

Syllabus

POL-450: Foundations of Geopolitics

Written by:

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Course Description

Students will analyze the effects of globalization upon the world geopolitical system, including the roles, influence, and interactions of both state and non-state actors by performing social science research and analysis within the context of geopolitical strategy. Students will identify the primary trends and power structures of modern geopolitics spanning the Cold War through Post-9/11 period and examine the issues of U.S. hegemony and strategic geography. This course will integrate legal, ethical, and biblical frameworks with the understanding of geopolitical power politics.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Analyze the effects of globalization upon the world geopolitical system, including the roles, influence and interactions of both state and non-state actors.
2. Demonstrate the ability to conduct social science research and analysis within the context of geopolitical strategy.
3. Integrate legal, ethical, and biblical frameworks with the understanding of geopolitical power politics.
4. Identify the primary trends and power structures of modern geopolitics spanning the Cold War through Post-9/11 period.
5. Evaluate the geopolitical landscape within the context of U.S. hegemony and strategic geography.

Course Textbook

Flint, C. (2016). *Introduction to geopolitics* (3rd ed.). Routledge.

Grading Scale

NOTE: In graduate-level courses, a grade of C- or below will require the course to be repeated.

Grade	Quality Points	Per Credit	Percentage	Score
A	4.0		95%–100%	950–1000
A-	3.7		92%–94.9%	920–949
B+	3.3		89%–91.9%	890–919
B	3.0		85%–88.9%	850–889
B-	2.7		82%–84.9%	820–849
C+	2.3		79%–81.9%	790–819
C	2.0		75%–78.9%	750–789
C-	1.7		72%–74.9%	720–749
D+	1.3		69%–71.9%	690–719
D	1.0		65%–68.9%	650–689
F	0.0		0%–64.9%	0–649

Grading Policies

Your grading policy for your course is dependent on your school and program. Your grading policies can be found in the [IWU Catalog](#).

Letter Grade Equivalencies

NOTE: In graduate-level courses, a grade of C- or below will require the course to be repeated.

Grade	Description of Work
A	Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.
B	Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an acceptable level for the degree program. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.
C	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class are average. Has marginal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at least minimally.
D	Quality and quantity of work are below average. Has minimal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at below-acceptable levels.
F	Quality and quantity of work are unacceptable and do not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

Course Summary

Workshop	Discussion*	Dropbox*	Devotional*	Pre-/Post-Assessment*	End-of-Course Survey	Total Points
Workshop One	2/40	2/80	1/5	1/20		145
Workshop Two	2/40	3/120	1/5			165
Workshop Three	2/40	3/120	1/5			165
Workshop Four	2/40	3/140	1/5			185
Workshop Five	2/40	2/80	1/5			125
Workshop Six	2/40	2/130	1/5	1/40	(10 extra credit)	215
Course Totals	12/240	15/670	6/30	2/60	(10 extra credit)	1000

* Number of Activities/Sum Point Totals

Course Assignments

Workshop One Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
1.1 Discussion: Make Sense of the World	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you, by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	5
1.2 Quiz: Pre-Assessment	Due by the second day of the workshop.	30 minutes	20
1.3 Discussion: Geography and Geopolitics	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
1.4 Assignment: Changing U.S. Codes	Due by the end of the workshop.	5 hours	50
1.5 Assignment: The Politics of Place	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	30
1.6 Discussion: Non-State Actors	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates'	3 hours	20

	postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.		
1.7 Exercise: Introduction to Geopolitical Analysis Paper	Request resources from the IWU Off Campus Library by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	0
Totals		16:30 hours*	145

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Workshop Two Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
2.1 Discussion: Finding Our Home in God	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you, by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	5
2.2 Discussion: National Identity and Territoriality	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
2.3 Assignment: National History and Identity	Due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	30
2.4 Discussion: Territoriality	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	2:30 hours	20
2.5 Assignment: Boundary Conflicts	Due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	50
2.6 Assignment: Geopolitical Analysis Paper, Part 1	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	40
Totals		16 hours*	165

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Workshop Three Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
3.1 Discussion: Connected Through Christ	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you, by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	5
3.2 Discussion: The Role of Networks in Geopolitics	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	2:30 hours	20

3.3 Assignment: The Operation of Networks	Due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	30
3.4 Assignment: Bin Laden's Fatwa	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	50
3.5 Assignment: Applying Modelski's Model	Due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
3.6 Discussion: Evaluating Modelski's Model	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
Totals		16 hours*	165

