

Geography 4712
Fall Semester 2005

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY (Revised Nov 14 2005)

Instructor:

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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.

The text is Peter J. Taylor and Colin Flint, **Political Geography** 4th ed. (New York: Longman, 2000). The other readings are on electronic reserve. Details on accessing the electronic files are given on the course webpage - http://www.colorado.edu/geography/courses/geog_4712_f05/ 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 in 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 **19th October at 7pm in Humanities 1B50**. The final examination will be held on **Thursday 9th December, 10:30am-1pm** (the first day of final exams).

Lecture Outline

Week 1: (Aug. 22)	Introduction What is political geography? Illustration from Bosnia
Week 2: (Aug. 29)	Classical Geopolitics Heartland Theory and Eurasia
Week 3: (Sept. 5)	<i>Labor Day (no class)</i> German Geopolitics
Week 4: (Sept. 12)	“Democratic Geopolitics” Cold War US Geopolitics
Week 5: (Sept. 19)	US Geopolitics and the Promotion of Democracy
Week 6: (Sept. 26)	Democratization and its Discontents Restructuring in the Third World
Week 7: (Oct. 3)	Political Transitions in Africa and Middle East Islamist Politics and Globalization
Week 8: (Oct. 10)	Field trip report to N Caucasus Substantive and procedural democracy in post-Communist societies
Week 9: (Oct. 17)	Transition to democracy: Russia Review for Midterm Examination <i>MIDTERM EXAMINATION October 19 7pm 1B50 Humanities</i>
Week 10: (Oct. 24)	World-Systems Theory - Wallerstein World-Systems Theory - Modelski

Week 11: (Oct. 31)	Crises of the State in Capitalist Societies The Politics of Failure in the Third World
Week 12: (Nov. 7)	Globalization and its Effects World Cities as nodes in the global networks
Week 13: (Nov. 14)	Theories of Nationalism Applications of Theories of Nationalism
Week 14: (Nov. 21)	Ethno-territorial conflicts (class schedule on Nov 23 is the same as a Friday due to fall break)
Week 15: (Nov. 28)	The aftermath of war: Bosnia and the North Caucasus The nature of conflicts in the future
Week 16: (Dec. 5)	Political Geography – US hegemony and conflicts Chaos and Cosmos in the World System

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Discussion Sections and Readings

NOTE: DISCUSSION SECTIONS BEGIN ON WEEK OF AUGUST 22nd.
(The keyword in ALL CAPS after the title is the name of the electronic reserve)

Week 1 (Aug.22) Introduction

Reading: Dahlman “Geographies of genocide and ethnic cleansing: The lessons of Bosnia-Herzegovina.” (DAHLMAN)
Taylor and Flint, 1-12

Week 2 (Aug. 29) Classical Geopolitics

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

Week 3 (Sep. 5) US Geopolitics

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 62-104
O’Tuathail (from *Critical Geopolitics*) pp. 111-136 (GERMAN GEOPOLITICS)
O’Tuathail “Thinking critically” (from *Geopolitics Reader*) (THINKING CRITICALLY)

Week 4 (Sep. 12) Post Cold War Geopolitics

Reading: O’Loughlin “Ordering the Crush Zone.” (CRUSH ZONE)
Agnew “A new age of global geopolitics” (NEW AGE)

Week 5 (Sep. 19) Promoting Democracy

Reading: Taylor and Flint 172-191
Secor “Islamic politics: Anti-systemic or postmodern movement” (ISLAMIC POLITICS)

Week 6 (Sept. 26) Globalization and Democratization

Reading: O'Loughlin "Global democratization" (GLOBAL DEMOCRATIZATION)
Sachs, et al "Geography of poverty" (GEOG OF POVERTY))

Week 7 (Oct. 3) Contemporary World (Dis)Order

Reading: Wade "Winners and losers." (WINNERS LOSERS)
Flint "Dynamic metageographies of terrorism" (METAGEOGRAPHIES)

Week 8 (Oct. 10) Post-Communism

Reading: King "The benefits of ethnic wars" (ETHNIC WARS)

Review for midterm

Week 9 (Oct. 17) Illiberal democracy

Readings: Zakaria "Illiberal democracy" (ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY)

Week 10 (Oct. 24) World systems theory

Reading: Taylor and Flint 12-48
Taylor and Flint 145-172

Week 11 (Oct. 31) Politics of Failure in the Third World

Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 245-266, 270-285
Baxter "Cotton subsidies squeeze Mali" (COTTON SUBSIDIES)

Week 12 (Nov. 7) Effects of Globalization

Reading: Ohmae, "The cartographic illusion" (CARTOGRAPHIC ILLUSION)
Watts "Conjunctures and crisis" (CONJUNCTURES)

Week 13 (Nov. 14) Theories of Nationalism

Reading: Taylor and Flint 192-234

Week 14 (Nov. 21) Ethno-territorial conflicts

Reading: Collier "What fuels civil war?" (CIVIL WARS)
(Students in sections normally on Wed attend another section this week –makeup for Fall break)

Week 15 (Nov. 28) 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)

Week 16 (Dec. 5) 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.

RESERVE READINGS

Agnew, J. **Geopolitics: Revisioning World Politics**. London: Routledge, 2003.

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. "Geographies of genocide and ethnic cleansing: The lessons of Bosnia-Herzegovina" in C. Flint (ed) **The Geography of War and Peace: From Death Camps to Diplomats**. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004, 174-197.

Flint, C. "Dynamic metageographies of terrorism: The spatial challenges of religious terrorism and the "war on terrorism." In C. Flint (ed) **The Geography of War and Peace: From Death Camps to Diplomats**. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004, 198-216.

LeBillon, P. "The geography of 'resource wars.'" In C. Flint (ed) **The Geography of War and Peace: From Death Camps to Diplomats**. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004, 217-241.

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

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. 34-55.

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 (<http://www.colorado.edu/IBS/PEC/johno/pub/Global%20Democratization.pdf>)

O'Loughlin, J. "The political geography of war: 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 (http://www.colorado.edu/IBS/PEC/johno/pub/War_Book_web.htm)

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

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

Sachs, J, et al. "The geography of poverty" **Scientific American** March 2001, 70-75

Secor, A.J. "Islamist politics: Antisystemic or post-modern movements?" **Geopolitics** 6 (2001), 117-134.

Wade, R. "Winners and losers". **Economist** April 26, 2001.

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 last year. 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 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.