This graduate geography seminar explores the concept of geopolitics—a term with widely varying connotations and a notably checkered past. The goals of the seminar are to understand the nature of geopolitics as a conceptual construct, the different ways it is deployed, and the ways in which research in geography can contribute to geopolitical understanding.

Seminars offer the opportunity for in-depth exploration of a particular topic. Exploration will proceed through common reading, discussion, and debate. Students will also conduct independent research on a geopolitical issue or topic. Students will also conduct independent research on a topic of interest to them—showing how geopolitical ideas or circumstances shape outcomes on the ground. Portions of a number of sessions will be devoted to the presentation and discussion of student research.

Student contributions will be in both written and oral form. There are four critical components to student participation in the seminar: (1) digesting assigned readings and coming to class prepared to discuss them; (2) regularly serving as a discussion leader for readings during the term; (3) conducting independent research and preparing a paper of 15-20 pages that could take the form of a term paper, article, dissertation chapter, or series of shorter papers; and (4) giving an oral presentation of the research undertaken during the term. Grades for the seminar will be on a pass/no pass basis; acceptable performance in each of the categories of student participation is necessary to receive a passing grade.

**Sept. 25**

Introduction to the subject area
Differing understandings of geopolitics
Discussion of seminar structure and student research topics

Readings:


Oct. 2  Classical geopolitics (early 1900s)
Discussion of possible paper topics


Oct. 9  Geopolitics in the middle of the 20th century
Commitment to student paper topics


Oct. 16  The rise of critical geopolitics


Oct. 23 Academic commentaries on popular geopolitical formulations


Oct. 30 Academic perspectives on recent geopolitical issues


Nov. 6 Reports on recent influential books you have chosen to read

Nov. 13 Feminist geopolitics


**Nov. 20**

Geopolitics and the environment


**Nov. 27**

Presentation of student research projects

******Final written projects for the seminar are due at 5 pm on xxxxxx******

Other possible readings of potential interest (in no particular order):


