

GG365: Political Geography
Fall 2010
Department of Geography
University of Idaho

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Lecture: TuTh 2:00-3:15 PM, 214 Engineering Physics (EP).

Office hours: TuTh 3:30-4:30 PM and W 11:00-12:00 or, by appointment.

“ . . . the earth is in effect one world, in which empty, uninhabited spaces virtually do not exist. Just as none of us is outside or beyond geography, none of us is completely free from the struggle over geography. That struggle is complex and interesting because it is not only about soldiers and cannons but also about ideas, about forms, about images and imaginings. . . ”

- E.W. Said, *Culture and Imperialism* (1993)

Political Geography is a branch of human geography that concentrates on the spatial structure of political behavior. Political geography is concerned with political and related social and economic processes that generate “geographies of action” and landscapes of power. We approach these problems at three different scales: 1) the international arena, 2) the state, and 3) sub-state aggregates/local phenomena.

The state has become the main element of spatial political organization over the last 400 years (since 1648). As such, the rationale, functioning and changing role of the state will be addressed in a geographical context. The major territorial features of states such as frontiers, boundaries, secondary divisions, ethnic/national groupings, and the historical/social-economic factors that affect the form, organization and operation of the state and groupings of states will be treated. In addition and particularly, we will examine the relationships of geopolitics: that is, the political and economic inter-relationships among the most powerful states and their relations with weaker states and the landscapes of power that these interactions create.

Additionally, states will be treated in global perspective through various conceptions of world-scale structures such as theories of geopolitics, geopolitical world-orders and dependency. These structures reflect economic patterns of trade and investment as well as strategic orientations of individual states or groups of states. Economic and political development of states will be evaluated using historical, geographical and cultural/social perspectives to provide a realistic picture of the current status of the state in an increasingly integrated global-scale economy.

The course will begin with an overview of the geopolitical perspective. A selection of the topics to be covered are: (1) the geopolitical context and the role of geography in creating landscapes of power, (2) definitions, origins and structure of the state and formalized territoriality, (3) political processes that create “spaces of action” including the roles of nationalism, religious fundamentalism, ethnicity and shared historical experience as forces of state integration and devolution, (4) hegemony, imperialism and colonialism, neocolonialism, (5) geopolitical world orders and variants, (6) the means of mastering space, geopolitics, geostrategy and their impact on the political and economic geography of world order.

Textbooks

Required:

- 1) *Introduction to Geopolitics*. Colin Flint. 2006. Routledge.
- 2) *Hegemony: The New Shape of Global Power*. John Agnew. 2005. Temple University Press.
- 3) *Chaos and Governance in the Modern World System*. Giovanni Arrighi and Beverly Silver. 1999. Univ. of Minnesota Press.

The textbooks are available at the UI bookstore. A BlackBoard site has been made available and all additional readings and course materials will be placed on the site.

Additional readings will be used to provide added depth and many are listed in the following schedule. These additional readings will either be provided as handouts in lecture to students or will be made available either as PDF or Word documents via e-mail or through BlackBoard. The additional readings will be used to expand standard course material to provide greater depth. It is advised that students spend some time studying the additional readings because theory and examples will be provided in these materials.

Grading: The course grade will be distributed by completion of course requirements as follows:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Grade Contribution</u>
Midterm	25%
Semester Paper	30%
Final Exam	25%
Quizzes	15%
Lecture Participation	5%

Attendance will be taken at all lectures as one component of participation. As such, students are expected to attend ALL lectures and discussion sections and arrive in a timely fashion and be prepared to actively take notes and contribute to the class experience. *Eating, drinking and particularly sleeping are not acceptable behaviors during lectures or discussions. Furthermore, there is no need for either laptops, PDAs, cell phones, smart phones/iPhones, iPads, etc. to be used or consulted during lecture!* Students are expected to have read background material prior to arriving at lecture and behave in lecture and discussion sections in accordance with the University of Idaho Academic Conduct Code regarding class comportment, attendance, and issues of cheating, and plagiarism. Discussion is greatly encouraged during lecture as are questions for ideational clarification and inquiry.

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in failure. Please ask me if you need to use a laptop during lecture and be prepared to justify your request.

Exams.

