Programme- M.Phil
Course Title- CONCEPTS AND ISSUES IN GEOPOLITICS
Semester- Monsoon
Credits – Three
Teaching Method- Lectures and Discussions
Evaluation Method- Sessional Assignments (50%) and End Semester (50%)
Teaching Hours – Three per week
Course Instructor- Krishnendra Meena

Rationale of the Course
Geopolitics is a traditional area of inquiry seen as central to the understanding of world politics. It is going through fundamental transformations in the way it conceives of territory. Globalization is an all-pervading phenomenon with an effect on the concept of sovereignty; geopolitics could be a useful tool in analyzing these effects.
The course seeks to familiarize students with fundamental concepts of geopolitics. This would involve a focus on classical conceptions of geopolitics, territoriality, sovereignty, theories of the state, spatial expressions of ideology/cold war and post-cold war geopolitics, geostrategy, geopolitical structures in the world and contemporary issues in geopolitics (e.g. environment, globalization, critical geopolitics)

Course Objectives
1) to assist the students to analyze political phenomena through the locational aspects

2) to stimulate student interest in domestic and world affairs through the study of spatial features in world politics
Course Content

1) A) Introduction to Geopolitics
   a) Definitions of Geopolitics
      The basic definition would comprise of the one given by Saul B. Cohen, other theoretical perspectives by scholars like John Agnew, Geoffery Sloan and Gerard Toal would be covered
   b) Geopolitical Structures
      The hierarchical geopolitical ordering as suggested by Cohen would be analysed and critically examined.
   c) Geostrategy
      Locational aspects which make an impact upon relations among nations and resources of geostrategic importance would be discussed.

B) Concepts in Geopolitics
   a) Territoriality
      Space; Identification with Space and Territory and Contestations over Territory
   b) Sovereignty
   c) State: Evolution and Theories of State
   d) Region: Conceptualization, Characteristics of Region; Region in International Politics

2) Theories of Geopolitics
   A) Classical Theories
   a) Heartland Theory (Halford J. Mackinder)
   b) Sea Power (Alfred Thayer Mahan)
   c) Rimland Theory (Nicholas J. Spykman)
   d) Theory of Air Power Supremacy (Alexander Seversky)
   e) German Geopolitik
   f) Functional Approach to Political Geography (Richard Hartshorne)
   g) Stephen B. Jones (Unified Field Theory)

   B) Critical Geopolitics: Modern Geopolitics; Post-Modern Geopolitics

3) Contemporary Issues in Geopolitics
   a. Global Environmental Issues
   b. Geopolitics of Energy
c. Globalization and Geopolitics
d. Boundary Issues

**Reading List**

**Books**

  - Glassner, Martin Ira and Chuck Fahrer (2004), *Political Geography*, John Wiley: Danvers, Massachusetts
- Harvey, David (1990), *The Condition of Postmodernity*, Blackwell: Oxford


Waltz, Kenneth N. (1983), Theory of International Politics, Addison-Wesley: Massachusetts


Articles in Journals


Dijkink, Gertjan, “Geopolitics as a Socialist Movement”, Geopolitics, Vol.9, No.2/1, 2004


Frenkel, Stephen, Geography, Empire and Environmental Determinism, Geographical Review, Vol.82, No.2, 1992, pp.143-153


Kearns, Gerry, “Echoes of Mackinder for the Next American Century”, Geopolitics, Vol.11, No.1, Spring 2006


Special Issue on Geopolitics, Geography, and Strategy, The Journal of Strategic Studies, Volume 22, Number 2/3 June/September


**Journals in Geopolitics**