

**American University of Central Asia**  
**Department of International and Comparative Politics ICP**  
**Fall 2008**

**GEOPOLITICS**  
(ICP 311)

Wednesday  
15'35 – 17'00 Room:

Friday  
15'35 – 17'00 Room:

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**Instructor:**

Temirkulov Azamat, *Licence International Relations, DEA International Cooperation for Development, l'Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.*

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**Course description**

Geopolitics studies problems connected to influence of geographical factors (location, energy resources, water resources, infrastructure, etc.) on foreign policy of state. Key concepts are « national interests », “security” and « control over space ». What are national interests? What is the role of security (military, political, economic, social, and ecological) in geopolitics of state? What is the impact of globalization, islamist movements, energy resources and water issue on geopolitics of state? How states use their geographical location for protection of their national interests, for maintenance of national security, but also for expansion? You receive answers to these questions in the course Geopolitics.

This course is focused on studying of geopolitics in Central Asia. It will study geopolitics of the basic players of the region (including big actors USA, Russia, China and EU). What are their interests, and goals? What are the geopolitical aspects of their policy in Central Asia? This is a focus of the course Geopolitics.

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**Course Format**

The course will be given twice a week: Wednesday and Friday. Wednesday is a day of lecture. Friday is a day of seminar. During seminars students will make their personal presentations, and accomplish other assignments.

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**Requirements**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>10%</b>	More than 5 unexcused absences - drop	
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>10%</b>	15-20 min personal presentations will have a place from 2 <sup>nd</sup> till 12 <sup>th</sup> week. Presentations will be focused on the theme of the week. Students are free to choose their topic. Chosen topic must be delivered to instructor during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week (7 September is the last day).	
<b>Essay</b>	<b>20%</b>	Students are free to choose a topic of 6-8 pages essay from the content of the course. The topic should be proposed to instructor till the end of the second week. The essay must be delivered to instructor before the last week.	
<b>Quiz</b>	<b>10%</b>	Each seminar students will write quiz on the reading material.	
<b>Midterm examination</b>	<b>20%</b>	Test	½
		Open questions	½
<b>Final examination</b>	<b>30%</b>	Test	½
		Open questions	½

*NOTE: Plagiarism will be punished with an automatic F for the course.*

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*NOTE: Changes may occur during the semester. You'll be warned duly of any such change.*

## **Part I. Introduction**

### ***Week 1: 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August***

- How the course is organized?
- What are objectives of the course?
- Geopolitics as an academic discipline

Readings: Hagan, *Geopolitics*, 1942.

## **Part II. Geopolitical thoughts**

### ***Week 2: 3 and 5 September***

#### ***American classic***

- Monroe
- Mahan

Readings:

Mahan "Possibilities for anglo-american union"

### ***Week 3: 10 and 12 September***

#### ***British classic***

- Mac kinder

Mac kinder "The geographical pivot of history"

### ***Week 4: 17 and 19 September***

#### ***German classic***

- Ratzel
- Kjellen
- Haushofer

Readings:

Haushofer "Why geopolitik?", "Defense of German geopolitics"

Hitler "Eastern orientation or Eastern policy"

### ***Week 5: 24 and 26 September***

#### ***Cold war geopolitics***

- Spykman
- Kissinger

Readings: Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, ch. 28.

***Week 6: 1 and 3 October***

***The post-cold war Geopolitics***

- Fukuyama and the end of history
- The clash of civilizations

Readings:  
Huntington "The clash of civilizations"

***Week 7: 8 and 10 October***

***Geopolitical thinking today 1***

- Brzezinski "The Grand chessboard"
- Starr "Big Central Asia"

Readings:  
Brzezinski "The Grand chessboard"  
Starr "Partnership for Central Asia"

***Week 8: 15 and 17 October***

***Geopolitical thinking today 2***

- Dugin New-Eurasia (Neo-Evrazistvo)

Readings:  
Dugin "Proekt novoi Evrazii" (Evraziskii vzgliad)

***Week 9: 22 and 24 October***

***Fall Break***

***Week 10: 29 and 31 October***

**Review and Midterm exam**

**Part III: Geopolitical aspects of Central Asia**

***Week 11: 5 November***

***A New Big Game?***

- NWO: "strong" v. "weak" states
- Regional organizations (CIS, SCO, OSCE)
- Islamist movements, drug trafficking.

Readings: Weitz, R., 2006, *Averting a New Big Game in Central Asia*, p. 155-167

***Week 12: 12 and 14 November***

***Security aspects***

- Security, NWO (Barry Buzan)

Readings:

Soderblom, *The Eurasian security complex and comprehensive security cooperatives*, 2004

***Week 13: 19 and 21 November***

***Energy resources (oil and gas)***

- Producers/consumers
- Oil and gas transportation

Readings: ICG, *CA energy risks*, 2007.

***Week 14: 26 and 28 November***

***Water issues***

- Upstream/downstream states
- Irrigation v. Hydro energy

Readings: Karaev Z., *Water diplomacy*, 2005.

**Part IV Geopolitics in Central Asia**

***Week 15: 3 and 5 December***

***Russian Federation and China in Central Asia***

Readings:

Anna Ter-Pogonian, *Интересы и положение России в Центральной Азии*

Ong, R. "China's security interests in CA", 2005

***Week 16: 10 and 12 December***

***USA and EU in Central Asia***

Blank S. "US interests in CA and their challenges" 2007.

EC, "The EU and CA: strategy for a partnership 2007-2013" 2007.

***Week 17: 17 and 19 December***

Review and Final exam