Huntington "West unique, not universal" (WEST UNIQUE)

Week 12 (Nov. 11) Political Dilemmas in Transition Societies

Reading: Barber, *Jihad vs. McWorld*, pp. 219-59 (JIHAD AND MCWORLD)

Week 13 (Nov. 18) Transitions to Democracy in Eastern Europe and Russia

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 286-325
(NOTE- Students in sections on TH/F attend another section this week -THANKSGIVING)

Week 14 (Nov. 25) Nationalism Theories

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 192-234
Roy "Neo-fundamentalism" (see web link)

Week 15 (Dec. 2) Conflicts in Eastern Europe

Reading: Taylor and Flint, 325-367
Archibugi "Terrorism and Cosmopolitanism" (see web link)

Week 16 (Dec. 9) Review for Final Examination.

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.

If you have special learning needs, please let us know within the first 4 weeks of the semester. We can make accommodations for different exam formats, etc.

RESERVE READINGS

Economist "A survey of the new geopolitics: The road to 2050" 31st July 1999, 16 pps

G. O'Tuathail "Thinking critically about geopolitics" in G. O'Tuathail, S. Dalby and P. Routledge (eds) **The Geopolitics Reader**. London: Routledge, 1997, pp. 1-12.

G. O' Tuathail **Critical Geopolitics**. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996 . Chap. 4.

Kenichi Ohmae. **The End of the Nation-State: The Rise of Regional Economies** New York: Free Press, 1995

S. Huntington "The West: Unique, not universal." **Foreign Affairs** 75 (6) Nov-Dec, 1996, 28-46.

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

Economist "Globalisation: Expelled from Eden" 20 December, 1997, 35-38.

B. Barber, **Jihad vs. McWorld: How Globalism and Tribalism are Reshaping the World**, pp. 219-259

J. O'Loughlin "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. 34-55.

G. Kramer, "Islamist notions of democracy." **Middle East Report** July-Aug, 1993, pp. 2-8.

J. O'Loughlin and V. Kolossov "Still not worth the bones of a single Pomeranian grenadier: The geopolitics of the Kosovo war, 1999." **Political Geography** 21 (2002), 573-599.

I. Wallerstein "America and the World: The Twin Towers as Metaphor" Social Science Research Council Reflections on September 11 essays (www.ssrc.org/sept11/essays/wallerstein.htm)

R.W. Hefner "September 11 and the Struggle for Islam" Social Science Research Council Reflections on September 11 essays (www.ssrc.org/sept11/essays/hefner.htm)

D. Archibugi "Terrorism and Cosmopolitanism" Social Science Research Council Reflections on September 11 essays (www.ssrc.org/sept11/essays/archibugi.htm)

O. Roy "Neo-Fundamentalism" Social Science Research Council Reflections on September 11 essays (www.ssrc.org/sept11/essays/roy.htm)

Honor Code and Plagiarism:

The College of Arts and Sciences passed an Honor Code last year. 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.

The following is from the Honor Code website - "This service allows faculty to submit sentences, paragraphs, or entire term/research papers or other scholarly works to the [TurnItIn.com website](http://TurnItIn.com) for review. After the service scans more than 1.5 billion pages on the Internet, the faculty member will receive a report including the percentage of the material that has been identified as drawn from other sources, the degree of similarity in the matching material, and live hyperlinks to the original source material so that each faculty member can determine for themselves whether plagiarism has indeed occurred. In order to utilize this service, individual Pass Codes have been obtained and are available to university faculty." The electronic files submitted will then become part of the TurnItIn "closed database". According to the CU Honor code website "This procedure not only ensures that multiple submissions of the same material can be detected, regardless of the passage of time or the location of the submission, but protects the integrity of each student's scholarly efforts. No additional access to, use, or publication of the material in this paper bank is made by 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.

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