TEACHING GUIDE - 2026-2027

Geopolitics: current affairs and trends

UGRA_016135

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability, Global Governance
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	6
Teacher responsible	Jorge Molina Alsina - jordi.molina2@esade.edu

Course Goals

· Understanding the basic concepts, theories and views gravitating around the term "geopolitics"
· Getting familiar with the key players, agendas and strategies that are shaping today's global and regional affairs
· Analyzing the key current geopolitical trends that are impacting daily world affairs
· Exploring the historical, political and philosophical roots of international order and its evolution ·
· Approach world politics and geopolitics affairs with greater knowledge and criteria

Previous knowledge

No previous knowledge is necessary to make the most out of the course. That said, the student's background on international relations, history, philosophy, geography and polical science will be helpful.

Prerequisits

No previous course is a must to enroll in "Geopolitics: current affairs and trends".

Teaching methodology

The teaching and learning dynamics gravitate around presential sessions, complemented with autonomous work.
During the class sessions, student participation is encouraged. Every session is designed to foster participation through firechats, debates, opinions and other contributions.
Each session will require a complementary autonomous work in order to prepare specific topics that are part of the exam content. This will imply reviewing the session materials (slides) as well as selected articles and other resources (available via Moodle or recommended in class).
Further code of counduct guidelines, resources and recommendations will be provided in the course's syllabus and in class.

Description

Course contribution to program

This course is the introductory level course to geopolitics by means of analyzing the current affairs and the ongoing trends. It aims to provide a comprehensive academic background as a base to build furter in such discipline.

Short description

This course introduces the participants to key concepts, theories and perspectives of today's global and regional geopolitics. It aims to provide the students with a wide-ranging approach to these topics and other related fields (geography, history, political science) in order to duly portray contemporary world affairs, its background and its key drivers. The syllabus also examines the main challenges and opportunities both of sovereign states and non-state actors.

Bibliography

Andrew Heywood, Global Politics, Bloomsbury Academic (Book)

Richard Haas, The World, Penguin Press (Book)

Tim Marshall, Prisoners of Geography, Simon & Schuster (Book)

Activities

In-class discussions and debates

Written and/or oral exams

Readings

Presentations

Case study analyses

Content

#	Topic
1	Introduction to Geopolitics
2	Geopolitics of the US
3	Geopolitics of China
4	Geopolitics of Russia
5	Geopolitics of the European Union
6	Geopolitics of India, Pakistan and South East Asia
7	Geopolitics of the Middle East
8	Geopolitics of LatAm and Africa
9	Geopolitics and Populism

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Written and/or oral exams	Midterm Written Exam	Retake and ordinary round	50.00%
Written and/or oral exams	Final Written Exam	Retake and ordinary round	50.00%

PROGRAMS

113-Law Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
113 Year 1 (Optative)

DD05-Double Degree Program (exchange) (Undergraduates: Law)
DD05 Year 1 (Optative)

G114S-Global Governance Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
G114S Year 1 (Optative)