

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations		
Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science		
Faculty/School:	Law, Business and Governance		
Course:	GEO-POLITICS		
Type:	Compulsory	ECTS credits:	6
Year:	1	Code:	7012
Teaching period:	First semester		
Area:	Geopolitics and Today's World		
Module:	Foundations for a Theory of International Relations		
Teaching type:	Classroom-based		
Language:	English		
Total number of student study hours:	150		

Teaching staff	E-mail
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SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Herramientas básicas para el estudio de la geopolítica y de los estudios estratégicos para su aplicación al mundo actual.

Geopolitics is ubiquitous and transdisciplinary. It involves different theoretical focuses and perspectives on world politics related to the control of political spaces and resources. It stresses the close relationship between power, geography (both physical and human) and infrastructural knowledge, emphasizing a particular vision of state's power and international relations, closely related to a "realist" and state-centric approach. Nonetheless, the course also presents an overview on critical geopolitics coinciding with the outbreak of new theoretical approaches which are more suitable to explain current strategies of global competition and conflict in the 21st century.

The objective is to provide the students with a sound understanding of the concepts, policies and practices related to geopolitics and its impact on international relations. It will equally enhance and stimulate knowledge of the main contemporary challenges to security in world politics.

GOAL

This course is aimed at providing the students with a sound understanding of the concepts, policies and practices related to geopolitics and its impact on international affairs. It will equally enhance and stimulate both acquaintance and knowledge of the main contemporary security challenges in world politics.

The specific aims of the subject are:

Developing analytical skills: The course is designed to provide the students with the capacity for both historical analysis and conceptual thinking, developing the ability to think geostrategically.

Critical thinking and knowledge building: After completing the course successfully, students should have the ability to formulate critical questions and problems related to the geopolitical analysis as well as to develop basic research in this field.

Contextualizing current geopolitical events: the course intends to trace back present situations to both their historical and theoretical background in order to provide the students with the ability to discern what is at stake at current international security affairs.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Contemporary World History, general knowledge and awareness of current international affairs and basic knowledge of political science's concepts such as state, sovereignty, security, war and conflict, etc

COURSE SYLLABUS

This is a blended course, based on online and onsite modules and activities. Accordingly, the course is divided in weekly learning units composed by online lectures, onsite seminars and a weekly detailed guide of reading material. This will help the students to organise their learning autonomously.

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO GEOPOLITICS
MODULE 2: BRIEF HISTORY OF GEOPOLITICS
MODULE 3: GEOPOLITICAL CONCEPTS AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS
MODULE 4: GEOPOLITICAL AGENCY AND GEOPOLITICAL CODES
MODULE 5: THE CREATION OF THE GEOPOLITICAL MINDSET
MODULE 6: GEOPOLITICS, NATIONALISM AND NATIONAL IDENTITY
MODULE 7: GEOPOLITICS, TERRITORIES AND BOUNDARIES
MODULE 8: NETWORK GEOPOLITICS

The course will cover interrelated concepts such as war and peace, nation, culture, religion, security, empire and major developments of contemporary history. It is therefore structured around the major topics and debates that dominates the field of contemporary geopolitical studies both from a theoretical perspective and case-study analysis.

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The students are expected to read in preparation of each onsite session and to participate in the discussion.

Continuous assessment activities will include:

- Daily reading and overview of press and news
- Seminar discussions and text analysis
- Short assignments
- Presentations: each student should be part of a working group, choose an item (conflict analysis), present it orally in class (the date for the oral presentations will be set once the students chose the groups and items for their presentations from a list) and prepare a kahoot for the rest of the classmates.

Both the distribution of work time and educational activities, could be subject to change.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
60 hours	90 hours

SKILLS

Basic Skills

Students must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in an area of study that is founded on general secondary education. Moreover, the area of study is typically at a level that includes certain aspects implying knowledge at the forefront of its field of study, albeit supported by advanced textbooks

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess skills that can typically be demonstrated by coming up with and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) in order to make judgments that include reflections on pertinent social, scientific or ethical issues

Students must be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both an expert and non-expert audience

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of independence

General Skills

To acquire critical, analytical, synthetic, reflective, theoretical and practical thought to be able to understand, analyse, interpret and rigorously and independently sum up international reality from a multidisciplinary standpoint.

To acquire the ability to consider and creatively respond to the essential questions as to the whys and wherefores, and the consequences of human, social, political and economic events of global society.

To be able to generate public opinion and build bridges with the various social sectors, allowing for the formation and dissemination of a message and culture for the benefit of humankind, conveying values based on the search for truth and common good.

