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 the post Cold War and post 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, the Economist or the BBC News webpage (news.bbc.co.uk) 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 the Balkans and the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa) are used to illustrate the concepts from the lectures and readings.

All students are expected to come to the class and discussion sections with questions based on their reading of the materials and review of the lecture slides that will be posted at least 24 hours before the respective class. For the discussion sections, the website will have a list of key concepts/terms from the lectures and readings and the TA will organize discussion around them. Further details will be provided in the first recitation section meeting. The electronic readings are available on the course link in Desire2Learn (D2L). There is no textbook though we will read various text-like chapters as well as research articles on electronic reserve. Information on the electronic files and other class material are given on the course D2L page.

PDF files of the class materials (generally text-only and diagrams/maps - but not photographs) used in lecture are designed to facilitate a partial inverse classroom experience, You could these slides for note taking but the main idea is to be familiar with their contents so that we can discuss them in class and the instructor can answer questions about them.

Success is this course is a function of the well-proven formula (class attendance, staying current with the readings, and asking for help when needed). Use of the lecture notes from the website is no substitute for class attendance. The TA will take weekly recitation attendance and you will be expected to have the recitation sheet completed before class. The TA may give small quizzes in order to assess students’ comprehension of reading material especially if it’s clear that the readings are being ignored. Please note that recitations begin during the first week (January 11) of classes.
The exams are evenly divided between lecture and recitation material using a mixed essay and short-answer format. A supplemental review sheet of important concepts will be posted on D2L prior to exams. For the course research paper students are required to follow a specific framework by using a theory to explain/interpret a case study they have selected in consultations with their TA and instructor. Because of this format, students will find that the research paper is different than papers they have submitted to other courses. We strongly recommend that students carefully adhere to the paper guidelines, which will be posted on the course webpage.

Students are required to submit a paper proposal to their TA and the proposal must be approved before students continue with their research. Details about the format and requirements of the research paper will also be given in the discussion sections about early March.

Grades are assigned on the basis of 25% midterm; 25% final examination; 25% term paper; 25% discussion section/lecture attendance/performance.

**KEY DATES Spring Semester 2016:**

*Midterm* examination will be held on **Wednesday 9 March 7-10pm**
*Proposals* for the paper are due to the TA on **Friday 11 March at 5pm**
The *paper* must be submitted to the TA by **5pm on Friday 22 April**
The *final examination* will be held on **Thursday, 5 May, 4:30pm-7pm.** (The final will cover the material in unit 2).

**Course Overview:**
In this course, we emphasize relative (and sometimes abstract) understandings of the spatio-temporal context within which politics unfolds. Major concepts and theories from the field of international relations are included in our critique of world politics alongside topics that anchor the discipline of political geography. The course is not purely theoretical, however, and our explicit goal is to tie theory to contemporary issues and case studies. This is especially true in weekly recitation sections. The course material also does not center on a single world region. Instead, we follow a thematic approach: U.S. foreign policy, civil war in African states, political transformations in the former Soviet Union, and international political economy are all examples of topics covered in this course.

Placing the order of topics in the course for practical (previous students have traditionally written papers on nationalist topics) and pedagogical (more accessible and familiar material first) reasons, after some introductory material, we begin by analyzing the reasons why “nationalisms” and civil wars seem to be booming, both literally and figuratively. Then, we examine the “Third Wave of Democracy” and examine the recent developments in Russia, the Middle East and Africa. After the midterm, we begin with a short review of “geopolitics” particularly as the field developed in the U.S. before and after the Cold War before 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.
Lecture Outline

Week 1: (Jan. 11)  Introduction
What is political geography? Who gets what where, and how.

UNIT 1  NATIONALISM AND CONFLICT

Week 2: (Jan. 18)  MLK Day (no class)
Theories of nationalism – non-geographic approaches

Week 3:  (Jan. 25)  Territorial bases of nationalism
Citizenship and belonging – Turkey and Russia

Week 4:  (Feb. 1)  What is political geography? Struggle for African resources – DeBoom
What causes conflicts? Political geography approaches

Week 5: (Feb. 8)  Ethno-territorialism in practice – Caucasus and Ukraine

Week 6:  (Feb. 15)  Applications of theories of nationalism to conflicts

Week 7:  (Feb. 22)  The geographical study of conflicts
After the fighting stops – postwar outcomes

Week 8:  (Feb. 29)  Climate change and conflict – is there a connection?
Global climate change – geopolitical implications

Week 9:  (Mar. 7)  Politics of failure in the Third World
Review for the exam

MIDTERM Exam  
March 9, Wednesday, 7-10pm

UNIT 2  GEOPOLITICS AND THE WORLD-SYSTEM

Week 10:  (Mar. 14)  Classical geopolitics – “Family Tree”
Heartland theory and Eurasia

Spring Break March 18-28

Week 11:  (Mar. 28)  German (Nazi) geopolitics
U.S. (“Democratic”) geopolitics

Week 12:  (Apr. 4)  Cold War US geopolitics
Post-911 American geopolitics

Week 13:  (Apr. 11)  Critical geopolitics I
Critical geopolitics – understanding contemporary conflicts

Week 14:  (Apr. 18)  World-systems Theory – Wallerstein

Week 15:  (Apr. 25)  World-systems theory - Modelski
Critiques of World-System Theory


**Discussion Sections and Weekly Readings**

NOTE: DISCUSSION SECTIONS BEGIN ON WEEK OF January 11th.
(Title in ALL CAPS after the title is the title of the electronic reserve on D2L.)

