Course Web Page: http://www.colorado.edu/geography/class_homepages/geog_4712_s06/

This course examines political, economic and social aspects of international relations from a geographical perspective, and focuses on societies in transition in the post Cold War and post 9/11 world. This course has an integrative character and requires basic knowledge about international affairs, global locations and current events; I recommend that students regularly read a substantive newspaper or magazine, such as The New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, or The Economist. This course will not engage in a systematic survey of regional issues and conflicts. Instead, contemporary developments in the world’s regions are used to illustrate the concepts and theories from the lectures and readings. This is an upper division course; the readings and the work-load reflect our expectations of a 4000-level class.

The course is divided into two parts:

1. **World-Systems Theory** and **Geopolitics.** After briefly introducing the political-economy approach found in world-systems theory, we will examine historical and contemporary geopolitics – the struggle for control over territory and resources; a primary goal of this section is to reach a better understanding of America’s role in the world.

2. **Nationalism, Globalization, and Democratization.** In the second section we analyze the upsurge of various nationalisms since the end of the Cold War, and evaluate their impact on the existing state-system. Finally, we place global economic and political change within the world-systems framework. We examine how economic globalization challenges traditional state structures, and we evaluate the viability of recent democratic transitions.

Course readings come from (1) the required text by Peter J. Taylor and Colin Flint (T&F below), Political Geography, 4th edition; and (2) electronic reserve. The electronic reserves (listed below in CAPITAL LETTERS) can be accessed through a link on our course web page. You will need your Identikey login and password to access these online reserve readings. **Readings for each week must be completed by lecture on Monday.** A complete bibliography for the course is available online.

Grades are assigned on the basis of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recitation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Email is considered an official means of communication by the university. It is your responsibility both to ensure that you are on the instructor’s email list, and to check your email regularly.
**Attendance in both lecture and recitation is required, and vital to your success in this course.** It is not the responsibility of the instructor or TA to provide students with information they have missed due to unexcused absences.

Absolutely **no make-up exams** will be given without a written excuse from a doctor or without some other valid reason for absence, such as observance of a religious holiday (see next paragraph).

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. Please inform your instructor within the first two weeks of the semester if you will be missing any part of this course due to religious obligations. The university policy on religious observance can be viewed at: [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

Any student may dispute a grade they receive in this course. The first step for a student wishing to question a grade is to bring up the matter with the person who gave them the grade (either the course instructor or the TA). If the TA is the student’s first contact, and the TA is not able to resolve the issue with the student, the student should bring the question to the instructor. If the student and the instructor cannot reach an agreement on the matter, the question will be referred to a third party – a faculty member in the Geography Department who has experience teaching this course. **The student must notify the TA or instructor that they wish to dispute a grade within two weeks of receiving that grade.**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to the instructor a letter from Disability Services within the first four weeks of the semester so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322; information is also available at: [www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices](http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices)

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. University policies on behavioral standards can be viewed at: [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html) and also at: [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

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 (a failing grade in the course) and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Information on the Honor Code can be found at: [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html) and at: [http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/)

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: [http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/](http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/)
# Political Geography: Course Syllabus

## Week 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No Classes - MLK Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Week 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>T&amp;F 1-48, Wikipedia REALISM VS IDEALISM (2 pgs.)</td>
<td>Intro to World Systems Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>T&amp;F 49-56, Mackinder GEOGRAPHICAL PIVOT (5 pgs.)</td>
<td>Intro to Geopolitics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Week 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Stratfor US GEOPOLITICS (3 pgs.), Stratfor GEOPOLITICS OF AID (1 pg.), T&amp;F 49-56</td>
<td>Anglo-American Geopolitics 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>T&amp;F 49-56, Mackinder GEOGRAPHICAL PIVOT (5 pgs.)</td>
<td>Anglo-American Geopolitics 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Week 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>T&amp;F 56-58, Haushofer WHY GEOPOLITIK (3 pgs.), O'Tuathail THINKING CRITICALLY (11 pgs.)</td>
<td>German Geopolitics 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>T&amp;F 56-58, Haushofer WHY GEOPOLITIK (3 pgs.), O'Tuathail THINKING CRITICALLY (11 pgs.)</td>
<td>German Geopolitics 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>T&amp;F 56-58, Haushofer WHY GEOPOLITIK (3 pgs.), O'Tuathail THINKING CRITICALLY (11 pgs.)</td>
<td>Optional: Film: Karl Haushofer 7:00 PM Gugg 206</td>
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</table>

