



INSTEP-WFU Cambridge

GEOPOLITICS INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Geopolitics concerns the relationship between geography and politics. It is a powerful way of approaching the history of the United States, a country that it has expanded enormously since the time of its European colonization in the early seventeenth century. Using art, maps, first-hand accounts and secondary sources, this course invites you to consider the nature of American expansion over the past four centuries, equipping you with an understanding of geopolitics and the insights it provides into America's past, present, and future. The course is perfect for students from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, including those who are familiar with Geopolitics or American History or those who are learning about these topics for the first time.

Graded work consists of two 2,500-word essays, class participation, and attendance—each weighted the same amount. The first essay is due by the start of Lesson 6 and the second no later than one week after the end of the course. Class participation includes two ten-minute presentations, which only take a short time to prepare.

Course Lessons

Part One: The Establishment of American Empire

Lesson 1: 'From sea to sea' (1588-1609)

Lesson 2: The four scalps of Hannah Dunstan (1688-1714)

Lesson 3: Washington's thousand-mile march (1754-1784)

Lesson 4: Jefferson's fight on land and sea (1784-1815)

Lesson 5: The Emancipation of Spanish America or 'Our own Larger Freedom' (1803-1829)

Part Two: Five Challenges

Lesson 6: Slavery (1854-1867)

Lesson 7 & 8: The Unification of Germany (1901-1947)

Lesson 9: The Soviet Union (1986-1995)

Lesson 10: The Limited War on Terror (1993-2003)

Lesson 11: The Geopolitics of Donald Trump - An American Bonaparte? (1987-2024)