

PSCI 3809-C
Selected Topics: Geopolitics
2:35 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.; Friday
This course will be held remotely online

It is strongly suggested that all cell phones are to be put away during class, even though the meeting is via online web-conferencing tools. There will be a break midway through the online class-lecture when you can check your phone.

Instructor: Satish Joshi

Office: Online Office hours; via e-mail and web-conferencing tools

Office Hours: Fridays; Noon – 2 p.m. or by appointment

Email: satish.joshi@carleton.ca

Email is for administrative purposes only. For any substantive issues, please see me – virtually - during office hours. All e-mail communication is to be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts.

Please also note: Due to the restrictions related to COVID-19 all assignments should be submitted virtually, via e-mail attachments as word or PDF files, by 6 PM, on the deadline date or before.

Overview and Objectives

This course first provides an overview of geopolitical theory – both classical and critical – and then focuses on *classical geopolitical theory* and its close relationship with the *classical realist school of international relations*. Lecture readings primarily cover both *classical geopolitical theory* and *classical realist* elaboration of international relations where *classical geopolitical concepts* have been used. The objective is also to connect theoretical concepts, constructs, and models to contemporary world politics, particularly contemporary great power politics and the nature of contemporary world order.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate understanding of geopolitics, particularly classical geopolitical theory and its overlap with the realist school of international relations, as a mode of analysis and its historical development to the current era;
2. Apply theoretical knowledge of classical geopolitics to contemporary issues and develop ability to identify and elaborate upon contemporary cases' links to classical geopolitical theory;
3. Demonstrate understanding of classical geopolitical principles and strategies within the international relations system so that well-developed judgments and responsible assessments are made for policy and problem-solving.

This course follows a lecture format, although lectures will be conducted via web-conferencing tools, online, due to restrictions related to COVID-19. Your thoughtful questions and contributions are welcome at any time.

Course Format: - Synchronous online course; Online office hours and real-time online lectures and presentations via ZOOM.

Texts/Reading

Required and Recommended readings are noted below for every week when online class lecture will be held via ZOOM. There are no text-books assigned for this class. Instead, **a course reading pack which includes all the Required Readings for all weeks is available from the bookstore.**

Evaluation at a glance

- 1) In class 'Summary of Selected Reading' Presentation.....20% (See details below)
- 2) 1500-word Global Geopolitics or One-Global Great Power Geopolitics Research Paper..... 25% (due February 24, 2021)
- 3) 1500-word Regional Geopolitics or Single-country Geopolitics Research Paper..... 25% (due April 12, 2021)
- 4) Take-Home Final examination..... 30% (during the formal examination period in April 2021)

All components of the class must be completed to receive a grade other than F.

Evaluation and Grading details:

1) In-Class Summary of Selected Reading presentation

- Each student registered in-class will make a 'Summary of Selected Reading presentation once during the term, in class during online-virtual class lecture conducted using ZOOM.
- Approximately two to maximum four such presentations will occur during class lectures, starting **February 12, 2021.**
- Each student must select any reading assigned for the week; and take over the role of the lecturer, and present a summary of the reading's main arguments, provide his/her assessment, reaction, criticism or praise for those and make an attempt to answer questions, if any, from other class members. Each student must conduct himself/herself professionally and communicate with respect to others.
- The presentation should last about 20 minutes to half-an hour. You can use powerpoint slides if you want.
- There is not failing grade in this component. If you make a presentation, you get full grade for it.

2) 2000-word Global Geopolitics or One/Two Global Great Power(s) Geopolitics Research Paper - (due February 24, 2021)

This is traditional, academic research paper, focusing on 'Global' as opposed to 'regional' geopolitics. This can either focus on one or more 'global' great powers of the contemporary system. You should only use the 'notes and bibliography' type of citations in the Chicago style of citations. Use the 12 point, Times New Roman or Arial font with one inch margins and **double-line spacing**. Poor spelling and grammar will be reflected in your grade.

