

<b>Titel</b>	<b>Geopolitics and Culture: The Place and Role of Europe in the Contemporary World</b>
<b>Typ</b>	<b>Interdisziplinäres Seminar</b>
<b>VeranstalterIn</b>	<b>Adam Bence Balazs, PhD</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>9-10 December 2021, 9:30-17:00</b>
<b>Ort</b>	<b>AUB</b>
<b>Sprechstunde</b>	

### Inhalt und Ziele

#### Kursbeschreibung:

In geopolitics, there is 'geo.' Events, conflicts, and power relations unfold in specific geographical environments – and not exclusively within institutional networks. A geopolitical map also reveals history and culture, i.e., time. The geographical environment and the different layers of the past are there to be read on the maps of the present.

Europe's place and role in the contemporary world is a topical issue in times of radical changes on the global scale. The ability to see long-term continuities as well as geographical boundaries and cultural legacies is key to improve our critical understanding of Europe's location within global complexity, its potential, and also its limits. The course proposes a reflection on the Old Continent's place and role in the world through map-reading exercises, literature, and art, at the crossroads of culture, geography, and political perspectives.

#### Ziele:

The aim of the course is to provide an interdisciplinary element of reflection on European politics, to highlight how the most pressing contemporary challenges call for an in-depth knowledge of the cultural and historical background. Students will learn how to mobilize culture to improve their critical standpoint on European political issues. The course also offers a specific focus on oral presentation skills.

### Themen und Literatur

	Thema	Literatur
1.	Geopolitics and political geography	
2.	The location of the West	Kishore Mahbubani: <i>Has the West Lost It? A Provocation</i>
3.	Politics on the map	Eric J. Hobsbawm: <i>Fractured Times</i> (excerpts)
4.	Eurocentrism	Claude Lévi-Strauss: <i>Tristes Tropiques</i> (excerpts)
5.	Politics and literature	Edward W. Said: <i>Culture and Imperialism</i> (excerpts)
6.	Politics and literature	Joseph Conrad: <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
7.	The location of memory	Wim Wenders: <i>Der Himmel über Berlin</i>
8.	Long-term continuities on the map	Jacques Le Goff: <i>The Birth of Europe in the Middle Ages</i> (excerpts)
9.		
10.		

## Bewertung

### Prüfungsform:

Students are expected to prepare short presentations related to Europe's place and role in the contemporary world. Salient excerpts from PhD theses in progress are accepted. Upstream the two days, they can count on individual follow-up, feedback to improve their contributions. After the two-day event, they are expected to write up a 12-page final paper on the topic they presented.

Individual follow-up: first contact should be made in October (online) to precise the schedule and start working on individual presentations.