The exams will consist of essay questions designed to test your knowledge of basic concepts, theories and principles of political geography as well as provide new insights into the subject. The exams will be of the “take-home” type. However, they will be graded for originality and mastery of application of the ideas. Simple regurgitation of material from the readings and lecture will not suffice. There will be no substitution or make-up exams given. **Also, extra credit papers will NOT be accepted as replacement for any other course requirement.** Cheating or plagiarism discovered on an exam will result in failure.

Paper.

The topic for the semester paper may be chosen by the student but requires explicit discussion and approval by the course instructor. The content and presentation of the papers will adhere to strict academic standards. A style manual will be provided based on the *Cambridge Handbook for Editors*. Websites are not acceptable for references as the web is ungoverned and lacks intellectual policing. However, papers and books may be accessed on the web and used as valid references. Only government agencies, select NGO websites (e.g., UN, FAO, UNESCO, IMF, etc.) may be consulted and used to provide a few references (say, < 5).

Research papers are rigorous and scholarly reports presenting information that provides complete coverage of a topic or issue. Research papers will follow the extended essay format of thesis, argument and support followed by conclusions. The best research papers should be acceptable for publication in a major journal, with some additional work, when completed. As such, ideas and arguments must be unique, engaging, pertinent, substantive and meritorious. Presentation and arguments must be rigorous and thorough. Reference materials should not be included in the page count and must be thorough as well. Footnotes *are not required* but rigorous scholarly referencing is mandatory. Endnotes are acceptable as are footnotes, if the author should choose to use them. Page lengths of 10-15 pages, with 1-inch margins, double-spaced with 12-point Times, Arial or Calibri fonts should define the paper format. Website materials and references are usually NOT acceptable except for references to specific government or NGO projects or data sets..

Topics – in the following list, *all readings are required*. Only optional readings are, well, optional. Please note that substitutions and/or additions may be forthcoming. However, there will be ample notice of any changes in the specified reading list.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS.

PART 1: INTRODUCTION. *Duration: weeks 1 - 3.*
Topic 1: **The Geopolitical and World-Systems Perspective: the Role of Geography (and History) in Foreign Affairs.**

Readings:

1. John Agnew. *Hegemony* (2005): Preface, Chapter one (introduction), Chapter two (Hegemony versus Empire) pp vii-36. (Textbook).
2. Anderson and Chase-Dunn. (2005). "The Rise and Fall of Great Powers." In: Chase-Dunn, Christopher and E.N. Anderson (eds.) *The Historical Evolution of World-Systems*. Palgrave. Pages 1-19.
3. Colin Flint. (2010). "Geographical Perspectives on World-Systems Theory." In: Denmark, Robert (ed.) *The International Studies Encyclopedia, Volume V*. ISA Compendium Project. Wiley-Blackwell. Oxford, UK. Pages 2828-2845.
4. Giovanni Arrighi and Beverly Silver. (1999). *Chaos and Governance in the Modern World System*. Minnesota. Read the Introduction, pages 1-36 (Textbook).
5. Schmookler, Andrew Bard. (1984). *The Parable of the Tribes*. Chapter 1: pp 3-34. University of California and Houghton Mifflin – possible substitution with journal paper.
6. Gray, Colin S. (1999). "Inescapable Geography." In Gray, Colin. S., and Geoffrey Sloan (editors). *Geopolitics, Geography and Strategy*, pp 161-177. Frank Cass. London.
7. Colin Flint. (2006). *Introduction to Geopolitics*. Chapter 1: "A Framework for understanding geopolitics." Pp 1-31. (Textbook).
8. Additional selections on the world systems perspective and analysis and long-duration change in the international state system.

