

University of Victoria
Department of Geography

CONTEMPORARY GEOPOLITICS
GEOG 386, A01
FALL 2021

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Geopolitics is concerned with examining the spatial dimensions of power, particularly in relation to state competition for control and dominance over territories, resources, and populations. Since the mid-20th century, the world political map has undergone considerable transformations. We have witnessed events of major geopolitical significance, such as the process of decolonization and the formal breakup of European

- x Describe where and why specific conflicts are taking place across various regions globally.
- x Develop critical thinking skills in terms of speaking and writing about geopolitical issues.
- x Ability to understand, explain and evaluate geopolitical discourse.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

A. Assigned Readings for Specific Dates . These are the required journal articles and/or book chapters for the course (they are all accessible on Brightspace at <https://bright.uvic.ca>).

1. Cycles of World Leadership Topic: 3. Oct. 5th² Dittmer, Jason. (2005).
³ & D S W D L Q \$ P H U L F D ¶ V (P S L U H 5 H I O H F W L R Q V R Q , G
 Post- * H R S R O L W L F V '
 - Sept. 21st² Read Chapter 2 ³ 6 H W W L Q J W K H * O R E D O * H R S F
 & R Q W H [W 5 4) \$ Flint, Colin (2006). Introduction to
 Geopolitics. 1st Edition. London: Routledge. (Full Online Book is
 Available on the UVic Library website).
2. Geopolitical Codes Topic:
 - Sept. 22nd² Read Chapter 3 ³ * H R S R O L W L F D O & R G H V \$ J H C
 7 K H L U * H R S R O L W L F - D 8) 2 S W C R R Q (2 0 0 6) . S
 Introduction to Geopolitics. 1st

2. Group #2:
 - Oct 1st 2) L Q O H \ / D X U D D Q G / X L J L (V S R V L W R % R J H \ P D Q ([D P L Q L Q J ' R Q D O G 7 U X P S D Q G W K H immigrant, Anti- 3 & 5 K H W H R u b a n i f y & S o c i e t y , V o l . 4 4 , I s s u e 2 , p . 1 7 8 - 1 9 7 .
3. Group #3:
 - Oct 8th 2 Meseret F. Hailu & Molly Sarubbi. (2019) Student Resistance Movements in Higher Education: An Analysis of the Depiction of Black Lives Matter Student Protests in News Media International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education. 32:9, p. 1108-1124.
4. Group #4:
 - Oct. 15th 2 5 H \ H V ' D Q L O R \$ Q G U H V 3 7 K H 6 S H F V 9 L R O H Q F H L Q ' X W H U W J o u r n a l o f C u r r e n t S o u t h e a s t V ' Asian Affairs. Vol. 35, Issue 3, p 111-137.
5. Group #5:
 - Oct. 22nd 2 . K D O L O L / D O H K 3 \$ I W H U % U H [L W 5 % U L W D L Q \ V 5 D F L V P P O E M I n t e r n a t i o n a l E n g l i s h L a n g u a g e Q u a r t e r l y . V o l . 5 I s s u e 2 - 3 , p . 2 5 3 - 2 6 5 .
6. Group #6:
 - Oct. 29th 2 AlSayyad, Nezar, Muna Guvenc. (2015) Virtual Uprisings: On the Interaction of New Social Media, Traditional Urban Studies, 52 (11), p. 2018-2034.
7. Group #7:
 - Nov. 5th 2 & K D W W H U M H H ' H E D Q J D Q D 3 * H Q G H U 0 D S S L Q J W K H 5 R O C C o n t e m p o r a r y R e v i e w o f t h e M i d d l e E a s t . V o l . 3 , I s s u e 2 , p . 2 0 1 - 2 1 8 .
8. Group #8:
 - Nov. 19th 2 * R U G R Q 7 R G G - H I I H U \ : H E E H U 3 , P D Q G 5 H V L V W D Q F H & D Q D G L D Q 0 L Q L Q J & R P S D Q L T h i r d W o r l d Q u a r t e r l y . V o l . 2 9 , I s s u e 1 , p . 6 3 - 8 7 .
9. Group #9:
 - Nov. 26th 2 : D U I % D U Q H \ (P L O \) H N H W H 3 5 H O G e o g r a p h i e s o f C y b e r t e U U R U L V P D Q G S p a c e a n d P l a c e V o l . 3 0 , I s s u e 2 , p . 1 4 3 - 1 5 7 .

