

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations		
Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science		
Faculty/School:	Communication Science		
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.

The term "geopolitics" is ubiquitous and interdisciplinary. It involves different theoretical focuses and perspectives on world politics related to the control of political spaces and resources. It emerged in northern Europe at the end of the 19th century, coinciding with world historical developments such as the rise of nationalism and inter-imperial competition. During the "classical" era of the discipline it stressed the close relationship between power, geography (both physical and human) and infrastructural knowledge, emphasizing a particular vision of state's power and international relations, commonly related to a "realist" and state-centric approach. Nonetheless, the end

of the Cold War, together with the rise of new social actors and technological developments in the 20th century, has favoured the outbreak of new theoretical approaches, which are more suitable to understand and explain current strategies of global competition and conflict in the 21st century.

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.

- Daily reading and overview of press and news
- Seminar discussions and role games
- Essays and presentations: each student should be part of a working group, choose an item and 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 submit a summary in writing. (1500 words)

Both the distribution of work time and educational activities, could be subject to change according to the evolution of the pandemic and the instructions provided by national/regional health authorities.

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 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 acquire the ability to present and discuss conflicting ideas, thereby generating meeting forums for individuals or social groups from different countries and cultures.

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 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.

LEARNING RESULTS

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

Develop practical understanding of security issues in general and respective key analytical concepts

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 writing essays (15%))
- 50% Final exam
- 10% Interdisciplinary seminars

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

Those students requiring a study waiver due to working reasons, medical conditions or course repetition, should contact the lecturer by e-mail during the first two weeks of the course. The lecturer will have two weeks time to attend the request and provide an alternative evaluation method.

- 40% two writing essays (1.500 words) (these essays will be presented orally. Please, talk to the professor in order to agree a date for the oral presentation)
- 60% final exam

Requirements and grading (in case of a new lockdown):

- 40% Active participation (oral presentation (20%) and writing essays (20%))
- 50% Final exam
- 10% Interdisciplinary seminars

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Essential Reading:

- Flint, Colin. Introduction to Geopolitics. London and New York, Routledge, 3rd edition, 2017

Recommended reading:

- 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

List of references:

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

- Carr, E. H. The Twenty Years Crisis 1919-1939 - Gaddis, John Lewis: The Cold War

- Ignatieff, Michael. Empire Lite: Nation Building in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan (London: Vintage 2003)

- 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.

- Lonsdale, David. J. The Nature of War in the Information Age: - Clausewitzian Future, London: Frank Cass, 2003

- Luttwak, Edward N., Give War a Chance, Foreign Affairs, 78:4 (July/August 1999) - Luttwak, Edward N. The Strategy of the Byzantine Empire

- Marshall, Tim: Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World (Politics of Place)

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

- O Tuathail, Gearoid: Critical Geopolitics, 1996

- Owens, Mackubin Thomas: In Defense of Classical Geopolitics

- Rosenberg, Joel C.: The Persian Gamble, Tyndale House, 2019.

-Solzhenitsyn, Alexander: Harvard Commencement Address, 1978

- Steiner, Zara: On Writing International History: Chaps, Maps and Much More. International Affairs, Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-1997

- Von Clausewitz. Carl. On War. Routledge, 1966. Chapters 1 and 2.

- West, Thomas G. : Leo Strauss and American Foreign Policy, Claremont Review of Books, Summer 2004

Additional

The course relies on an eclectic collection of texts and sources that will be distributed electronically: papers, articles, and videos