

Geopolitics

Academic Year: (2019 / 2020)

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Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: History, Geography and Art Department

Coordinating teacher: GARCIA ALVAREZ, ANTONIO JACOBO

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 2 Semester : 1

OBJECTIVES

This course aims to achieve the following specific learning objectives:

- Ability to know and understand the fundamentals of geopolitics as a discipline, as well as its relationships with other related disciplines, such as Geography, History or International Relations.
- Ability to know and understand the main theoretical-methodological approaches of geopolitical studies, as well as apply them to the analysis of specific geopolitical situations.
- Ability to know and understand the international geopolitical structure as a dynamic and globalized system that operates through different scales (global, regional, state, local) related to each other.
- Ability to know, understand and critically analyse the main geopolitical and geostrategic theories of a global nature and the way in which those theories have influenced or influence international politics.
- Ability to know, understand and critically analyse national and international geopolitical conflicts and propose strategies and instruments that can contribute to their resolution.
- Ability to know and understand the politico-geographical dimensions of the State in the context of globalization, paying particular attention to the different areas and processes that shape, delimit and modify its territory; the key factors that explain the evolution of the State's world map; the main models of territorial organization; and the ways in which the territory of the state can be divided or regionalised.
- Ability to know and understand the territorial dimension of nationalism and regionalism and, especially, the way in which those territorial ideologies contribute to the construction of collective identities.
- Ability to describe and analyse, on the basis of the Spanish case, the factors that define the geopolitical characteristics of a state.
- Ability to orally present and discuss a geopolitical text, as well as to analyse and comment on it in a critical and rigorous manner.
- Ability to know and understand the main graphic and cartographic representations related to geopolitical and historical analysis, as well as their analytical and interpretative possibilities.
- Ability to analyse a conflict from a geopolitical perspective, through academic systematic methods.
- To develop, as transversal values, critical spirit and a global geopolitical awareness allowing to understand the functioning, structure and major geopolitical problems of the world and, more broadly, the interests and power games that converge in the territory.

In addition to this, as far as the structure of the Bachelor's Degree in History and Politics is concerned, this course on Geopolitics makes part of the "History and international politics" subject, whose general competences (GC), specific competences (SC) and learning results (RL) are as follows:

- GC1. Ability to know the economic, legal, political and social reality from a comparative perspective.
- GC4. Ability to manage, identify, organize and analyze relevant information in a critical and systematic way about current and past sources, in relation to political or other aspects.
- GC5. Ability to discuss and formulate critical reasoning using precise terminology and specialized resources on international and global phenomena, using both the concepts and knowledge of different disciplines and the methodologies of analysis, paradigms and concepts of Social Sciences.
- GC6. Ability to apply the scientific method to the social, political and economic questions posed by the globalized society as well as to raise a problem in this area, identifying a possible explanation or solution, and a method to contrast it by carefully interpreting the data.
- GC7. Ability to make critical judgments that include an ethical reflection on fundamental social, scientific and economic issues, both in the international order as well as in the national or local one.

SC5. Ability to know the main models of territorial, political, economic and social organization of the states throughout history and at present.

SC10. Ability to understand the differentiating elements of international problems according to the degree of development of a country.

SC11. Ability to know to critically analyse fundamental political events of the past whose effects have reached our days.

SC12. Ability to pose and solve basic problems of economic, social, political content at different scales (from the international to the local), paying due attention to the historical precedents of these problems.

SC16. Ability to know how to carry out case studies and apply the comparative method to analyse institutions, processes and policies of different countries.

LR2. Ability to apply the acquired knowledge to solve complex and / or specialized problems in the professional field;

LR3. Ability to collect and interpret data and information providing support to conclusions, including, where applicable, reflection on social, scientific or ethical issues;

LR4. Ability to deal with complex situations which might require the development of new solutions, both in the academic and the professional fields.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

FIRST PART. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF GEOPOLITICS

TOPIC 1. GEOPOLITICS AS A DISCIPLINE: DEFINITIONS, CONCEPTS, RELATIONSHIPS AND SCHOOLS

1. Defining the object of Geopolitics.
2. Traditional subjects in geopolitical studies.
3. Geopolitics¿ relationships to other fields.
4. Geographical features and global geopolitics: realist vs. idealist approaches.

TOPIC 2: REPRESENTATIONS OF GEOPOLITICAL FACTS: FROM CARTOGRAPHY TO POPULAR GEOPOLITICS

1. Analyzing representations in Geopolitics: concepts and methodology.
2. Cartography and geopolitics.
3. On different ways of regionalizing and imagining the world: geopolitical consequences.
4. Popular geopolitics and the mass media.