Week 1 (Jan. 11) Introduction
**Reading:** “War in Bosnia-Herzegovina” (DAHLMAN-TOAL)

**UNIT 1 NATIONALISM AND CONFLICTS**

Week 2 (Jan. 18), 1 Nationalism
**Reading:** Taylor and Flint 192-234 (TF_NATIONALISM)
    Anderson – chapters of “Imagined Communities” (IMAGINED COMMUNITIES)

Week 3: (Jan. 25) Territorial Control
**Reading:** Sachs, et al “Geography of poverty” (GEOG OF POVERTY)
    LeBillon “Political geography of resource conflicts” (LEBILLON)

Week 4 (Feb. 1) Citizenship and identity
**Reading:** Secor “Islamism, democracy, and the headscarf” (HEADSCARF)
    Sabirova “Young Muslim Tatar girls” (TATAR GIRLS)

Week 5 (Feb. 8) Nationalism and conflicts
**Reading:** Collier “What fuels civil war?” (CIVIL WARS)

Week 6 (Feb. 15) Conflicts in the Post Cold War world
**Reading:** UNEP “From conflict to peacebuilding” (UNEP)
    Watts “Conjunctures and crisis” (CONJUNCTURES)

Week 7 (Feb. 22) Geography of conflicts
**Reading:** O'Loughlin “The political geography of conflict” (GEOGRAPHY CONFLICT)

Week 8 (Feb. 29) Climate change and conflict
**Reading:** National Academy of Sciences “Climate and Social Stress” (NAS2012)
    Barnett “Geopolitics of climate change” (GEOPOLITICS CLIMATE)

Week 9 (Mar. 7) Democracy in the Third World
**Reading:** O’Loughlin “Global democratization” (GLOBAL DEMOCRATIZATION)
    Zakaria “Illiberal democracy” (ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY)

**Midterm** March 7, 7-10pm

**Unit 2 GEOPOLITICS AND THE WORLD_SYSTEM**

Week 10 (Mar. 14) Classical Geopolitics
**Reading:** Taylor and Flint, pp. 49-62 (TF_GEOPOLITICS_1)
    Agnew “The three ages of geopolitics” (THREE AGES)

Week 10 (Mar. 21) German Geopolitics
**Reading:** Taylor and Flint, pp. 74-104 (TF_GEOPOLITICS_2)
    Ó Tuathail (from Critical Geopolitics) pp. 111-136 (GERMAN GEOPOLITICS)
Agnew “A new age of global geopolitics” (NEW AGE)

Spring Break

Week 11 (Mar. 28) U.S. (“Democratic”) Geopolitics
Reading: O’Loughlin “Ordering the Crush Zone. (CRUSH ZONE)
Ignatieff “The American empire: The burden” (AMERICAN EMPIRE)
Johnson “Roots of American militarism.” (AMERICAN_MILITARISM)

Week 12 (Apr. 4) Critical Geopolitics
Reading: Barnett “The Pentagon’s New Map” (PENTAGON’S MAP)
Roberts, Secor, and Sparke, “Neoliberal Geopolitics” (NEOLIBERAL GEOPOLITICS)
Flint and Taylor 65-77 (CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS)
Kolsto, “The Sustainability and Future of Unrecognized Quasi-States” (QUASI-STATES)

Week 13 (Apr. 11) World-system theories and its critiques
Reading: Flint and Taylor , 1-65 (WORLD SYSTEMS)

Week 14 (Apr. 18) Flat-worlders versus geographers
Reading: Kaplan “Revenge of geography” and critics (KAPLAN&CRITICS)
Friedman “It’s a flat world, after all” (FLAT WORLD)
Grant and Nijman, “Re-Scaling of Uneven Development in Ghana and India,” (RESCALING OF UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT)

Week 15 (Apr. 25) Review for final

It is imperative that all students come prepared to the discussion section with the weekly reading completed and review sheet consulted. The same readings will be the basis for the questions on half of the examinations and quizzes.

CLASS READINGS


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.


Kaplan, R. “The revenge of geography” *Foreign Policy* 172: May-June 2009, pp. 96-105, and responses by political geographers “Revenge of geographers” at Foreign Policy online


Secor, A. ”Islamism, democracy, and the political production of the headscarf issue in Turkey”, In G. Falah and C. Nagel (eds) *Geographies of Muslim Women*. New York: Guilford Press, 2005


**Honor Code and Plagiarism**

The College of Arts and Sciences passed an Honor Code over a decade ago. 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 (grade of F) and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion)

http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

**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, it is the instructor's intent to submit the student papers in Geog. 4712 to TurnItIn.com via D2L and to recommend a grade of F to any student in violation. Note that you cannot submit the same paper or part of a paper for two different classes (current or earlier) 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. We will provide full instructions on proper citation and referencing in the recitations leading up to the paper deadline.

**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. This office will give you a letter for the instructor that lists the accommodations.

**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 might have such a conflict, please see the instructor.

**Classroom Behavior:**

Students and faculty have equal responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline, including exclusion from the class. 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 is especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with the politically-sensitive subject matter of this class. Diversity of opinion is welcomed. **PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS DURING CLASS AND RECITATIONS.**

**Exam Conflicts:**

Midterm or Final examination conflicts: if you have 3 final exams on the same day, you can reschedule one. See the university policy on this procedure. Please don’t schedule a departure from Boulder before May 5th late (day of our final at 4:30pm). If you have a legitimate conflict (e.g. class or job) with the midterm on the evening of March 9, please talk to the instructor or your TA about a makeup.