Topic 2: **GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT: The State: context of formation and maintenance, structures and scale.** *Duration: weeks 4 - 7.*

Readings:

- 1) Colin Flint. (2006). *Introduction to Geopolitics*. Chapter 2: "Seeing the Global Geopolitical Context." Pp 33-54. (Textbook).
- 2) Giovanni Arrighi and Beverly Silver. (1999). *Chaos and Governance in the Modern World System*. Minnesota. Read chapter one "Geopolitics and High-Finance", pages 37-96. (Textbook).
- 3) Fekri Hassan. (2007). "The Lie of History: Nation-States and the Contradictions of Complex Societies." In: Costanza, R., Lisa Graumlich and Will Steffen (eds.) *Sustainability or Collapse? An Integrated History and Future of People on Earth*. MIT Press. Pages 169-196.
- 4) R. Dezzani and C. Chase-Dunn. (2010). "The Geography of World Cities." In: Denmark, Robert (ed.) *The International Studies Encyclopedia, Volume V*. ISA Compendium Project. Wiley-Blackwell. Oxford, UK. Pages 2969-2986.
- 5) Colin Flint. (1999). "Changing Times, Changing Scales: World Politics and Political Geography Since 1890." In Demko and Wood (editors) *Reordering the World: Geopolitical Perspectives on the 21st Century*, Second Edition, pp 19-39. Westview Press.
- 6) Knight, David B. (1999). "People Together, Yet Apart: Rethinking Territory, Sovereignty, and Identities." In Demko and Wood (editors) *Reordering the World: Geopolitical Perspectives on the 21st Century*, Second Edition, pp 209 - 226. Westview Press.

- 7) Dezzani, R. and Lakshmanan, T. R. (2003). "Recreating Secure Spaces." In *The Geographical Dimensions of Terrorism*, edited by S. L. Cutter, D. B. Richardson and T. J. Wilbanks. Pp 169-177. Routledge. {lecture handout}.
- 8) Flint, Colin. (2003). "Geographies of Inclusion/Exclusion." In *The Geographical Dimensions of Terrorism*, edited by S. L. Cutter, D. B. Richardson and T. J. Wilbanks. Pp 53-58. Routledge. {lecture handout}.
- 9) Selections from: Tilly, Charles. (1992). *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1992*. Blackwell. Cambridge, MA.

OPTIONAL:

- 10) Cohen, Saul. (1999). "Geopolitics in the New World Era: A New Perspective on an Old Discipline." In Demko and Wood (editors) *Reordering the World: Geopolitical Perspectives on the 21st Century*, Second Edition, pp 40-68. Westview Press.
- 11) Henrikson, Alan K. (1999). "The Power and Politics of Maps." In Demko and Wood (editors) *Reordering the World: Geopolitical Perspectives on the 21st Century*, Second Edition, pp 94-116. Westview Press.

Topic 3: GEOPOLITICAL CODES: The State: preserving the "staus quo" in international structures. *Duration: weeks 7 - 9.*

Readings:

- 1) Colin Flint. (2006). *Introduction to Geopolitics*. Chapter 3: "Geopolitical codes: agents define their geopolitical options." Pp 55-78. (Textbook).
- 2) Colin Flint. (2006). *Introduction to Geopolitics*. Chapter 4: "Representations of Geopolitical codes." Pp 79-104. (Textbook).
- 3) Giovanni Arrighi and Beverly Silver. (1999). *Chaos and Governance in the Modern World System*. Minnesota. Read chapter two "The Transformation of the Business Enterprise", pages 97-150. (Textbook).
- 4) John Agnew. *Hegemony* (2005) Chapter Three (American Hegemony and the New Geograohy of Power), Chapter Four (Placing American Hegemony). Pp 37-101. (Textbook).
- 5) Mackinder, Halford. (1904). "The Geographical Pivot of History." *Geographical Journal*, 23: 421 - 442.
- 6) Most, Benjamin and Harvey Starr. (1980). "Diffusion, Reinforcement, Geopolitics, and the Spread of War." *The American Political Science Review*, 74(4): 932-946.
- 7) Fetweiss, Christopher J. (2000). "Sir Halford Mackinder, Geopolitics, and Policymaking in the 21st Century." *Parameters*, 58-71.
- 8) Cohen, Saul. (2003). "Geopolitical realities and United States foreign policy." *Political Geography*, 22: 1-33.
- 9) Selections from John Lewis Gaddis' writings.

