# SHSS 150 RHETORIC & COMPOSITION: POP GEOPOLITICS

Simon Bowman Land

### What is Pop Geopolitics?

Pop geopolitics is, amongst other things, the study of how people's 'common sense' ideas o geographical 'space' and politica 'dentity' both shape, and an shaped by popular culture.

# Popular Culture

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## Some examples of Popular Culture:

Movies Certoms Anime Magazines Social Media Music Books







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Geography is the smoot of the South species. It is because directly not are sense entitled proposely sections or specifiedly. Hotsest geography is concerned with the physical matter of the Control section in strengthm section, enactions are therefore proposely in concernal with section.

### Politics

Politics is the study of money and governance o

What is "joven"? - the striller to affact a cr cantrol people and/or exerce. Intervallent teleface is the study of politics of the global level, of these status and other actors record interestationally.

### Geopolitic:

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# What is Pop Geopolitics?

Pop geopolitics is, amongst other things, the study of how people's 'common sense' ideas of geographical 'space' and political 'identity' both shape, and are shaped by, popular culture.

# Geography

Geography is the study of the Earth's spaces. It is typically divided into two areas; natural geography and human geography.

Natural geography is concerned with the physical nature of the Earth such as the atmosphere, oceans, mountains etc.

Human geography is concerned with, among many things, the idea of 'place' + 'space' and the interaction of human networks.

# **Politics**

Politics is the study of power and governance of an area or society.

What is 'power'? - the abillity to influence or control people and/or events.

International relations is the study of politics at the global level, of how states and other actors interact internationally.

# Geopolitics

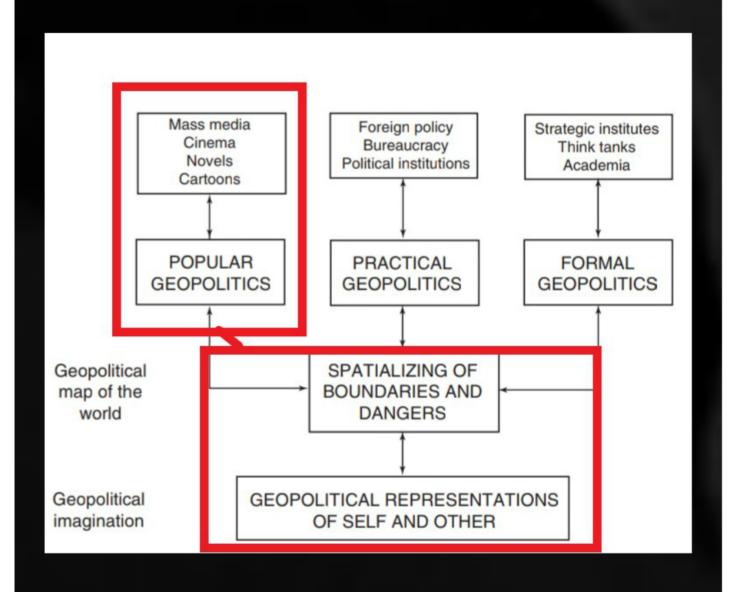
As it sounds, traditional geopolitics is the study of how and if geographical factors influence and determine politics, especially international relations.

For example, Donald Trump's ideas of the identity of Mexicans and the space of the USA being invaded by them, shapes his idea of building 'the wall', which then influences peoples' perceptions.

# Critical Geopolitics

Critical Geopolitics is a reimagining of the concept of traditional geopolitics. It puts forth the argument that the 'objective reality' vision of geopolitics is actually a subjective construction of ideas that influence and reinforce leaders' decisions and therefore affect populations' notions of 'space' and 'identity'.

Popular geopolitics is the study of how popular culture shapes, and is shaped by, these constructions.



# What is Pop Geopolitics?

Pop geopolitics is, amongst other things, the study of how people's 'common sense' ideas of geographical 'space' and political 'identity' both shape, and are shaped by, popular culture.

# Popular Culture

So what is popular culture? While it is a contested concept, here are two definitions that will help us on this course:

"An obvious starting point in any attempt to define popular culture is to say that popular culture is simply culture that is widely favoured or well-liked by many people."

"Popular culture is a site where the construction of everyday life may be examined. The point of doing this is not only academic – that is, as an attempt to understand a process or practice – it is also political, to examine the power relations that constitute this form of everyday life and thus reveal the configurations of interests its construction serves". (Turner, 1996: 6).

So popular culture can be said to affect, and be affected by, norms, values and 'common sense' ideas of the world. In this context, common sense refers to what is 'place' and 'space, 'us' and 'them'.



Movies

Cartoons

Anime

Magazines

Social Media

Music

**Books** 

**Computer Games** 







# You decide

In this course, you will get to decide what kind of popular culture you want to analyse with a pop geopolitics lens. Then you will write an argumentative essay persuading the reader of your analysis.

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