

TROY UNIVERSITY
TERM I, AY 2012-2013
IR 6602 GEOSTRATEGIC STUDIES
Weekend Format

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Brendan M. Howe

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AVAILABILITY: By e-mail; or Saturday and Sunday, before or after class; or by mutually convenient appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines the political, military, economic and cultural effects of geography in historical and contemporary terms. Specific emphasis is placed on the role of geography in the formulation of military-political policy in land power, sea power, airpower, and outer space. Comprehensive geopolitical theories will be employed as analytical tools in the course. **There is a strong guided individual research component, with students encouraged to interact electronically with the instructor on project development.**

OVERALL OBJECTIVE: To provide the student with an introduction to analysis of the strategic operating environment of international relations. Geopolitics is defined for the purposes of this course as the analysis of the spatial patterns and structures of international power relationships. As such it introduces a notion of spatial determinism to the consideration of foreign policy formulation. Students will be introduced to a large body of theories about the structural arrangements of power and its global and regional distributions. Students will be encouraged systematically to dissect and analyze these theories in terms of their usefulness as frameworks for studying and understanding international power relationships in the post-Cold War world.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

1. Geopolitical Orders, Transitions and Codes:
2. Power, Stability and International Change:
3. How and why states expand, the cycle of empires, the role of sea-power, economics and technology, the rise and fall of great powers and the succession of hegemonies:
4. Improved analytical and research skills:
5. Improved oral and written communication skills:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:	Exam:	30% of the Total Grade
	Presentation:	20%
	Research Project:	40%
	Participation:	10%

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: Lectures, Class Discussion, Essay Exams, Student Oral Presentation and Feedback, Electronic Discussion with Instructor, Research Paper.

This course will be delivered using a hybrid-learning format with at least 51% of the course conducted in-class and the remaining 49% or less conducted online. Eight class sessions will be delivered using in class sessions on the two weekends. The remaining hybrid online sessions will be used for discussion groups on key readings, principles and policies of geostrategy, and for specific guidance and reading recommendations for student final projects. Class announcements, lecture slides, syllabi, additional readings, and interactive forums for class meetings/exercises/ and or discussions will be conducted online. Access procedures will be provided at the first class session. Please see schedule of readings and assignments at the end of the syllabus for further detail. For online class meetings, students are evaluated on the quantity (level of participation), quality (content) of participation, and the fulfillment of requirements and deadlines.

GRADE SCALE:

A:	90-100
B:	80-89
C:	70-79
D:	60-69
F:	0-59

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Each enrolled student is expected to attend ALL class sessions. Students should complete the assigned readings BEFORE the relevant class session. NOTE: Excessive absences may result in either a failing grade or the need for the student to drop the course.

MAKE UP POLICY: In exceptional cases (for example, medical/family emergencies, official duty requirements, TDY/TAD, etc.) an Authorized Absence may be permitted upon consultation with the Instructor. In these situations, the student MUST as soon as possible meet with the instructor to complete a comprehensive review of the missed material. Unauthorized Absences will require the mandatory review of the missed material, and may also adversely affect final grades.

TEXTS:

- Zbigniew Brzezinski, THE GRAND CHESSBOARD: AMERICAN PRIMACY AND ITS GEOSTRATEGIC IMERATIVES, 1997, New York: Basic Books. ISBN-10: 0465027261 ISBN-13: 978-0465027262
- Robert Gilpin, WAR AND CHANGE IN WORLD POLITICS, 2008 [1981], NY: CUP. ISBN-10: 0521273765 ISBN-13: 978-0521273763
- Karen A. Rasler and William R. Thompson, THE GREAT POWERS AND GLOBAL STRUGGLE 1490-1990, 1994, Lexington: University Press Kentucky, 1994. ISBN-10: 0813118891 ISBN-13: 978-0813118895
- Halford J. Mackinder, Democratic Ideals and Reality. (Washington DC: National Defense University Press, 1996) – **This book can be downloaded free from the internet.**

LIBRARY RESOURCES: Students can access online information resources through Troy Library Services home page at <https://www.library.troy.edu> These resources include a variety of full databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers to aid students in their original research for class participation, presentations, and final research project. In addition, where necessary the Instructor will provide additional readings electronically if they cannot be accessed through the Troy Library Service, or direct them to sites where they can be downloaded. Students are advised to read widely (**beyond the set texts**) and keep up to date on current affairs through multiple news media.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA)

Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that post-secondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link:

<http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

ACADEMIC ETHICS: Details of “Ethical Standards of Reporting Information” can be found in the PUBLICATIONS MANUAL of the AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. Troy University’s “Standards of Conduct,” published in the TROY UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CATALOGUE, also should be consulted by students.

REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

1. Each enrolled student will complete a graduate level research paper of 4-6,000 words of double-spaced text with appropriate citations and bibliography.
2. Use the PUBLICATIONS MANUAL OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION as your guide for format and citations.
3. Papers are due no later than 17:00 October 7 via **electronic submission**.
4. The final Written Report will follow one of the two following structures: (1) A geostrategic analysis of the foreign policy of a great power; (2) A geopolitical predictive model of the future strategic operating environment of the world as a whole or a single region within it.
5. The Topic of the final Written Report must be cleared with the Instructor by the second week of classes, via e-mail or before, during or after session # 4.
6. During the appropriate student-led seminar each student will give an Oral and Visual/Multimedia Report. During these seminars each presenter will be open to questions from their peers. Students will be well advised to take advantage of these Q&A sessions in order to gain feedback for their final Written Report
7. Grades for the Oral Report and the final Written Report will form the Student Research Project Final Grade.
8. **Student must complete a substantial amount of reading before the first class session** in order to be able to discuss ongoing geostrategic concerns.

SYLLABUS

Texts: **B:** Zbigniew Brzezinski, THE GRAND CHESSBOARD: AMERICAN PRIMACY AND ITS GEOSTRATEGIC IMERATIVES, 1997, New York: Basic Books.
G: Robert Gilpin, WAR AND CHANGE IN WORLD POLITICS, 2008 [1981], New York: Cambridge University Press.
R&T: Karen A. Rasler and William R. Thompson, THE GREAT POWERS AND GLOBAL STRUGGLE 1490-1990, 1994, Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1994.
M. Halford J. Mackinder, Democratic Ideals and Reality. (Washington DC: National Defense University Press, 1996) – This book can be downloaded free from the internet.

Session	Theme	Assignment
Pre-class preparation:	download for free and start reading Mackinder’s work.	Halford J. Mackinder, Democratic Ideals and Reality. (Washington DC: National Defense University Press, 1996)
Saturday 9/8 Session # 1 Introduction: geopolitical threats to liberal internationalism	Outline of basic course components. Also included is an overview of what is expected by way of contribution from the students, together with advice on research, structure and presentation. A lecture will be given on the challenges posed by the post-Cold War strategic operating environment to the fulfillment of perpetual peace and the promise of the new world order.	Start reading B to be completed by Saturday # 2 Session # 2 Current geostrategic affairs readings to be discussed via e-mail exchange with instructor prior to class if desired. All students must be prepared to enter class discussion during first face-to-face meeting.
Saturday 9/8 Session # 2 Geopolitical Orders, Transitions and Codes	The emergence of a new international economic system, the limits of globalization, pan-regions, Monroes and hegemonic trading blocks. Hegemonic cycles, geopolitical world orders, geopolitical codes as the output of practical geopolitical reasoning.	Peter J. Taylor, Political Geography: world-economy, nation-state and locality. (Harlow: Longman 1993) pp49-102 Will be distributed to students. Electronic dialogue with students.

<p>Sunday 9/9 Session # 1</p> <p>Power, Stability and International Change: Geopolitics of Domination</p>	<p>The establishment of international systems through power, their maintenance through consent or hegemony (equilibrium), and the conditions and consequences of change. Change in the modern world. How and why states expand, the cycle of empires, triumph of the nation state, the role of economics and technology and the succession of hegemonies. The future.</p>	<p>G pp ix-155</p>
<p>Sunday 9/9 Session # 2</p> <p>Long-Cycle Theory and Sea Power: Hegemonic, Transitional and Systemic War</p>	<p>The rise and fall of great powers, as well as their relative decline over time, and the effect that this has upon the likelihood of global war. In particular, this topic focuses on the role of sea power in providing the conditions necessary for power concentration. If international systemic disequilibrium due to increasing disjuncture between the existing governance of the system and the redistribution of power in the system is not resolved, then the system will be forcibly changed by revisionist powers resulting in global confrontation for hegemony. This section examines the mechanics of this process in theoretical and historical context.</p>	<p>R&T pp xv-37 & 200-225 G pp186-210 R&T pp38-72 Final Paper Topic Selection.</p>
<p>Saturday 9/22 Session # 1</p> <p>The Rise and Decline of States and Empires</p>	<p>Why does the disequilibrium occur? Why do hegemonic states and empires lose their dominance, and how do revisionist states and empires rise up to replace them? Review of previous classes in preparation for exam and final projects.</p>	<p>G pp156-185 R&T pp73-156</p>
<p>Saturday 9/22 Session # 2</p> <p>Heartland versus Rimland</p>	<p>The classic geopolitical debate concerning the struggle between land-based heartland powers and sea based rimland powers, including important explanations of terminology in historical and theoretical context. Plus Review Session.</p>	<p>See Topic 1. Plus: Halford J. Mackinder, Democratic Ideals and Reality. (Washington DC: National Defense University Press, 1996) pp. 175-205. Free Download!</p>
<p>Sunday 9/23 Session # 1</p>	<p>Final Exam</p>	
<p>Sunday 9/23 Session # 2</p>	<p>Student-led seminar and presentations.</p>	