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 world. As such, the course has an integrative character and requires basic knowledge about international affairs. It also helps significantly to acquire (or develop) a 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. Or visit http://www.stratfor.com for weekly updates and alerts on events of international importance.

The course is clearly 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, Turkey and Africa) are used to illustrate the concepts from the lectures and readings.

In response to student requests, we have restructured the course 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. Each student will be given responsibility for passing out a couple of discussion questions at the beginning of a discussion periods and helping to lead that discussion; further details in the discussion section. Details about the format and requirements of the research paper will also be given in the discussion sections.

The readings on reserve are in the Earth Sciences library (ground floor in the new Benson Geology Building). Two copies are available; you may wish to photocopy all the reserve readings for your convenience. The text, Peter J. Taylor and Colin Flint, Political Geography 4th ed. (New York: Longman, 2000) will be available in the bookstore about September 9.

We begin with a short review of “geopolitics” particularly as the field developed in the U.S. before and after the Cold War and 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, Africa and Turkey. Finally, we analyze the reasons why “nationalisms” seem to be booming, both literally and figuratively.

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 about 15 October. The final examination is scheduled for Wednesday 15th December at 3:30. Please plan your travel accordingly.
Lecture Outline

Week 1: Introduction
The New Geopolitics

Week 2: Classical Geopolitics
German Geopolitik

Week 3: Cold War U.S. Geopolitics
Post Cold War U.S. Geopolitics

Week 4: Critical Geopolitics
Geopolitics and the Promotion of Democracy

Week 5: World-Systems Theory - Wallerstein
World-Systems Theory - Modelski

Week 6: Hegemonic Cycles
Kosovo-Aberration or Model for the Future

Week 7: Clash of Civilizations Thesis Revisited
Midterm Examination

Week 8: Globalization and its Effects
Challenging Globalization

Week 9: Restructuring in the Third World
Democratization and its Discontents

Week 10: Islamist Politics and Globalization
Democracy and Islam: A Case Study of Turkey

Week 11: Crises of the State in Capitalist Societies
The Politics of Failure in the Third World

Week 12: Political Transition in Eastern Europe
Democrats, Stalinists, Socialists and Patriots in Eastern Europe

Week 13: Transition to Democracy: The case of Russia
Transition to Democracy: The case of Ukraine

Week 14: Theories of Nationalism
Applications of Theories of Nationalism

Week 15: Ethno-territorial conflict in Eastern Europe
The nature of conflicts in the future – The world of 2050
Discussion Sections and Readings

NOTE: DISCUSSION SECTIONS BEGIN ON AUGUST 27th.

Week 1 (Aug. 27) Introduction

Week 2 (Sep. 3) Classical Geopolitics
Reading: Taylor and Flint Political Geography, 4th ed. pp. 49-62
        O’Tuathail (reserve) pp. 21-55

Week 3 (Sep. 10) U.S. Geopolitics
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 62-102
        O’Tuathail (reserve) pp. 111-140

Week 4 (Sep. 17) Alternative Geopolitics
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 102-105
        O’Tuathail (reserve), pp. 57-74
        O’Loughlin (web page) “Ordering the Crush Zone.”

Week 5 (Sep. 24) World Systems Theory
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 1-48

Week 6 (Oct. 1) Hegemonic Cycles
Reading: Taylor and Flint, 105-144

Week 7 (Oct. 8) Contemporary World Disorder
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 144-191

Week 8 (Oct. 15) Globalization
Reading: K. Ohmae (reserve), pp. 7-57

Week 9 (Oct. 22) Localities in the Globalized World
Readings: M. Watts (reserve) “Conjunctures and crisis”
         Economist (reserve) “Globalisation: Expelled from Eden”

Week 10 (Oct. 29) Islamism and Democracy
Reading: Kramer (reserve) “Islamist notions of democracy”
         Kurkcu (reserve) “The crisis of the Turkish state”

Week 11 (Nov. 5) Politics of Failure in the Third World
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 235-285

Week 12 (Nov. 12) Post-Communist Crises in Eastern Europe
Reading: M. Specter (Reserve) “Moscow on the make”

Week 13 (Nov. 19) Transitions to Democracy in Eastern Europe and Russia
Reading: Taylor and Flint, pp. 286-325
Week 14 (Nov. 26) Nationalism Theories

**Reading:** Taylor and Flint, pp. 192-234

(note; STUDENTS IN SECTION R013 ATTEND ANOTHER SECTION THIS WEEK)

Week 15 (Dec. 3) Conflicts in Eastern Europe

**Reading:** Taylor and Flint, 325-367

O’Loughlin and Kolossov (web page) “Pomeranian grenadier”.

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All readings are on reserve in the Earth Sciences library (1st floor New Benson Geology Building). It is imperative that all students are 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.

Economist “A survey of the new geopolitics: The road to 2050” 31st July 1999. 16 pps


http://www.colorado.edu/IBS/PEC/johno/pub/publications.html

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