



TI 703 Geopolitics and Security

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Module Time and Location: Thu. 10-1, Room 113

MODULE RATIONALE

Geopolitics is once again the 'lingua franca' of global power. Intimately interwoven with its resurgence is an acute sense of vulnerability to international terrorism that has prompted not only renewed forms of Western interventionism 'overseas' but also new forms of governmentality at 'home'. Using a broad range of contexts at multiple scales, this module sets out to explore the interconnections between geopolitical discourse and practices of securitization in our modern world. A particular focus on the US-led war on terrorism aims to critique the abstracted discursive production of geopolitical knowledge by examining the ubiquitous scriptings of insecurity, war and geopolitics in our contemporary moment. A broader key concern is to explore how neoliberal practices of intervention, war and reconstruction have long been based on the mobilization of prioritized geopolitical and geoeconomic discourses. Building on recent work in critical geopolitics, the module seeks to not only interrogate the basis, legitimization and operation of contemporary geopolitics, but also to proffer more humane and nuanced counter-geographies that insist on the spatiality and materiality of global space.

MODULE AIMS

- recognising the intimate links between geopolitical discourse and practices of securitization in our contemporary world
- comprehending the long-standing equation between 'security' interests and 'economic' interests at the heart of geopolitical calculation
- seeing the so-called war on terror in the Middle East in its historic context of a much longer Western concern for military-economic securitization overseas
- appreciating how neoliberal practices of intervention, war and reconstruction have long been based on the mobilization of prioritized geopolitical and geoeconomic discourses

PARTICIPATION

All students are required to actively participate in a weekly seminar that requires adequate preparation and pre-submission on *Blackboard* of a 500-word *précis* based on assigned weekly readings (this must be done by 8am on the morning of class). In addition, two students will be responsible for leading the seminar from week 3 to week 10.

ASSESSMENT (10 ECTS)

Continuous assessment (100%): 2 x 3000-word term papers or equivalent

READING OUTLINE

Week 1: Classical Geopolitics

G. Ó Tuathail (1996) *Critical Geopolitics: The Politics of Writing Global Space*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, c. 1

Dodds K (2010) Classical Geopolitics Revisited. In: R.A. Denemark (ed.) *The International Studies Encyclopedia*. Blackwell Reference Online, http://www.blackwellreference.com/public/tocnode?id=g9781444336597_chunk_g97814443365975_ss1-8

Week 2: Imperial Geopolitics

S. Dalby, G. Kearns, J. Morrissey and G. Toal (2009) Geography Writes Back: Responses to Kaplan's 'The Revenge of Geography'. Special Issue, *Human Geography* 2(2): 33-51 (Cf. R. Kaplan (2009) The Revenge of Geography. *Foreign Policy* May/June: 96-105)

G. Kearns (2010) Geography, Geopolitics and Empire. *Transactions of Institute of British Geographers* (New Series) 35(2): 187-203

Week 3: Critical Geopolitics

S. Dalby (1991) Critical Geopolitics: Difference, Discourse, and Dissent. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 9(3): 261-283

M. Kuus (2010) Critical Geopolitics. In: R.A. Denemark (ed.) *The International Studies Encyclopedia*. Blackwell Reference Online, http://www.blackwellreference.com/public/tocnode?id=g9781444336597_chunk_g97814443365975_ss1-28

Week 4: Cold War Geopolitics

J. Sharp (1996) Hegemony, Popular Culture and Geopolitics: The *Reader's Digest* and the Construction of Danger. *Political Geography* 15(6-7): 557-570

M. Farish (2004) Another Anxious Urbanism: Defence and Disaster in Cold War America. In: S. Graham (ed.) *Cities, War and Terrorism: Towards an Urban Geopolitics*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 93-109

Week 5: Contemporary Geopolitics

J. Sidaway (1998) What is in a Gulf? From the 'Arc of Crisis' to the Gulf War. In: G Ó Tuathail and S. Dalby (eds) *Rethinking Geopolitics*. London: Routledge, pp. 224-239

G. Ó Tuathail (2010) Localizing Geopolitics: Disaggregating Violence and Return in Conflict Regions. *Political Geography* 29(5): 256-265

Week 6: Neoliberalism and Resource Wars

M.T. Klare (2002) *Resource Wars: The New Landscape of Global Conflict*. New York: Owl Books, c. 1

N. Klein (2007) *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. New York: Metropolitan, introduction

Week 7: Geoeconomics and Empire

D. Cowen and N. Smith (2009) After Geopolitics? From the Geopolitical Social to Geoeconomics. *Antipode* 41(1): 22-48

J. Morrissey (2011) Closing the Neoliberal Gap: Risk and Regulation in the Long War of Securitization. *Antipode* 43(3): 874-900

Week 8: Biopolitics and Securitization

K. Schlosser (2008) Bio-Political Geographies. *Geography Compass* 2(5): 1621-1634

M. Foucault (2007) *Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-1978* (Trans. G. Burchell). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, c. 1

Week 9: Feminist Geopolitics

L. Dowler and J. Sharp (2001) A Feminist Geopolitics? *Space and Polity* 5(3): 165-176

J. Hyndman (2007) Feminist Geopolitics Revisited: Body Counts in Iraq. *The Professional Geographer* 59(1): 35-46

Week 10: Popular Geopolitics and Affect

L. Bialasiewicz, D. Campbell, S. Elden, S. Graham, A. Jeffrey and A.J. Williams (2007) Performing Security: The Imaginative Geographies of Current US Strategy. *Political Geography* 26(4): 405-422

R. Pain (2010) The New Geopolitics of Fear. *Geography Compass* 4(3): 226-240

Week 11: Critical Geopolitics Revisited

J. Fluri (2009) "Foreign Passports Only": Geographies of (Post)Conflict Work in Kabul, Afghanistan. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 99(5): 986-994

S. Dalby (2010) Recontextualising Violence, Power and Nature: The Next Twenty Years of Critical Geopolitics? *Political Geography* 29(5): 280-288

Week 12: Anti-Geopolitics and Anti-Imperialism

P. Routledge (2006) Introduction to Part Five: Anti-Geopolitics. In: G. Ó Tuathail, S. Dalby and P. Routledge (eds) *The Geopolitics Reader* (Second Edition). New York: Routledge, pp. 233-248

G. Kearns (2009) *Geopolitics and Empire: The Legacy of Halford Mackinder*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, c. 9