

**GRG-396T graduate seminar**  
**GEOPOLITICS AND REPRESENTATION**  
**Spring 2007, Tues. 9:00 am-12:00 noon**

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Geopolitics is the study of factors underlying state power, such as a country's size, location, resources, and access to transportation routes. Geopolitical knowledge is inherently ethnocentric; geopolitical representations are best seen as biased depictions of nations, states, and the world as a whole that serve as guides to foreign policy and international relations. By pairing the study of geopolitics and the study of representations we can expose the operation of nationalistic and ethnocentric worldviews in political processes, both within and between states. Empirical and theoretical models will be used in the course to analyze the construction of the nation-state as an imagined community, and the construction of distant Others as good or evil, superior or inferior, progressive or backward.



## **READINGS**

### **Books**

- Agnew, John. 1998. *Geopolitics: Re-visioning World Politics*. New York: Routledge.
- O'Tuathail, Gearoid et al. 2006. *The Geopolitics Reader Edition: 2*. New York: Routledge.
- Sharp, Joanne. 2000. *Condensing the Cold War: Reader's Digest and American Identity*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Adams, Paul. 2007. *Atlantic Reverberations: French Representations of an American Presidential Election*. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate. [photocopy of mssc.]
- O'Tuathail, Gearoid. 1996. *Critical Geopolitics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Cosgrove, Denis. 2003. *Apollo's Eye*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

## Articles

(e-reserves password = mackinder)

### Cartography

- Pickles, John. 1992. "Text, Hermeneutics and Propaganda Maps" in *Writing Worlds: Discourse, Text and Metaphor in the Representation of Landscape*. New York and London: Routledge.
- Sparke, Matthew. 1998. "A Map that Roared and an Original Atlas: Canada, Cartography, and the Narration of a Nation" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 88 (3): 463-495.

### Nationalism

- Anderson, Benedict. 1991. "Chapter 5: Old Languages, New Models," in *Imagined Communities*, 67-82. London and New York: Verso.
- Anderson, Benedict. 1991. "Chapter 10: Census, Map, Museum," in *Imagined Communities*, 163-185. London and New York: Verso.
- Mitchell, Don. 2000. "Geographies of Belonging? Nations, Nationalism, and Identity in an Era of 'Deterritorialization'," in *Cultural Geography: A Critical Introduction*, Don Mitchell. Oxford, UK and Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell.
- Parameswaran, Radhika. 2004. "Global Queens, National Celebrities: Tales of Feminine Triumph in Post-Liberalization India," *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 21 (4): 346-370.

### Othering

- Cosgrove, Denis. 2000. "Edward Said's Imaginative Geographies" in *Thinking Space*, ed. Mike Crang and Nigel Thrift, 302-348. London and New York: Routledge.
- Pile, Steve. 2000. "The Troubled Spaces of Franz Fanon," in *Thinking Space*, ed. Mike Crang and Nigel Thrift, 260-277. London and New York: Routledge.
- Secor, Anna. 2004. "'There is an Istanbul That Belongs to Me': Citizenship, Space, and Identity in the City" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 94 (2): 352-368.

### Subaltern Theory

- Spivak, Gayatri. 1988. "Can the Subaltern Speak" in *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. ed. Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
- Guha, Ranajit. 1988. "On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India" in *Selected Subaltern Studies*, ed. Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, 37-44.
- Guha, Ranajit. 1988. "The Prose of Counter-Insurgency" in *Selected Subaltern Studies*, ed. Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, 45-86.
- Gramsci, Antonio. 1973. "Notes on Italian History," pp. 52-55 and "The Study of Philosophy," pp. 323-343. *Selections from the prison notebooks of Antonio Gramsci*. Edited and translated by Quintin Hoare and Geoffrey Nowell Smith. New York: International Publishers.

## THEMES and SEQUENCE

JAN 16	Introduction to the class and the professor	no reading
JAN 23	Definitions and key figures of geopolitics	<b>Agnew</b> , <i>Geopolitics</i>
JAN 30	Definitions of critical geopolitics	<b>O'Tuathail</b> , <i>Critical Geopolitics</i>
FEB 6	Evolution of geopolitical thought I	<b>O'Tuathail et al.</b> , <i>The Geopolitics Reader</i> pp. 1-99
FEB 13	Evolution of geopolitical thought II	<b>O'Tuathail et al.</b> , <i>The Geopolitics Reader</i> pp. 103-176, 245-312
FEB 20	Representing the Other and the "we" I: Myths of the Cold War Era	<b>Sharp</b> , <i>Condensing the Cold War</i>
FEB 27	Representing the Other and the "we" II: Hyperpower and the phenomenon of the Achilles Heel	<b>Adams</b> , <i>Atlantic Reverberations</i> Chapters 1-4
MAR 6	Representing the Other and the "we" III: Media affordances and geopolitical representation	<b>Adams</b> , <i>Atlantic Reverberations</i> Chapters 5-8
MAR 20	Representing the Other and the "we" IV: Cartographies	<b>Pickles</b> , "Text, Hermeneutics and Propaganda Maps" <b>Sparke</b> "A Map that Roared"
MAR 27	Representing the Other and the "we" V: Nationalism and transnationalism	<b>Anderson</b> , "Old Languages, New Models" <b>Anderson</b> , "Census, Map, Museum" <b>Mitchell</b> , "Geographies of Belonging?" <b>Parameswaran</b> , "Global Queens, National Celebrities"
APR 3	Representing the Other and the "we" VI: Othering	<b>Cosgrove</b> , "Edward Said's Imaginative Geographies" <b>Pile</b> , "The Troubled Spaces of Franz Fanon" <b>Secor</b> , "There is an Istanbul That Belongs to Me"
APR 10	Representing the Other and the "we" VII: Subaltern Theory	<b>Spivak</b> , "Can the Subaltern Speak" <b>Guha</b> , "On Some Aspects of the Historiography" <b>Guha</b> , "The Prose of Counter-Insurgency" <b>Gramsci</b> , "Notes on Italian History" <b>Gramsci</b> , "The Study of Philosophy"
APR 17	to be announced	
APR 24	Global visions	<b>Cosgrove</b> , <i>Apollo's Eye</i>
MAY 1	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	

## GRADING:

In-class presentations (Everyone will pick a day and lead the discussion on that day, following the guidelines below.)	50 points
Research Paper draft [Due April 16, 5:00 pm, in Prof. Adams' box in the main office. It must be a complete paper at this point with: title, abstract, introduction, thesis statement, body, conclusion, figures (correctly numbered and cited in text) and bibliography.]	50 points
Research Paper (Due May 1, along with final oral and graphic presentation of findings)	100 points
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TOTAL	200 points

### *In-class presentation guidelines:*

Presentations should include:

- A summary of the main ideas in the readings for that week, taken as a whole. This should be organized into key terms and concepts, each with one or more supplementary terms and/or concepts. This is not the place to ask questions; it is the place to collect and paraphrase the main objectives, arguments, and assumptions of the entire set of readings. Print these points in outline format for everyone in the class.
- A critical introduction to each of the readings for that week, taken individually. This is the place to discuss the organization of arguments by particular authors--what comes first, what comes last, how are arguments structured and what counts for evidence? Are you convinced or are there problems with their arguments?
- Comparison and contrast of the differences between authors (if more than one author are included that week). In some cases you may notice tensions between the perspectives of the authors. Deal with these tensions at this point in your presentation.
- Questions for class discussion: at least 4 fertile questions the class can discuss, relating to the readings and (optimally) with some visual materials or artifacts (like ads, news photos, or video clips) that you bring to class.
- Remember, this presentation counts for 25% of your total grade!