3) 2000-word Regional Geopolitics or Single-Country Geopolitics Research Paper (due February 24, 2021)

This is traditional, academic research paper, focusing on 'regional' geopolitics or single-country of your choice. You should only use the 'notes and bibliography' type of citations in the Chicago style of

citations. Use the 12 point, Times New Roman or Arial font with one inch margins and **double-line spacing**. Poor spelling and grammar will be reflected in your grade.

Both research papers will be graded on:

- (1) **Succinctness**: Although this is an academic paper, brevity to get the key points across is still important. Thus, repetitions of the same substantive point should be avoided.
- (2) **Structure**: Should be written in a research paper format, with a thesis, arguments and evidence presented. Research work as reflected in sources cited will be taken into account.
- (3) **Grammar**: Spellings, sentence structure, paragraphs and transitions etc. as well as overall organization of the paper.
- (4) **Length**: You will not be penalized if you are within the limit of about 200 words below or beyond the limit of 2000 word-limit. So, if you have 1780 words or 2150 words, for example; do not worry. You are within the acceptable limit.

4) Take-Home/Open Book Final examination (during the formal examination period in April 2021) The Final Examination will consist of 3 essay questions. Each question should be answered in about 1200 words, with citations in the 'notes and bibliography' type of citations (Chicago style). You will get a two-day window to complete the examination and send it via e-mail to the instructor.

Class Schedule:

January 15, 2021 (Week 1)

Course Introduction. No required readings. Class lecture will be dismissed earlier than regular time.

January 22, 2021 (Week 2) Geopolitics: Classical and Critical

Required Reading

- Joshi, Satish, "Geopolitics" in Paul Joseph (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*, Volume 2, 705-708
- Saul B. Cohen, Chapter 2 - "Survey of Geopolitics" in *Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations*, 3rd Edition, (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015); p. 24-44
- Tuathail, Gearóid Ó; "Understanding critical geopolitics: Geopolitics and risk society" *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 22, No. 2-3, (1999), 107-124
- Kelly, Phil, "A Critique of Critical Geopolitics", *Geopolitics*, Vol. 11, No. 1, (2006), 24-53
- Haverluk, Terrence W., Kevin M. Beauchemin and Brandon A. Mueller, "The Three Critical Flaws of Critical Geopolitics: Towards a Neo-Classical Geopolitics" *Geopolitics*, Vol. 19, No. 1, (2014), 19-39

Recommended Reading

- Mackinder, Halford J. "The Geographical Pivot of History" *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 4, (April 1904), 421-437
 - Wilkinson, Spencer; Thomas Holdich, Mr. Amery, Mr. Hogarth and H. J. Mackinder, "The Geographical Pivot of History - Discussion" *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 4, (April 1904), 437-444
 - Knutsen, Torbjorn L., "Halford J. Mackinder, Geopolitics, and the Heartland Thesis" *The International History Review*, Vol. 36, No. 5, (2014), 835-857
 - Gray, Colin S., "Nicholas John Spykman, the Balance of Power, and International Order" *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 38, No. 6, (2015), 873-897
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January 29, 2021 (Week 3) – Classical Geopolitics and Realism

- Joshi, Satish, “Realism” in Paul Joseph (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*: Volume 3, 1440-1443
 - Zhengyu Wu, “Classical geopolitics, realism and the balance of power theory” *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 41, No. 6, (2018), 786–823
 - Phil Kelly, “Rescuing Classical Geopolitics: Separating Geopolitics from Realism” *Geopolitics, History, and International Relations*, Vol. 11, No. 1, (2019), 41-58
 - Toft, Peter, “John J. Mearsheimer: An Offensive Realist between Geopolitics and Power” *Journal of International Relations and Development*, (2005), 381–408
 - Michael Lind, “A Neglected American Tradition of Geopolitics?” *Geopolitics*, Vol. 13, No. 1, (2008), 181-195
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February 5, 2021 – Sea Power, Continental and Maritime Powers (Week 4)

