

## Global Governance & Geopolitics Track

US Credits: 3 / ECTS: 5

Recommended Contact Hours: 50

Students studying in the Global Governance & Geopolitics Track will enroll into an innovative curriculum modality comprised of 2 academic modules: International Relations and Global Governance & Euro Zone, European Union and Economic Crisis. These comprehensive modules meet for 120 minutes, 5 days a week over a 4 weeks session for a combined total of 2,400 minutes.

### *International Relations and Global Governance*

#### **Learning Objectives of the course:**

The objectives of this course are to give business aspirants a solid perspective on the prevailing international situation and so to be able to:

- Present a general vision of the new arrangement of the international system and its actors, particularly from 1989 onwards
- Evaluate some of the techno-economical, sociopolitical and cultural consequences that stem from the above mentioned changes
- Introduce the main attempts to construct new paradigms to understand the driving forces in the international environment
- Identify key trends in the geopolitical arena
- Think strategically in the light of these developments

#### **Course description:**

We live in an age of interdependence and increasing globalization of business and markets. Currencies, goods and services criss-cross frontiers and are sensitive to international events. Cross-border mergers are becoming frequent.

The revolution in technology and communications has eliminated the inconvenience of distance. In such an environment, it is desirable for MSc participants to understand the ramifications of global events, to learn to analyze the complexities that exist in other parts of the world and to cope with them if the need arises in the future. This course will endeavor to help participants to understand prevailing trends in geopolitical arenas, to think more in a global context and to try to anticipate future developments.

First we will concentrate on constructing a solid framework for understanding international relations and particularly the interplay built around foreign relations, geography and history.

At this point we will face and try to answer these questions: What is geopolitics? What is power and legitimacy and what role do they play in the field of international relations? We will then think and reflect upon the work of major geopolitical scholars: Is there anything like a grand strategy for international relations? How are identity, race and religions shaping current geopolitical events?

Which are predominant powers in today's world and where are they leading it? Can we establish or even predict the appearance and fall of new global leaders?

Finally we will revisit the main international hotspots nowadays from a geopolitical perspective. Among them and above all, the break-up of the Middle East as we knew it (2003-onwards); the Rise of China and its impact on the Asian region (2008-) and Russia's activist foreign policies(2013-).

**Methodology:**

Sessions will combine lectures, group presentation and class discussions on the readings.

A certain amount of reading will be compulsory for each class. All readings for the course will be available on the website of the course. Accordingly some questions (called "threads") will appear on the website of the course to help guide the reading.

**Evaluation:**

The grading for this course will be based on different types of assignments. Each part must be passed separately:

- Class participation and attendance: 20 %
- Exam (open book): 40 %
- Final Paper: 40 %

**Incompatibilities:**

None

**Observations:**

This course should be of value to:

- Participants who want to pursue a career in an international environment
- Participants who are good at quantitative analysis but find themselves confused or less prepared when confronted with intercultural, interpersonal issues
- Students who would like to understand geopolitical thinking and how it has helped to shape the world, particularly from a European perspective
- Participants who are aware of the issues that this course examines, but would like to deepen or broaden their understanding of these issues

**Plagiarism:**

Please read and familiarize yourself with the statement on plagiarism available on ESADE's website. If you are still uncertain as to what constitutes plagiarism please do not hesitate to contact the professor. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and may lead to failure of the course.

**Textbooks:**

The following works will provide an introduction to the theoretical part of the course:

Agnew, J. 2003. *Geopolitics: Re-Visioning World Politics*. London: Routledge.

Dodds, K. 2007. *Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Flint,

C. 2006. *Introduction to Geopolitics*. New York: Routledge.

Lechner, Frank J. and John Boli, eds. 2008. *The Globalization Reader*, third edition. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Murillo, D. 2015. *From Walmart to Al Qaeda. An interdisciplinary approach to globalization*. GreenLeaf

O'Tuathail, G. and S. Dalby. 1998. *The Geopolitics Reader*. New York: RoutledgePress.

