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 on 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 password for access to these lecture notes is border.
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) | Labor Day (no class)  
Classical Geopolitcs |
| 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

Geography 4712  
Fall 2002

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.
RESERVE READINGS

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


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


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 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](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/Pass_Code.html)