- Philip A. Crowl, “Alfred Thayer Mahan: The Naval Historian” in Paret, Peter, Gordon A. Craig, and Felix Gilbert (Eds.), *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, Princeton University Press, (Princeton, NJ), 1986; 444-477
 - Barry M. Gough, “Maritime strategy: The legacies of Mahan and Corbett as philosophers of sea power” *The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) Journal*, Vol. 133, Issue 4, (1988); 55-62
 - John Arquilla and Ryan Nomura, “Three Wars of Ideas about the Idea of War” *Comparative Strategy*, Vol. 34, No. 2, (2015) 185-201; *Read primarily the Sea Vs. Land Power section.*
 - Excerpt from Geoffrey Till, *Seapower: A Guide for the Twenty First Century*, 4th Edition, (New York: Routledge), p. 73-90
 - Wang Gungwu, “Global History: Continental and Maritime” *Asian Review of World Histories*, Vol. 3, No. 2, (July 2015), 201-218
 - Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson, “Balancing on Land and at Sea: Do States Ally against the Leading Global Power?” *International Security*, Vol. 35, No. 1, (Summer 2010), 7-43
 - David W. Blagden, Jack S. Levy, William R. Thompson, “Sea Powers, Continental Powers, and Balancing Theory” *International Security*, Vol. 36, No. 2, (Fall 2011), 190-202
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February 12, 2021 – Contemporary Geopolitical Theory (Week 5)

- Saul B. Cohen, Chapter 3 - “Geopolitical Structure and Theory” in *Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations*, 3rd Edition, (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015); p. 37-63
 - Mitchell, A. Wes and Jakub Grygiel (2011), “The Vulnerability of Peripheries” *The American Interest*, Vol. 6 No. 4, (March/April)
 - Mitchell, A. Wes and Jakub Grygiel (2016), “Predators on the Frontier” *The American Interest*, Vol. 11, No. 5 (February)
 - Andrés Rivarola Puntigliano, “21st Century Geopolitics: Integration and Development in the age of ‘continental States’” *Territory, Politics, Governance*, Vol. 5, No. 4 (2017) – 478-494
 - Donald Abenheim, Ryan Gingeras, James A. Russell, James J. Wirtz, Thomas-Durell Young and Christopher Twomey, “American Sea Power in the Contemporary Security Environment” *Comparative Strategy*, Vol. 35, No. 5 (2018), 391-403
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February 26, 2021 (Week 6) – CHINA

- Yan, Karl “The Railroad Economic Belt: Grand strategy, economic statecraft, and a new type of international relations” *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, (2020)
 - Blanchard, Jean-Marc F. and Colin Flint, “The Geopolitics of China’s Maritime Silk Road Initiative” *Geopolitics*, Vol. 22, No. 2, (2017), 223-245
 - Holmes, James R. and Toshi Yoshihara, “Taking Stock of China’s Growing Navy: The Death and Life of Surface Fleets” *Orbis*, (Spring 2017), 269-285
 - Harper, Tom, “Towards an Asian Eurasia: Mackinder’s heartland theory and the return of China to Eurasia” *Cambridge Journal of Eurasian Studies*, (2017), 1-27
 - Wu Zhengyu, “Toward “Land” or toward “Sea”? *Naval War College Review*, Vol. 66, No. 3, (Summer 2013), 1-14.
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March 5, 2021 (Week 7) – RUSSIA

- Kotkin, Stephen "Russia's Perpetual Geopolitics: Putin Returns to the Historical Pattern," *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 95, no. 3 (May/June 2016): 2-9
 - Suslov, Mikhail ““Russian World” Concept: Post-Soviet Geopolitical Ideology and the Logic of “Spheres of Influence””, *Geopolitics*, Vol. 23 Issue 2 (2018), 330-353
 - Götz, Elias “It’s geopolitics, stupid: Explaining Russia’s Ukraine policy”, *Global Affairs*, Vol.1, No. 1,(2015) 3-10
 - Lukin, Artyom and Rens Lee, “The Russian Far East and the Future of Asian Security” *Orbis*, Vol. 59, Issue 2, (Spring 2015), 167-180
 - Romańczuk, Michal “Geopolitical Determinants in the Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation” *Athenaeum* (Polish Political Science Studies Journal), Vol. 64, No. 4, (2019) 80-96
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March 12, 2021 (Week 8) – South Asia

