Geopolitics

Academic Year: (2020 / 2021) **Review date: 09-07-2020**

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 theorie 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 e 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

UNIT 1. GEOPOLITICS AS A DISCIPLINE: DEFINITIONS, CONCEPTS AND SCHOOLS.
1. Defining Geopolitics: the object of study and the field.
2. Geopolitics¿ relationships to other fields.
3. Traditional subjects and approaches in geopolitical studies: geographical features and international politics, realist vs.
idealist approaches.
4. An overview of geopolitical traditions and schools: classical, neoclassical and critical geopolitics.

UNIT 2. GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS: GEOPOLITICAL CODES, GEOPOLITICAL AGENTS AND WORLD ORDERS.
1. Analyzing geopolitical facts and issues: concepts and methodology.
2. Geopolitical codes and geopolitical calculations.
3. Geopolitical agents and geopolitical structures.
4. Power analysis and world orders.

SECOND PART. TERRITORY, POWER AND HEGEMONY. THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD POWER.

UNIT 3. GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL THEORIES AND SYSTEMS. FROM IMPERIALIST TO COLD-WAR GEOPOLITICS.
1. The sources of 19th century geopolitical theories and thought.
2. Imperialist geopolitics' world view (1890-1945): maritime power and continental power.
3. Global geopolitical theories and systems during the Cold War (1945-1991).

UNIT 4. KEY GEOPOLITCAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY WORLD: THE POST-COLD WAR ERA AND THE MULTIPOLAR WORLD.
1. Post-Cold War geopolitics: The return of ¿hard geopolitics¿.
2. From unipolarity to multipolarity. The end of the liberal world order and American hegemony?
3. Questioning the status quo: revisionist powers and the new great-power games.

THIRD PART. GEOPOLITICAL APPROCHES TO CONFLICTS: CULTURES, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE STATE
SYSTEM.

UNIT 5. ¿BATTLE LINES OF THE FUTURE¿. BORDERS AND TERRITORIAL IDENTITIES.
1. Analyzing conflicts from a geopolitical point of view: methods, sources and types of explanations.
2. Typology, cartography and evolution of geopolitical conflicts within post-Cold War world.
3. The ¿Clash of civilizations¿ (Huntington) and the rise of territorial identities: nationalism, borders and cultures.

UNIT 6. THE GEOPOLITICS OF RESOURCES AND ENERGY.
1. Materialist approaches. Global power, resource competition and interstate rivalry.
2. Changing geopolitics of energy: the evolution of ¿resources wars¿.
3. Typology and cartography of conflicts over resources in today¿s world: towards a new global geopolitics of energy?

UNIT 7. THE STATE SYSTEM IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION: CHANGING TERRITORIAL DYNAMICS AND THE
WORLD POLITICAL MAP.

1. The modern territorial state and its territorial dynamics.
2. Transformation within the contemporary world political map.
3. Sovereignty, territorial integrity and globalization: debates and prospect of evolution.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the teaching model approved for thise course combines theoretical sessions (online in synchronous mode) and practical sessions (with reduced number of students in-class). Theoretical sessions present the basic contents of the syllabus and aim at providing students with
conceptual and methodological key elements. 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
texts (a reading list designed by the instructor), as well as on learning to analyze specific geopolitical issues. In addition to
these practical sessions, students shall prepare and submit three types of assignments when it comes to continuous assessment: an oral presentation and discussion of a text form the reading list; an individual text commentary (shortpaper)
and an analytical essay on a specific geopolitical issue (group work). A final exam will be taken in order to assess student¿s understanding of the course contents.
The tutorials will normally take place via online and/or via e-mail

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

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.

% end-of-term-examination:	40
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	60

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Ó TUATHAIL, G. ; DALBY, S.; ROUTLEDGE, P., eds. The Geopolitics Reader, 2nd ed. , Routledge, 2006