

Syllabus developed as part of *Mapping for the Urban Humanities* course, Summer 2016
Center for Spatial Research, Columbia University

GEOPOLITICS

HIST G8988
GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM
FALL 2016
MONDAYS 10:10 AM - 12:00 PM
302 FAYERWEATHER HALL

Instructor: Charles K. Armstrong
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Office: 604 Fayerweather Hall; Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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.

Mark Monmonier, *How to Lie with Maps* (University of Chicago Press, 2nd edition, 1996)
Christopher Layne, *The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present* (Cornell

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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)
Gearoid O Tuathail, Simon Dalby and Paul Routledge, eds. *The Geopolitics Reader*, second edition
(Routledge, 2006)
John Agnew, *Geopolitics: Re-Visioning World Politics*, second edition (Routledge, 2003)
Edward Soja, *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory* (Verso:
second edition, 2011)
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

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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**

Michel Foucault, "Questions on Geography," from *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972 – 1977* (1981): 63 – 77

Henry Kissinger, *World Order*, chapters 1 and 2 (2014): 1 – 48

National Security Strategy (White House, 2015)

Week 2. Sep. 13 **How Maps Work**

Mark Monmonier, *How to Lie with Maps*

Stuart Elden, "Land, Terrain, Territory," *Progress in Human Geography* 34/6 (December 2010): 799 – 817

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

Keiichi Takeuchi, "Japanese Geopolitics in the 1930s and 1940s," in Klaus Dodds and David Atkinson, ed. *Geopolitical Traditions: A Century of Geopolitical Thought* (2000): 72 – 92

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

Anders Stephanson, "Fourteen Notes on the Very Concept of the Cold War," *H-Diplo* (1998)

Christopher Layne, *The Peace of Illusions*, introduction, chapters 1 – 6

Week 6. Oct. 11 **The Post-Cold War (Dis) Order**

Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" (1989)

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" (1993)

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Osama Bin Laden, "Letter to America" (2002)

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

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Week 8. Oct. 25 Critical Geopolitics

Gearoid O Tuathail, "Critical Approaches to 'Geopolitics'," from *Critical Geopolitics* (1996):
141 – 186

Jason Dittmer, "Captain America's Empire: Reflection on Identity, Popular Culture, and Post
9/11 Geopolitics," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 95/3 (September
2003)

Mary Glimartin and Eleonore Kofman, "Critically Feminist Geopolitics," from *Mapping Women,
Making Politics: Feminist Perspectives on Political Geography* (Routledge, 2004)

SECOND REVIEW ESSAY DUE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11

Week 9. Nov. 1 Terror and Territory

Simon Dalby, "The Pentagon's New Imperial Cartography," in Derek Gregory and Allan Pred,
ed. *Violent Geographies: Fear, Terror, and Political Violence* (2006): 295 – 308
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)

FILM: "Eye in the Sky" (2015)

Week 12. Nov. 22 Cyber/Space

Ronald Reagan, "Strategic Defense Initiative" (1983)

Nayef R.F. Al-Rhodan, *The Meta-Geopolitics of Outer Space* (2012), chapters 1, 2 and 6

Franklin Kramer, *Cyberpower and National Security* (2009): 30 – 89

Week 13. Nov. 29 Contemporary Geopolitics: Eurasian Heartland, Eastasian Rimland

Alan Ingram, "Alexander Dugin: Geopolitics and Neo-Fascism in Post-Soviet Russia," *Political
Geography* 20 (2001): 1029 - 1051

Jeffrey Mankoff, "Russia's Latest Land Grab: How Putin Won Crimea and Lost Ukraine,"
Foreign Affairs (May/June 2014)

Bernard D. Cole, "Island Chains and Sea Control: China's Maritime Strategy" (2014)

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.

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