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SCHEME

Your final grade will be based on the following calculation:

Group-Led Class Presentation & Discussion	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Research Paper	30%

Grading Scale :

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	49% or Less

Undergraduate Grading **As per stated in the 2021-2022 Calendar

COURSE STRUCTURE & ORGANIZATION

ON TUESDAYS: I will give a lecture (40 minutes) on Zoom, and we will engage in some discussions via Zoom. I will also try to leave about 10 minutes at the end of the lecture to answer questions from students on the topic being covered that day. We are clicking on the course Zoom link, using your UVic Netlink ID and password, as only authenticated users (i.e. UVic Students registered for this course) will be allowed into the Zoom sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays. You should plan ahead and give yourself about 5 minutes to be given access from the Zoom waiting room to enter the class session on Tuesdays and Fridays.

I will also post <https://bright.uvic.ca> by Midnight

touch base with what you are planning for the presentation and discussion with your classmates.

5. Your grade for this assignment will be evaluated based on the following rubric:
 - a. Quality of the written handout
 - b. Quality of content and critical analysis on the powerpoint presentation in relation to the assigned reading(s) including key concepts, ideas, theories, and arguments
 - c. Organization and structure of presentation
 - d. Ability to engage and stimulate discussion with your classmates via Zoom

II. Midterm Exam (25%) and Final Exam (25%)

There will be two exams over the course of the semester (see Course Schedule below for dates). The exams will be multiple choice and a few short -answer questions taken on Brightspace, and they will cover material from the lectures, all assigned readings, and videos/films. The midterm exam will only include material covered from the beginning to the middle of the semester (MIDTERM EXAM ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19th TO BE TAKEN ON BRIGHTSPACE). Students are expected to sign on to the Brightspace site on this date at our regular class time to take the midterm exam. There will also be a cumulative final exam at the end of the semester. For the final exam (date to be announced), you will be responsible for all material covered in the course from the beginning of the semester to the end. The final exam date/time will be announced during the semester and will also be a multiple choice and short -answer exam taken on Brightspace.

III. Research Paper (30%)

You are required to write a research paper for this course. We will be covering a series of topics relating to contemporary geopolitical issues throughout the semester such as the Trump election/administration, the rise in right-wing populism, nationalism and ethnic cleansing, Brexit and the future, neocolonialism, terrorism, the Arab Spring, ISIS and gender, Islamophobia and xenophobia, etc. These are just some examples of what we will be covering this semester. For your research paper, I would like you to select a topic of interest to you that relates to some geopolitical issue (preferably something within the last 5-10 years). You should select a topic that you feel strongly about to write your research paper. Once you select the topic that you are interested in writing about, please write up a single -spacedle

citations. You should also include a separate reference page for external sources cited in the paper (APA style is required).

2. Please

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web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html. If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php.

PLAGIARISM

All class assignments should be prepared by the student(s) submitting the assignment.

Plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated in this

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DXWKRUV ZRUN W The Rise of an Editor, Whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization. If you have any questions concerning matters of plagiarism, please see the following link: <https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/index.php>.

89, & ¶ 6 \$ & & (6 6 , % , / , 7 MENT \$OR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (<http://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>). The sooner you let me know your needs the quicker I can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

UVIC POSITIVITY AND SAFETY STATEMENT

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: svpcordinator@uvic.ca

Web: uvic.ca/svp

COURSE POLICY ON RECORDING OF LECTURES AND USE OF COURSE MATERIALS

\$ FFRUGLQJ WR W Intellectual Property Policy (GV0215), professors and instructors are the authors of their original course materials, lecture notes, and lecture

presentations. Accordingly, they own copyright in these materials. Occasionally, students enrolled in a course may ask to record lectures because they would like to review the material at a future date. A lecture constitutes intellectual property. A student must get permission to record the lecture from their instructor. Any material for the course (e.g., lecture notes, PowerPoints, syllabus, including a recording of a lecture) is made solely for the use of the student registered in the course for research and private study only. These materials must not be posted online or shared with other students without the permission of the instructor. If a student with a perceptual disability will be eligible for an academic accommodation to record a lecture. Please visit the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) website for more information. You should be aware that there are policies and legislation regarding academic accommodation. Should you have any questions please contact the Copyright Office.

STUDENT WELLNESS

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. Counselling Services - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/>.

Health Services - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full-service primary health clinic for students and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/health/>. Centre for Accessible Learning - The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>.

Elders' Voices - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
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Week 1

Week 2			
Tues	Sept 14 th	Zoom Lecture on The World Political Map & Global Inequality & GROUP ASSIGNMENTS POSTED ON BRIGHTSPACE TODAY. INSTRUCTOR WILL ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH GROUP MEMBERS VIA EMAIL	*No Assigned Reading
Wed	Sept 15 th	Link Posted on Brightspace---Watch Film Link #1:	

Group #2 Class Presentation & Discussion:

Fri Oct 1st

