uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Fundamentals of Geopolitics: concepts, theories and territories

Academic Year: (2021 / 2022) Review date: 04-06-2021

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

Coordinating teacher: GARCIA ALVAREZ, ANTONIO JACOBO

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits: 6.0

Year: 1 Semester: 1

OBJECTIVES

General competences:

GC1: Ability to understand the main factors involved in geopolitical and strategic analysis.

GC2: Ability to understand and analyze from a critical perspective the territorial dimension of the discourses and practices that guide international politics, as well as to contribute to the public debate about them and to deepen the values of democracy, dialogue, tolerance, social and environmental justice and peace.

GC3: Ability to understand and analyze national and international conflicts that have a territorial origin or influence and propose political strategies and instruments that can contribute to their resolution.

GC5: Ability to demonstrate critical thinking in the analytical arguments of their own and of others.

GC6: Ability to plan and carry out an autonomous research in the field of geopolitics and strategic studies.

GC7: Ability to communicate and present, in a clear, precise and rigorous manner, geopolitical and strategic reports to both specialized and non-specialized audiences

Specific competences:

SC1: Ability to understand and analyze the international geopolitical structure as a dynamic and globalized system that operates through different scales related to each other from the local to the global level.

SC2: Ability to understand and analyze the main global geopolitical and geostrategic theories and the way in which these theories have influenced or influence international politics.

SC3: Ability to understand and analyze the main theoretical-methodological approaches of geopolitical and strategic studies, as well as to apply them to the analysis of specific geopolitical situations.

Learning results include:

- -Ability to understand, handle and rigorously apply the fundamental concepts of, and approaches to, geopolitical and strategic studies.
- -Ability to understand and critically analyze the main theories aimed to explain the world geopolitical system in the context of globalization.
- -Ability to understand and critically analyze geopolitical conflicts.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

PART I: GEOPOLITICS AS A DISCIPLINE: CONCEPTS, APPROACHES AND REPRESENTATIONS

LESSON 1. DEFINITION AND OBJECT OF GEOPOLITICS.

LESSON 2. GEOPOLITICAL TRADITIONS, SCHOOLS AND TRENDS (1). CLASSICAL GLOBAL THEORIES AND GEOPOLITICAL SYSTEMS.

LESSON 3. GEOPOLITICAL TRADITIONS, SCHOOLS AND TRENDS (2). FROM CLASSICAL GEOPOLITICS TO CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS. CONTEMPORARY DEBATES.

PART III: GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS OF TODAY; S WORLD: KEY ELEMENTS AND ISSUES

LESSON 4. THE REPRESENTATION OF GEOPOLITICAL FACTS: FROM CARTOGRAPHY TO POPULAR GEOPOLITICS.

LESSON 5. GEOPOLITICAL APPROACHES TO CONFLICT ANALYSIS.

LESSON 6. THE STATE SYSTEM IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Learning and training activities include:

- Class presentations by the teacher, in which the main theoretical contents of the course are developed. Course bibliography is provided to complement these presentations.
- Critical reading of texts selected by the teacher either to expand and consolidate the knowledge of the subject, for further discussion in class or to comment by means of papers or analytical written essays.
- Presentations and discussions in class, moderated by the teacher, of topics related to the contents of the subject.

Tutorials will be carried out through the procedures established by the university.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

- -Classroom and online attendance and active participation, including both the theoretical sessions and the oral presentations and discussion within the practical sessions: 20% of the course grade.
- -Mid-term exam (Part I): 40% of the course grade
- -Final paper with analytical and critical essays on three proposed texts (Part II): 40% of the course grade.

% end-of-term-examination: 0
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals...): 100

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AGNEW, J. Geopolitics. Re-visioning world politics. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2003
- CATTARUZZA, A, & SINTÈS, P. Géopolitique des conflits, Bréal, 2016
- DITTMER, J. & SHARP, J., eds. Geopolitics. An introductory Reader, Routledge, 2014
- DODDS, K. Global geopolitics. A critical introduction, Pearson, 2005
- DODDS, K. Geopolitics. A very short introduction, 2nd ed., Oxford University Press, 2014
- FLINT, C. Introduction to geopolitics, Routledge, 2006
- GLASSNER, M.I. & FARHER C. Political Geography. 3rd. ed., John Wiley, 2004
- LASSERRE, F.; GONON, E.; MOTTET, É. Manuel de géopolitique. Enjeux de pouvoir sur les territoires, 2ª ed., Armand Colin, 2016
- LOYER, B. Géopolitique. Méthodes et concepts, Armand Colin, 2019
- LÓPEZ TRIGAL, L. Diccionario de geografía política y geopolítica, Universidad de León, 2013
- MÉNDEZ, R. El nuevo mapa geopolítico del mundo, Tirant lo Blanch, 2011
- O¿LOUGHLIN, J., ed. Dictionary of Geopolitics, ABC-CLIO,, 1993
- ROSIÈRE, S. Géographie politique et Géopolitique, Ellipses, 2007
- 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