## Week 5

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>T&amp;F 58-64, 74-104, Block ECONOMIC INSTABILITY (23 pgs.)</td>
<td>Cold War Geopolitics 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>T&amp;F 58-64, 74-104, Block ECONOMIC INSTABILITY (23 pgs.)</td>
<td>Cold War Geopolitics 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Optional: Kennan LONG TELEGRAM, Optional: NSC NSC-68</td>
<td>Optional: Film: The Fog of War 7:00 PM Gugg 206</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Week 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>O'Loughlin CRUSH ZONE (22 pgs.), Stratfor RUSSIAN NATIONALISM (1 pg.)</td>
<td>Post-Cold War Geopolitics 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>O'Loughlin CRUSH ZONE (22 pgs.), Stratfor RUSSIAN NATIONALISM (1 pg.)</td>
<td>Post-Cold War Geopolitics 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Week 7 | Reading: | Economist ADDICTED TO OIL (6 pgs.)  
| | | Cordesman GEOPOLITICS ENERGY (10 pgs.)  
| | | Economist PERILS ON THE SEA (5 pgs.)  
| | | Dymond TURKEY IN ROW (1 pg.)  
| | | Monthly Review MAP US BASES (map)  
| Feb 27 | Lecture: | Geopolitics of Oil 1  
| Mar 1 | Lecture: | Geopolitics of Oil 2  

| Week 8 | Reading: | Barnett PENTAGONS MAP (9 pgs.)  
| | | Selfa FOG OF DECEPTION (9 pgs.)  
| | | Nye NEW ROME (6 pgs.)  
| | | Economist AMERICA MIDDLE EAST (7 pgs.)  
| Optional: | | Donnelly REBUILDING AMERICA (Intro, Ch 1)  
| Mar 6 | Lecture: | Post-9/11 Geopolitics 1  
| Mar 8 | Lecture: | Post 9/11 Geopolitics 2  

| Week 9 | Reading: | Cohen EURASIAN CONVERGENCE (20 pgs.)  
| | | Friedman FINDING RUSSIA'S LIMIT (3 pgs.)  
| | | Stratfor TAJIKISTAN (3 pgs.)  
| | | Corera WAR ON TERROR (2 pgs.)  
| Optional: | | Agnew GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS  
| Mar 13 | Lecture: | Return to Great-Power Geopolitics  
| Mar 15 | Lecture: | Democracy as Geopolitics  
| Mar 16 | | Midterm Exam: 7:00-8:30 PM Hlms 252  

| Week 10 | Reading: | T&F 192-234  
| Mar 20 | Lecture: | Nationalism 1  
| Mar 22 | Lecture: | Nationalism 2  

| Week 11 | | Spring Break  

| Week 12 | Reading: | O'Loughlin CONFLICT (36 pgs.)  
| | | Economist MILITANT ISLAM (5 pgs.)  
| Optional: | | Collier CIVIL WARS  
| Apr 3 | Lecture: | Nationalism 3  
| Apr 5 | Lecture: | Nationalism 4  
| Apr 7 | | Proposals Due by 4:00 PM - Marco's Mailbox  

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Week 13
Reading:  
T&F 105-113, 129-144  
Ohmae CARTOGRAPHIC ILLUSION (14 pgs.)  
Baxter COTTON SUBSIDIES (3 pgs.)  

Apr 10  Lecture: Globalization 1  
Apr 12  Lecture: Globalization 2  

Week 14
Reading:  
Sachs GEOGRAPHY OF POVERTY (5 pgs.)  
Watts CONJUNCTURES (8 pgs.)  
Economist ARAB DEVELOPMENT (6 pgs.)  

Apr 17  Lecture: Globalization 3  
Apr 19  Lecture: Globalization 4  

Week 15
Papers Due: Monday April 24, 3:00 PM (in lecture)  
Reading:  
Kaplan DEMOCRACY MOMENT (17 pgs.)  
Zakaria ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY (12 pgs.)  
Economist AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (5 pgs.)  
Optional:  
Kramer ISLAMIST DEMOCRACY  

Apr 24  Lecture: Democratization 1  
Apr 26  Lecture: Democratization 2  

Week 16
Reading:  
Taylor POLITICS OF FAILURE (574-79, 586-7)  

May 1  Lecture: Democratization 3  
May 3  Lecture: Conclusions  

Final Exam: Wednesday May 10, 7:30 - 10:00 AM (in lecture room)