SECOND PART. TERRITORY, POWER AND CONFLICT IN TODAY'S WORLD

TOPIC 3. THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD'S POWER: GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL THEORIES AND SYSTEMS

1. Power analysis from a geopolitical point of view.
2. Imperialist geopolitics' world view (1890-1945): maritime power and continental power.
3. Global geopolitical theories and systems during the Cold War (1945-1991).
4. Post-Cold War geopolitics: from unipolarity to multipolarity.

TOPIC 4. THE GEOPOLITICS OF CONFLICTS

1. The study of concepts from a geopolitical point of view: concepts, methods and sources.
2. Typology, cartography and evolution of geopolitical conflicts within post-Cold War world.
3. Explaining the world map of geopolitical conflicts.
4. Peace processes and conflict resolution: a geographical approach.

THIRD PART. POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE STATE

TOPIC 5. THE STATE SYSTEM IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION: INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD POLITICAL MAP

1. The territorial state.
2. The formation of contemporary world political map: borders and state territorial dynamics.
3. Tendencies and prospect of evolution of world political map within the context of globalization.

TOPIC 6. THE TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE: MODELS, DIVISIONS AND IDEOLOGIES

1. The political-administrative organization of territory: introduction to state territorial models.

2. Territorial divisions and regionalization processes.
3. Territory and nationalism.
4. Landscape, ideology and identity.

FOURTH PART: INTRODUCTION TO REGIONAL GEOPOLITICS. THE CASE OF SPAIN

TOPIC 7. EXTERNAL GEOPOLITICS OF TODAY'S SPAIN: GENERAL OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE SOUTHERN BORDER

1. Methods of regional geopolitics.
2. Geopolitical features of Spanish territory. Spain's position in the world.
3. Spain as EU external border: geopolitical and territorial implications.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

The course combines theoretical sessions and practical sessions. Theoretical sessions present the basic contents of the subject syllabus and aim to provide students with its conceptual and methodological fundamentals. Theoretical sessions will be developed through classroom lectures by the teacher, while practical sessions will be focused on the reading, presentation, discussion and critical analysis of selected bibliography, as well as on learning to analyze specific geopolitical issues. In addition to these practical sessions, students shall prepare and submit three types of practical exercises for continuous assessment: a text oral presentation; a text commentary and an analytical essay on a specific geopolitical issue.

The tutorials will take place by face-to-face interviews and/or via e-mail.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

% end-of-term-examination/test:	40
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):	60

SYSTEM A (FOR STUDENTS FOLLOWING CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT)

1) CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- 1.1) Texts presentations and discussions and active participation in class: 20 % of the course grade.
- 1.2) Text commentary (individual exercise): 20 % of the course grade.
- 1.3) Essay on a geopolitical issue (group exercise): 20% of the course grade.

2) END-OF-TERM EXAM: 40 % of the course grade. In order to pass the course, one has to pass this exam.

SYSTEM B (FOR STUDENTS NOT FOLLOWING CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT)

If continuous assessment is not followed, the final exam will count 60% of the course grade, so if the student receives therein a grade equal to or greater than 3,3 points (out of a maximum of 4 points), the subject will be passed.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ADOUMIÉ, V. y otros Géopolitique du monde contemporain : approche générale, Hachette, 2015
- AGNEW, J. Geopolitics. Re-visioning world politics. 2nd ed, Routledge, 2003
- ANDERSON, E. Global geopolitical flashpoints: an Atlas of conflict, Routledge, 2013
- BLACK, J. Geopolitics and the quest for dominance, Indiana University Press, 2016
- BONIFACE, P. y VEDRINE, H. Atlas du monde global - 3e éd. - 100 cartes pour comprendre un monde chaotique , Armand Colin, 2015

- BRADEN, K. & SHELLEY, F.M. Engaging Geopolitics, Taylor & Francis, 2014
- DITTMER, J. & SHARP, J., eds Geopolitics. An introductory Reader, Routledge, 2014
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- FLINT, C. Introduction to geopolitics, 3rd ed., Routledge, 2016
- FRAGUAS, M. Manual de geopolítica crítica, Tirant lo Blanch , 2016
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- KAPLAN, R. The revenge of Geography, Random House, 2012
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- MÉNDEZ, R. El nuevo mapa geopolítico del mundo, Tirant lo Blanch, 2011
- NOGUÉ, J.; VICENTE. J. Geopolítica, identidad y globalización, Ariel, 2001
- ROSIÈRE, S. Géographie politique et Géopolitique, Ellipses, 2007
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- TAYLOR, P. & FLINT, C. Political Geography: World-Economy, Nation-State and Locality, 7th edition. , Routledge, 2018
- Ó TUATHAIL, G. ; DALBY, S.; ROUTLEDGE, P., eds. The Geopolitics Reader, 2nd ed. , Routledge, 2006