- Joshi, Satish, “Geography of War: Asia, South” in Paul Joseph (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*, Volume 2, 682-686
 - Pant, Harsh V. and Kriti M. Shah, “South Asia’s Changing Geopolitical Landscape” *Orbis*, Vol. 63, Issue 1, (2019), 11-26
 - Bhatnagar, Stuti and Zahid Shahab Ahmed, “Geopolitics of Landlocked States in South Asia: A Comparative Analysis of Afghanistan and Nepal”, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, (July 2020)
 - Garlick, Jeremy “Deconstructing the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor: Pipe Dreams Versus Geopolitical Realities”, *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 27, No. 112, (2018), 519-533
 - Shaista Tabbasum, “Water adds to the importance of Kashmir” *Strategic Studies* , Vol. 32/33, Vol. 32, no. 4/Vol. 33, no. 1 (Winter 2012 & Spring 2013), pp. 186-199
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March 19, 2021 (Week 9) –Southeast and East Asia

- Johnson, Matthew D. “Geography of War: Asia, East” in Paul Joseph (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*, Volume 2, 678-682
 - Dutton, George “Geography of War: Asia, Southeast” in Paul Joseph (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*, Volume 2, 687-690
 - Schreer, Benjamin “Towards Contested ‘Spheres of Influence’ in the Western Pacific: Rising China, Classical Geopolitics, and Asia-Pacific Stability”, *Geopolitics*, Vol. 24, No. 2,(2019) 503-522
 - Lee, Hochul “Power Politics Behind the Transforming Geopolitics in East Asia” *East Asia* Vol. 34, Issue 4, (2017) 307–320
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March 26, 2021 (Week 10) – Central Asia and the Caucasus

- Ibbotson, Sophie and Max Lovell-Hoare, “China’s Expansion by Stealth”, *Asian Affairs*, Vol. 46, No. 1, (2015) 68-83
 - Hess, Maximilian, “Russia and Central Asia: Putin’s Most Stable Region?” *Orbis*, Volume 64, Issue 3, (2020), 421-433
 - Kazantsev, Andrei A.; Peter Rutland, Svetlana M. Medvedeva and Ivan A. Safranchuk “Russia’s Policy in the “frozen conflicts” of the Post-Soviet Space: From Ethno-politics to Geopolitics, *Caucasus Survey*, Volume 8, No. 2, (2020) 142-162
 - Rolland, Nadège (2019) “A China–Russia Condominium over Eurasia”, *Survival*, Vol. 61, No. 1, (2019) 7-22
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April 2, 2021 – Good Friday; No Class Lecture

April 9, 2021 (Week 11) – The Middle East and Africa

- Joshua S. Krasna, “It’s Complicated: Geopolitical and Strategic Dynamics in the Contemporary Middle East” *Orbis*, Vol. 63, Issue 1, (2019), 64-79
 - Al-Hassan, Faisal Abu “Geography of War: Africa, North” in Paul Joseph (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*, Volume 2, 669-673
 - Meyer, Matt “Geography of War: Africa, Sub-Saharan” in Paul Joseph (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*, Volume 2, 674-678
 - Scholvin, Sören “Geo-economics and Geopolitics in Sub-Saharan African Power Politics” in Wigell, Mikael; Sören Scholvin, and Mika Aaltola (Ed.) *Geo-economics and Power Politics in the 21st Century: The Revival of Economic Statecraft*, (Routledge: London, UK; 2018), 202-218
 - Dehshiri, Mohammad Reza and Hossein Shahmoradi “Resurgence of Geopolitical Rivalry in the MENA after the ‘Arab Spring’”, *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies*, Vol. 14, No. 2, (2020) 194-215
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April 14, 2021 [Wednesday] (Week 12) – What have we covered? .and what have we not covered; and why? Revision and Final examination Review

Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf

Academic Accommodations

Pregnancy

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the University’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Intellectual property

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted via e-mail to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.