>>>MIDTERM: TBA

Topic 4: GEOPOLITICS AND NATIONAL IDENTITY: Nations, Ethnic Divisions and Cultural Regions. *Duration: weeks 10 - 12.*

Readings:

- 1) Colin Flint. (2006). *Introduction to Geopolitics*. Chapter 5: "Embedding Geopolitical Within National Identities." Pp 105-130. (Textbook).
- 2) John Agnew. *Hegemony* (2005). Chapter five (U.S. Constitutionalism or Marketplace Society?), Chapter six (Globalizing American Hegemony). Pp 102-158. (Textbook).
- 3) Giovanni Arrighi and Beverly Silver. (1999). *Chaos and Governance in the Modern World System*. Minnesota. Read chapter three "The Social Origins of World Hegemonies", pages 152-216. (Textbook).
- 4) Escobar, Arturo. (2001). "Culture sits in places: reflections on globalism and subaltern strategies of localization." *Political Geography*, 20: 139-174.
- 5) Gottlieb, Gidon. (1994). "Nations Without States." *Foreign Affairs*.
- 6) Additional readings from the journals *Foreign Affairs* and *Current History* as well as from Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities*; Paul Gilbert's *The Philosophy of Nationalism*; and William Pfaff's *The Wrath of Nations*. {available on BlackBoard as additional course/lecture materials}.

OPTIONAL

- 7) Huntington, Samuel. (1993). "The Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Affairs*, pp 22-49.

Topic 5: THE MECHANISMS OF INTERACTION AND INCORPORATION: Geography of Imperialism, Colonialism and Decolonization – The new global order and variants in a messy world.

Duration: weeks 12 - 16.

Readings:

- 1) Galtung, J. (1971). "A structural theory of imperialism." *Journal of Peace Research*, 8: 81 - 117. {Lecture handout or website}.
- 2) Merritt, R. A. (1963). "Systems and the Disintegration of Empires." *General Systems*, vol. 7.
- 3) Johnson, Chalmers. (2004). *The Sorrows of Empire*. Henry Holt. Prologue and Chapter 1: Imperialisms, Old and New. Pp 1-37.
- 4) Colin Flint. (2006). *Introduction to Geopolitics*. Chapter 6: "Boundary Geopolitics: shaky foundations for the world political map." Pp 131-156. (Textbook).
- 5) Giovanni Arrighi and Beverly Silver. (1999). *Chaos and Governance in the Modern World System*. Minnesota. Read chapter four and conclusion "Western Hegemonies in World-Historical Perspective", pages 217-289. (Textbook).
- 6) John Agnew. *Hegemony* (2005). Chapter seven (The New Global Economy), Chapter eight (Globalization Comes Home), Chapter nine (Conclusion). Pp 159-230. (Textbook)
- 7) Colin Flint. (2006). *Introduction to Geopolitics*. Chapter 7: "Geopolitical Metageographies: terrorist networks and the United States' war on terrorism." Pp 157-188. (Textbook).
- 8) Colin Flint. (2006). *Introduction to Geopolitics*. Chapter 8: "Messy Geopolitics." Pp 189-215. (Textbook).
- 9) Le Billon, Philippe. (2001). "The political ecology of war: natural resources and armed conflicts." *Political Geography*, 20: 561-584.
- 10) Posen, Barry R. (2003). "Command of the Commons: The Military Foundation of US Hegemony." *International Security*, 28(1): 5-46.

OPTIONAL

- 1) Arrighi, Giovanni. (1999). "The Global Market." *Journal of World-Systems Research*, V, 2: 217-151.
 - 2) Agnew, John. (2001). "The New Global Economy: Time-Space Compression, Geopolitics, and Global Uneven Development." *Journal of World-Systems Research*, VII, 2: 133-154.
 - 3) Gleditsch, Kristian S., and Michael D. Ward. 1997. "Double take: A re-examination of democracy and autocracy in modern polities." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 41: 361-383.
 - 4) Agnew, John. (1999). "Global Hegemony Versus National Economy: The United States in the new World Economy." In Demko and Wood (editors) *Reordering the World: Geopolitical Perspectives on the 21st Century*, Second Edition, pp 279 - 291. Westview Press.
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Semester paper is due:

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Last day of lectures:

Thursday, December 9, 2010

FINAL EXAM Due:

Thursday December 16, 2010; 12:00 Noon

The final exam is a "Take-Home" cumulative exam but will emphasize the material covered after the midterm exam. The exam will be given to the class on the last day of classes and will be due one week later on Thursday, December 16, 2010.