To develop personal leadership focussing on communication and mediation in the context of international relations.

To be able to apply group work with common objectives, fostering the analysis and pooling of various approaches.

To understand and analyse the international reality from the standpoint of respect and protecting democracy, human rights, cultural diversity and the values of equality, justice and solidarity. To be able to take part in discussions on current affairs, based on knowledge of international relations and an analysis of today's world.

To develop communication skills allowing for accurate written and oral expression, as well as rigorous discourse and suitable reasoning in public.

To suitably use all possible sources that make it possible to be familiar with the international reality in the historical, political, economic, legal and social spheres, in all formats, in order to organise and plan the study and analysis of the international reality.

Specific skills

To study, identify and analyse the various geostrategic regions and key areas of regional influence worldwide. To be familiar with the origin and development of world crisis and conflict scenarios.

To be able to foresee processes of change and transformation in the various geographical regions.

To be familiar with and apply the foremost concepts and terminology used in international relations from a range of multidisciplinary approaches.

To be familiar with and assess the role of the media with regard to the international reality and their influence on public opinion.

LEARNING RESULTS

Evaluate the acquired knowledge and skills when observing daily developments in world politics

Being able to predict geopolitical developments and state behavior

Show familiarity with fundamental frameworks of the theoretical perspectives utilized by scholars in order to understand contemporary thinking about security

Build upon and complement their extant knowledge of International Relations

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

Requirements and grading (attendance required):

- 40% Active participation (daily overview on press and news, leading class discussion (10%) plus oral presentation (15%) and short assignments (15%))

- 50% Final exam (in order to pass the course the student should obtain a minimum mark of 5 in the exam)
- 10% Interdisciplinary seminars

Requirements and grading (for exceptional cases not requiring attendance):

Los alumnos podrán solicitar Dispensa Académica en Secretaría de Coordinación Académica de la Facultad por: coincidencia de horarios, motivos laborales o motivos personales. En Coordinación Académica les indicarán el procedimiento a seguir en cada uno de los casos. Una vez concedida de forma oficial la dispensa, los alumnos seguirán la evaluación continua (deberán entregar todas las tareas que el profesor solicite) excepto en asistencia, participación y trabajos realizados en el aula.

The students can request to the Academic Coordination Secretariat an exemption of class attendance for incompatibility of class schedules, work purposes, personal reasons or internship. The students will be notified by the Academic Coordination Secretariat on how to proceed in each case. Once the exemption has been officially granted, the students must follow the average evaluation requirements (including tasks requested by the lecturer) except for those tasks requiring attendance, participation or other assignments performed in the classroom.

The alternative evaluation method will consist of:

- 40% one writing essays (3.000 words)
- 60% final exam (in order to pass the course the student should obtain a minimum mark of 5 in the exam)

PLAGIARISM AS WELL AS THE USE OF FRAUDULENT MEANS IN ANY OF THE EVALUATION TESTS OR WRITTEN ESSAYS WILL BE SANCTIONED ACCORDING TO THE UNIVERSITY NORMS ESTABLISHED IN THE "EVALUATION RULES" AND "RULES OF CO-EXISTENCE"

LAS CONDUCTAS DE PLAGIO, ASÍ COMO EL USO DE MEDIOS ILEGÍTIMOS EN LAS PRUEBAS DE EVALUACIÓN, SERÁN SANCIONADOS CONFORME A LO ESTABLECIDO EN LA NORMATIVA DE EVALUACIÓN Y LA NORMATIVA DE CONVIVENCIA DE LA UNIVERSIDAD.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

Flint, Colin. Introduction to geopolitics / 3th ed. Oxon :Routledge,2017.

Additional

Dittmer, Jason and Sharp, Joanne Geopolitics. An introductory Reader London and New York, Routledge 2014

Dodds, Klaus Geopolitics. A Very Short Introduction Oxford, Oxford University Press, 3rd Ed. 2019

Bull, Hedley The Anarchical Society. A Study of Order in World Politics New York Columbia University Press, 3rd ed. 2002

Kaplan, Robert D. The Revenge of Geography: What the Map Tells US about Coming Conflicts and the Battle against Fate New York. Random House. 2012

Kaplan, Robert D. : The Return of Marco Polo's World: War, Strategy, and American Interests in the 21st Century Random House, 2018

Kissinger, Henry World Order Penguin Books, 2015

Morgenthau, Hans J. Politics Among Nations Maidenhead. McGraw hill Higher ed., 7th ed. 2005