Steger, M. 2009. *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## LIST OF CLASSES

### **SESSION 1- HOW TO SEE THE WORLD. A VISUAL INTRODUCTION TO GEOPOLITICS**

- The cartographic illusion
- Geopolitics: Definitions and theories

### **SESSION 2- A BRIEF HISTORY OF GEOPOLITICS. FROM IMPERIALIST GEOPOLITICS TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE BERLIN WALL (1900-1990)**

- A globalization framework
- List of Geopolitical paradigms
- A brief history of classical geopolitical thinking

### **SESSION 3- RUSSIA: THE RETURN OF A SUPERPOWER (1991- )**

- The Cold War as a cultural heritage
- Russia: historical and political traits
- Recent moves: Crimea, Ukraine and the Middle East

### **SESSION 4- THE NEOCONSERVATIVE PERSUASION: US LEADERSHIP CHALLENGED (2001-2008)**

- Fukuyama and the power of ideologies
- The Neoconservative push and the Bush Doctrine (2001-2008)

### **SESSION 5- GEOPOLITICS OF/AND IDENTITY. A BROKEN MIDDLE EAST (2001- )**

- Huntington and the clash of civilizations
- Nationalism and the clash of identities
- The break-up of a Middle East

### **SESSION 6- THE OBAMA DOCTRINE (I): THE US GOES TO ASIA(2009-2012)**

- Redefining power in the XXIst Century
- A brand new US FP
- The new Asian game

### **SESSION 7- THE RISE OF CHINA (2008- )**

- The two faces of China
- China: indicators, trends and challenges ahead
- The South and East China Sea conflicts

**SESSION 8- THE OBAMA DOCTRINE (2): THE US AS THE RELUCTANT GLOBAL POLICE  
(2012-2016)**

- Trends of Obama's FP after 2012
- Challenges, tensions and unresolved problems

**SESSION 9- GEOPOLITICAL TRENDS: THINKING THE FUTURE (2017-2050)**

- D. Trump, the unexpected president, and the Decline of the US Debate
- Socio-economic and demographic forces ahead: more crowded, unequal and vulnerable?
- Africa and Asia: the two continents where our global fate will be determined

**SESSION 10- EXAMINATION**

## Euro Zone, European Union and Economic Crisis

### Summary

The course revolves around the geopolitics of global governance. Specific issues dealt with: the institutional architecture of global governance, present and future of the EU as a relevant geopolitical actor, the ECB and the current euro crisis.

### Objectives

The objectives of this course are to give the aspirants a solid perspective on the prevailing international situation and so to be able to:

- Introduce the main attempts to construct new paradigms to understand the driving forces in the international environment
- Identify key trends in the geopolitical arena, mainly from a European perspective
- Think strategically in the light of these developments

### Subjects

#### **1.- GEOPOLITICS OF EUROPE: BOOM&BUST OF THE EU?**

A European XXIst century? The apocalyptic vision  
Some 2030 Trends  
Project Europe 2030. Main results Group  
Presentation: EU's hard and soft powers. A diagnosis

#### **2.- EU Institutions and Decision Making**

- Introduction: European integration - ends and means
- The political Institutions: Working with the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament
- European Court of Justice and the legal system

#### **3.- Principles of Constitutional Law: The Relationship between Community Law and National Laws**

- Direct effect
- Supremacy and State liability

#### **4. - The Internal Market**

- Harmonization and the internal market project
- Free movement of goods
- Free movement of persons, workers and social policy
- Freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services

#### **5. Europe in the World**

- The fragmentation of European power
- Trading with the European Union. The EU and the WTO

#### **6.-EU Economic Governance and the Euro Crisis**

Group Presentation: The ECB and the euro

Readings on Europe and the euro:

- Grieco, Joseph M. and G. John Ikenberry. "State Power and the Promotion of National Interests through Economic Integration." In Grieco & Ikenberry, 2003: esp. 149-158.
- Panorama of the EU [15 pages]

[http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/eu\\_glance/79/en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/eu_glance/79/en.pdf)

#### **Methodology**

Sessions will combine an introductory lecture, a group presentation and a debate on the readings.

A certain amount of reading will be compulsory for each class. All readings for the course will be available on the website of the course. Accordingly some questions (called 'threads') will appear on the website of the course to help guide the reading.

## **Evaluation**

Group presentation,  
class participation,  
online threads on readings or cases  
and final exam

## **Bibliography**

The following works will provide an introduction to the theoretical part of the course: Agnew, J. 2003. *Geopolitics: Re-Visioning World Politics*. London: Routledge.

Dodds, K. 2007. *Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Flint, C. 2006. *Introduction to Geopolitics*. New York: Routledge.

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