

# 筑波大学大学院共通科目シラバス 2010

## 科目名: *The Origins of Geopolitical Thinking*

**担当教官 (Instructor):** クリスティアン W シュパング (Christian W. Spang)

科目番号 (Code No.): 01ZZ028                      単位 (Units): 1                      学期 (Semester): 第一学期  
曜時限 (Period): 集中 (3回): ① Orientation: 4月22日: 18時15分 (必修)、② 集中: 5月15日 (2  
~5時限)、③ 集中: 5月29日 (2~5時限)                      教室 (Room): CA 205 (外国語センター)

### **授業主旨・内容 (Course Description)**

Since the end of the Cold War in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, geopolitics has seen a remarkable revival. Geopolitical thinking can be traced back hundreds of years, but its modern form was developed roughly a century ago in the age of Imperialism. Then as much as now, it is essential to differentiate between the multilateral political reality and the mostly one-sided theoretical interpretations by many geopoliticians.

This course will be taught in English, focusing on the founding fathers of geopolitics from Germany, Sweden, Britain, the US and Japan. To develop a better idea about where “geopolitics” comes from and what it means, we are going to examine its roots, which combine essential aspects of Economics, Geography, History as well as Political Sciences, Statistics, etc. In particular, Geography offers a bridge between Humanities and Sciences and thus was the ideal starting point to combine various aspects of the academic spectrum into a new “science”. At the height of the first geopolitics boom in the late 1930s and 1940s, subfields included „Geo-Psychology“, „Geo-Medicine“ and „Geo-Juriprudence“. Thus, it becomes clear that the phenomenon reached much beyond the realms of Geography and Politics.

The first half of the course will cover the scientific development and the influence of sciences on politics. The second half of the class will deal with some key-texts of geopolitics.

- General introduction. The world between 1848 and 1945/49: The historical and scientific background
- The birth of modern universities and the scientification of geography
- Darwin and biologism in nineteenth-century Western thought
- The influence of natural sciences and the genesis of political science
- The internationalization of academia and the academic background of geopoliticians
- From geography to geopolitics: Friedrich Ratzel (Germany) & Rudolf Kjellén (Sweden)
- The origins of geopolitics in the US and Britain: Alfred T. Mahan (USA) & Sir Halford Mackinder (UK)
- The development of German geopolitics after World War I: Karl Haushofer and German-Japanese relations
- Japanese geopolitics and the quest for a Greater East Asiatic Co-Prosperity Sphere
- Geopolitics as a key-aspect of the Allied propaganda against Germany and Japan during World War II

### **単位取得要件・評価方法 (Course Requirements and Grading)**

This course will be divided into three parts. First, there will be a compulsory orientation. At this opening session, a broad introduction will be presented. The topics for the short oral reports will be divided between participants at this meeting. *Anyone who is not able to attend*

the first gathering on April 22, is expected to contact me ([spang@daad-alumni.de](mailto:spang@daad-alumni.de)) and meet me in my office before the actual bloc-seminars. I will not accept new participants at the bloc-sessions!

The rest of the seminar will be taught as two blocs of 4 periods each. The first of these gatherings will mostly deal with the development of academia in the 19th and early 20th century. There will be an introductory lecture, then a group-work stage where students are assigned to read and summarize some key-texts. Finally, some participants will present short oral reports on the biographical background of the most important scientists involved.

The second bloc-session will deal with the theories developed by the above-mentioned scholars. There will again be a short introductory lecture, then a session with some student reports on the diverse geopolitical theories suggested by the authors we dealt with before. The seminar will end with another group-work stage on selected texts, culminating in short group-presentations.

Participants are expected to attend all three meetings. Anyone has to prepare and present one short oral report of 5-10 min. Students are strongly advised to familiarizing themselves with the basic ideas of at least one or two of the following authors: Friedrich Ratzel, Rudolf Kjellén, Alfred T. Mahan, Sir Halford Mackinder, Karl Haushofer or Komaki Saneshige. Please refer to the attached bibliography and check the library and/or the internet for appropriate sources of information.

### **教科書・教材 (Textbooks & References)**

There will not be any textbook. Reading assignments will be handed out in class.

### **REFERENCES (in English, alphabetical order):**

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- Dalby, Simon, Paul Routlege, Gerard Toal (eds.) (2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. 2006), *The Geopolitics Reader*, London: Routlege.
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