

# 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 of geographical 'space' and political 'identity' both shape, and are shaped by, popular culture.

## Popular Culture

What is popular culture? What is a 'cultural concept' and how has it changed over time? How is it related to other concepts of 'culture'?

What is the relationship between 'popular culture' and 'high culture'? How is 'popular culture' defined? How is it related to other concepts of 'culture'?

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## Some examples of Popular Culture:

- Movies
- Cartoons
- Anime
- Magazines
- Social Media
- Music
- Books
- Computer Games



You decide

What is the relationship between 'popular culture' and 'high culture'? How is 'popular culture' defined? How is it related to other concepts of 'culture'?

## Geography

Geography is the study of the Earth's surface, its human and physical features, and the relationship between them. It is the study of the Earth's surface, its human and physical features, and the relationship between them.

## Politics

Politics is the study of power and governance of a community. It is the study of the distribution of power and the relationship between different groups of people within a society.

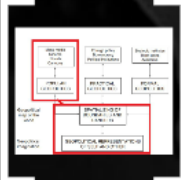
## Geopolitics

Geopolitics is the study of the relationship between geography and politics. It is the study of the relationship between geography and politics, and the relationship between them.

## Critical Geopolitics

Critical geopolitics is a sub-field of geopolitics that seeks to challenge the dominant narratives of geopolitics. It is the study of the relationship between geography and politics, and the relationship between them.

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### Geography

Geography is the study of the Earth's surface, its human and physical features, and the relationship between them. It is a discipline that seeks to understand the spatial patterns of the Earth and the processes that shape them.

### Politics

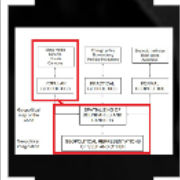
Politics is the study of power and governance of a community. It involves the study of the behavior of political actors and the processes that shape political outcomes.

### Geopolitics

Geopolitics is the study of the relationship between geography and politics. It seeks to understand how geographical factors influence political outcomes and vice versa.

### Critical Geopolitics

Critical geopolitics is a sub-discipline of geopolitics that seeks to challenge traditional assumptions about the relationship between geography and politics. It focuses on the power relations that shape geographical knowledge and political action.



# *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 ability 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*

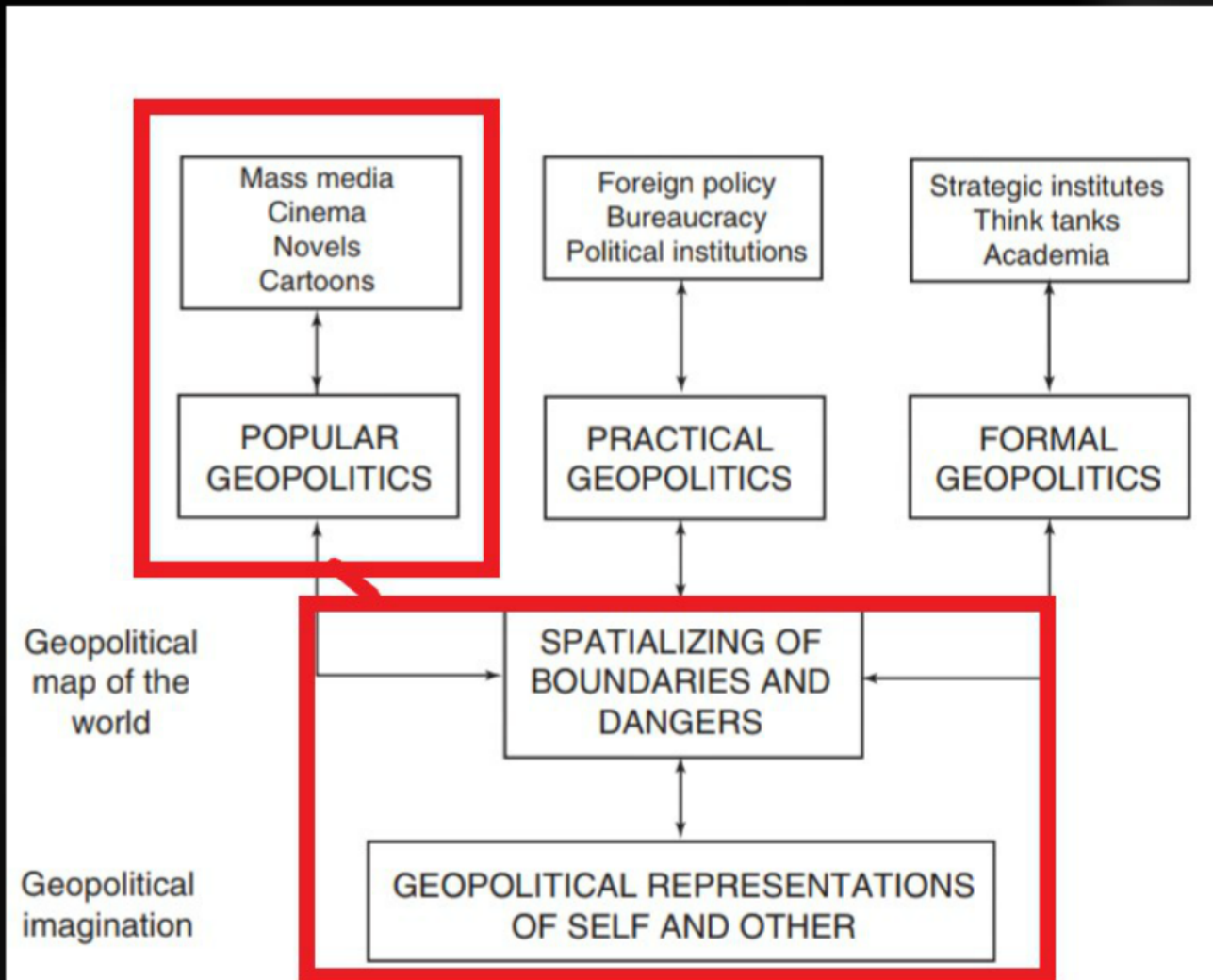
As it sounds, traditional geopolitics is the study of how and if geographical factors influence and determine politics, especially international relations.

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'**.

***Some examples of  
Popular Culture:***

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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### Popular Culture

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The obvious starting point is any attempt to define popular culture is to say that it is a cultural concept that is not a cultural concept. It is a cultural concept that is not a cultural concept.

Popular culture is a term used for a wide range of activities that are popular. The term is often used to describe a wide range of activities that are popular. It is a term that is used to describe a wide range of activities that are popular.

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### You decide

It is your choice. You will get to decide whether or not you want to take on the challenge of writing a paper on pop geopolitics. You will get to decide whether or not you want to take on the challenge of writing a paper on pop geopolitics.

### Geography

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### Politics

Politics is the study of power and governance of a community. It is the study of power and governance of a community. It is the study of power and governance of a community.

### Geopolitics

As a branch of political geography, it is the study of how and why geographical factors influence and determine political, economic, and social relations. It is the study of how and why geographical factors influence and determine political, economic, and social relations.

### Critical Geopolitics

Critical geopolitics is a reworking of the concept of traditional geopolitics. It asks both the question of the 'objective' reality of the world and the 'subjective' construction of it. It is a reworking of the concept of traditional geopolitics.

Popular geopolitics is the study of how people shape, and are shaped by, their understandings.