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Workshop Four Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
4.1 Discussion: Living in Community	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you, by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	5
4.2 Discussion: Hegemony Versus World Leadership	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
4.3 Assignment: Liberal Internationalism and Secession Movements	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	50
4.4 Discussion: The Use and Limits of American Power	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
4.5 Assignment: Challenges for American Power	Due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	30
4.6 Assignment: Geopolitical Analysis Paper, Part 2	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	60
Totals		17:30 hours*	185

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Workshop Five Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
5.1 Discussion: God Revealed Through Nature	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you, by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	5
5.2 Assignment: Culture and Geopolitical Codes	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	30
5.3 Discussion: Tribalism and Globalism	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
5.4 Discussion: Securitization and the Environment	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
5.5 Assignment: Environmental Stresses and Armed Conflict	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	50
Totals		14:30 hours*	125

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Workshop Six Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
6.1 Discussion: Agents of Peace	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you, by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	5
6.2 Discussion: Peace Movements and Classical Geopolitics	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
6.3 Discussion: Structure and Agency in the Movement Toward Peace	Your initial post is due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop. Respond to at least two of your classmates' postings, as well as all follow-up instructor questions directed to you. Post on three different days during the workshop. Postings need to be completed by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
6.4 Assignment: The Multiscale Nature of Peace	Due by the end of the workshop	4 hours	30
6.5 Assignment: Geopolitical Analysis Paper, Part 3 (Contemporary Relevance)	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	100
6.6 Quiz: Post-Assessment	Due by the end of the workshop.	1 hour	40

6.7 End-of-Course Survey	Complete by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	10 extra credit
Totals		16:00 hours*	215

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Course Development Resources

Balbi, A.-M. (2016, August 26). *The Influence of non-state actors on global politics*. Retrieved from <http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/the-influence-of-non-state-actors-on-global-politics/>

Deaton, A. (2016, June 13). *Rethinking Robin Hood*. Retrieved from <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/globalization-hurts-poor-in-rich-countries-by-angus-deaton-2016-06?barrier=accessreg>

Mancini, S. (2008). Rethinking the boundaries of democratic secession: Liberalism, nationalism, and the right of minorities to self-determination. *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 6(3-4), 553-584. Retrieved from <https://academic.oup.com/icon/article/6/3-4/553/654432>

Mongan-Rallis, H. (2018, April 19). *Guidelines for writing a literature review*. Retrieved from <http://www.duluth.umn.edu/~hrallis/guides/researching/litreview.html>

Naim, M. (2002, October 28). *The Washington consensus: A damaged brand*. Retrieved from <http://carnegieendowment.org/2002/10/28/washington-consensus-damaged-brand-pub-1114>

National Intelligence Council. (2012). *Global trends 2030: Alternative worlds* [PDF file]. Retrieved from https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/GlobalTrends_2030.pdf

National Intelligence Council. (2007). *Nonstate actors: Impact on international relations and implications for the United States* [PDF file]. Retrieved from https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/nonstate_actors_2007.pdf

National Security Council. (1950). NSC-68: United States objectives and programs for national security. *Foreign Relations of the United States*, Volume 1. Retrieved from <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/nsc-68/nsc68-1.htm>

Sampson, T. (2017, November 1). *Brexit and the future of globalisation*. Retrieved from <http://ukandeu.ac.uk/brexit-and-the-future-of-globalisation/>

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Wittes, T. C. (2007, March 22). *American hegemony: myth and reality*. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/american-hegemony-myth-and-reality>

World Islamic Front. (1998, February 23). *Jihad against Jews and crusaders*. Retrieved from <https://fas.org/irp/world/para/docs/980223-fatwa.htm>

Write a Literature Review. (n.d.). In *UC Santa Cruz University Library*. Retrieved from <https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/write-a-literature-review>

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Download and review the [POL-450 Credits Page \(PDF\)](#).

Alternative Assignment Policy

Students with a documented disability may request accommodations for an alternative assignment(s) for course activities (example: video assignments, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to submit the form received from the Disability Services Office indicating his/her specific accommodation to the instructor prior to the start of each course.

Expectations, Policies, and Important Student Information

School/Division

Link

School/Division	Link
DeVoe School of Business	
Division of Liberal Arts	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>
School of Services and Leadership	
School of Educational Leadership	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>
Wesley Seminary @ IWU	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>
Nursing – Undergraduate	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>
Nursing – Graduate	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>