

Syllabus (Course description)

Course title: Sin Cities and Nomadlands. Popular Geopolitics / Theoretical lecture with reading seminar				
Course instructor(s), contact details: Anna Keszeg, PhD, habil, keszeg.anna@mome.hu				
Code: M-AE-E-201-B	Curriculum (program/level): ESMA	Recommended semester: 1	Credit: 5	Number of class hours: 36 Student task hours: 114
Related codes: M-AE-201, ER-THEO-BA-ELM- 20242501-03	Type: lecture and seminar	Can it be an elective course? No.	In case of an elective course what are the specific prerequisites:	
Course connections (prerequisites, parallels):				
Aim and principles of the course: Geopolitics focuses on the implications / impact of geography on politics and international relations. Popular geopolitics studies how those implications are reflected in popular culture. This course offers an introduction to the philosophical, aesthetical, ethical, political, mediatic, intercultural, communicational, and ecological dimensions of contemporary culture through the approach of geopolitics and especially geopolitics in popular culture. The course deals with popular cultural products in various media, from literature to film and TV series. The reading seminar will take the scientific approach of popular geopolitics as a starting point and will examine representations of the contemporary world in popular and media culture, broken down according to major geopolitical regions.				
Learning outcomes (professional and general competences to be developed): Knowledge: Understands the rules of analytical and critical thinking. Understands the methods and techniques of studying cultural and artistic phenomena, the institutional system, and the functioning of culture. Understands the professional language, and communicates effectively (in written, oral, and visual language) in his/her mother tongue and in at least one foreign language. Skill:				

Communicate effectively in writing, orally, visually and in at least one foreign language other than his/her mother tongue.

Assess the validity, professionalism and relevance of sources and information.

Attitude:

Is open to new knowledge, methods, creative and dynamic ways of analysis and implementation.

Autonomy and responsibility:

Consciously reflects upon the social implications of his/her work.

Topics and themes to be covered in the course:

1. Concept and fields of geopolitics - introduction to the subject, geopolitics and popular geopolitics

2. Defining and mindmapping the concepts.

Compulsory reading:

3-4. Popular geopolitics of North America

Mandatory movies: *Civil War*, directed by Alex Garland, 2024.

Killers of the Flower Moon. Directed by Martin Scorsese, 2023.

5-6-7. Europe's Popular Geopolitics 1-2-3.

Mandatory movies:

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, directed by Niels Arden Oplev, 2009;

Poor Things, directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, 2023.

Napoleon, directed by Ridley Scott, 2023.

8-9. Popular Geopolitics of East-Central Europe 1-2.

Mandatory media content:

Eco, Umberto: *The Prague Cemetery*. Europe, Bp., 2012.

Spy/Master, Christopher Smith, 2023-

10. Popular Geopolitics of Asia

Mandatory TV series:

Squid Game, directed by Hwang Dong-hyuk, 2021.

11. Popular geopolitics of Africa

Mandatory reading: Dodds, Klaus: *Geopolitics. A very short introduction*. Oxford, 2007.

Mandatory movies: *Black Panther*, dir. Ryan Coogler, 2018; *Black Panther. Wakanda Forever*, dir. Ryan Coogler, 2022.

12. Seminar. Guided creative content development exercise

Specificities of process organisation / organisation of learning:

Lectures are organised in 50-50-20-minute time frames: the first 50-minute unit is for the transmission and processing of new knowledge and the review of the material that has been prepared for the lesson, while the second 50-minute interval is for the joint processing of reading and viewing. During the semester, each student is required to undertake a reading seminar topic and to complete its analysis+discussion in class.

Students will post questions on the google classroom no later than 48 hours before the start of class.

Texts can be downloaded in pdf format from the drive folder linked to the classroom; these texts will be made available before the start of the semester.

Preparation of assigned readings and materials to be viewed is mandatory from class to class, so that knowledge is assessed during class.

Students' tasks and responsibilities: preparing the media text for each class, present one media text during the semester and prepare the exercise introduced during the last class.

Learning environment: classroom and MS Teams

Assessment:

Attendance - Participation is compulsory; 3 classes by exception, and with notification, can be missed.

Student participation in class is also part of the end of semester evaluation. In addition, the following are required:

- One page of notes from the class material (uploaded in the drive folder) on a Word document (9/semester)
- End-of-semester assessment (1/semester)
- A handout from the presented topic (1/semester).

During the final lesson, students will take a knowledge assessment test with a combined score of 25% towards the final grade.

The semester will end with the preparation of a seminar-led handout, which will be prepared in a guided manner; the criteria for this will be clarified in the first class.

Finalization and submission of the portfolios will take place in the week following the last class. The portfolio should be prepared in pdf format, with the possibility to use visual elements of students' choice.

Requirements to be met: One page of notes from the class material (uploaded in the drive folder) on a Word document (9/semester); End-of-semester assessment (1/semester); A handout from the presented topic (1/semester).

Method of assessment: oral presentation and practical task.

Assessment criteria: originality, critical thinking, factfulness.

How is the mark calculated:

on a scale of 5 / five-point rating: 1-5

Class participation, notes: 25% (= max 1.25 points)

Assessment: 25% (= max 1.25 points)

Seminar leader handout: 50% (= max 2.5 points)

Required Literature:

DODDS, Klaus: Geopolitics. A very short introduction. Oxford, 2007.

ECO, Umberto: The Prague Cemetery. Europe, Bp., 2012.

SAUNDERS, Robert A.: Popular Geopolitics and Nation Branding in the Post-Soviet Realm. Routledge, 2016. (Introduction only)

Recommended Literature:

CARTER, Sean – WOODYER, Sara: Domesticating Geopolitics. Routledge, 2023.

Other informations:

Recognition of knowledge acquired elsewhere/previously/validation principle:

- No exemption from attending and completing the course.

Out-of-class consultation times and location: office hours on Tuesday upon email appointment request
at: keszeg.anna@mome.hu