Description: The term “geopolitics” and its cognates emerged at the very end of the nineteenth century in connection to new forms of nationalism and inter-imperialist competition in Europe and the world. Emphasizing the mutually constitutive relationship among power, place, and knowledge, geopolitics has most often been associated with a “realist” and state-centric approach to international relations, although recent decades have seen the rise of a critical geopolitics that includes a far wider range of social actors. This course is both a conceptual history of geopolitics as the term has been defined and applied over the past hundred years, as well as a critical survey of the changing relations among technology, state power, and spatiality as they relate to strategies of global competition and conflict. The course includes an introduction to Geographic Information Systems in the second week and a critical map review.

Course Rationale: This course introduces graduate students in international history, political science and related disciplines to the history, concepts, policies and practices of geopolitics from the late nineteenth century to the present. Priority is given to M.A. and Ph.D. students in History, other Arts & Sciences departments, and International Affairs. Students from other schools and advanced undergraduates may be admitted with the instructor’s permission.

Requirements and Grading:

1. 10% - Weekly reading responses: 200 – 400 words, posted on Courseworks before each class
2. 10% - Leading class discussion
3. 30% - Review essays (15% x 2): 700 – 800 words on a specific text or set of texts
4. 20% - Map project (details to be discussed in class)
5. 30% - Final paper: approximately 5,000 – 6,000 words (20 pages), due Monday December 19th. The paper must include original research and the topic cleared with the instructor before October 21st.

Required Readings and Film:

The following books are available for purchase at Book Culture, 536 West 112th Street, and on reserve in Lehman Social Sciences Library. All other books as well as articles and book excerpts will be in pdf format or url on the Courseworks site. There is also one required film, to be viewed outside of class.

Christopher Layne, The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present (Cornell
Syllabus developed as part of Mapping for the Urban Humanities course, Summer 2016
Center for Spatial Research, Columbia University

University Press, 2006)
Max Boot, Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present
(Liveright, 2013)

Paul Virilio, Open Sky (Verso, 2008)
Stuart Elden, Terror and Territory: The Spatial Extent of Sovereignty (University of Minnesota Press, 2009)
James Scott. The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist Reading of Upland Southeast Asia (Yale University Press, 2010)

Film: Eye in the Sky (2015)

Recommended Readings:

The following are recommended for students interested in further background on geopolitics:

Klaus Dodds, Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2014)
Jason Dittmer and Joanne Sharp, eds. Geopolitics: An Introductory Reader (Routledge, 2014)
Saul Bernard Cohen, Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009)
John Agnew, Geopolitics: Re-Visioning World Politics, second edition (Routledge, 2003)
Geopolitics (Taylor & Frances, 1998 – current)

Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity

The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity.

Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars’ work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.

In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others’ ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your
examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

Any breach of this intellectual responsibility is a breach of faith with the rest of our academic community. It undermines our shared intellectual culture, and it cannot be tolerated. Students failing to meet these responsibilities should anticipate being asked to leave Columbia.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1. Sep. 6 The Geopolitical Imaginary
National Security Strategy (White House, 2015)

Week 2. Sep. 13 How Maps Work
Mark Monmonier, How to Lie with Maps
Critical reading of Korean Peninsula map (Courseworks)

Week 3. Sep. 20 Geopolitics of Empire: The “Classical Age”
Alfred Thayer Mahan, from The Influence of Sea Power Upon History: 1660 – 1783 (1890), preface and introductory
Halford J. Mackinder, “The Geographical Pivot of History” (1904)
Theodore Roosevelt, “Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine” (1904)

Week 4. Sep. 27 World War II
Karl Haushofer, “Why Geopolitik?” (1942) and “In Defense of German Geopolitics” (1948), Geopolitics Reader pp. 33 - 43

FIRST REVIEW ESSAY DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

Week 5. Oct. 4 The Cold War
George F. Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct” (1947)
Andrei Zhdanov, “Soviet Policy and World Politics” (1947), Geopolitics Reader, pp. 66 - 68
Christopher Layne, The Peace of Illusions, introduction, chapters 1 – 6

Week 6. Oct. 11 The Post-Cold War (Dis) Order
Syllabus developed as part of *Mapping for the Urban Humanities* course, Summer 2016
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Christopher Layne, *The Peace of Illusions*, chapters 7 – 8, conclusion

**Week 7. Oct. 18 Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency**
Max Boot, *Invisible Armies*, especially Books VI, VII and VIII
United States Army, *Counterinsurgency Field Manual* (2006), chapter 1

**PAPER PROPOSALS FRIDAY OCTOBER 21 BY 5:00 PM**
Syllabus developed as part of Mapping for the Urban Humanities course, Summer 2016
Center for Spatial Research, Columbia University

Week 8. Oct. 25 Critical Geopolitics

SECOND REVIEW ESSAY DUE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11

Week 9. Nov. 1 Terror and Territory
Stuart Elden, Terror and Territory

Week 10. Nov. 8 Election Day Holiday – No Class

Week 11. Nov. 15 Drone Warfare
Paul Virilio, Open Sky
Ian Shaw, “Predator Empire: The Geopolitics of US Drone Warfare,” Geopolitics 16/12 (June 2013)

Week 12. Nov. 22 Cyber/Space
Nayef R.F. Al-Rodhan, The Meta-Geopolitics of Outer Space (2012), chapters 1, 2 and 6

Week 13. Nov. 29 Contemporary Geopolitics: Eurasian Heartland, Eastasian Rimland
Alexis Dudden, “Japan’s Island Problem,” Dissent (Fall 2014)

MAP PROJECT DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Week 14. Dec. 6 Anti-Geopolitics
James Scott, The Art of Not Being Governed

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE BY 5:00 PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 19th.
Syllabus developed as part of *Mapping for the Urban Humanities* course, Summer 2016
Center for Spatial Research, Columbia University

Hard copy delivered to the History Department mailroom (across from 413 Fayerweather)
AND electronic copy by attachment to cra10@columbia.edu