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## Geopolitics and Geohistory

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### Course aims and intended learning outcomes

The course aims to analyse “geopolitics” as a term and as a concept, including its many definitions and its application as a means of interpreting history and politics. It will analyse the various geopolitical periods: “classic” geopolitics; its decline following the Second World War; the geopolitics of the Cold War; the “rediscovery” of the geopolitical perspective with the French school in the post-bipolar era, and the epistemological challenge posed by so-called critical geopolitics.

The second part of the course will focus on the study of contemporary geopolitical contexts with a geo-historical perspective.

*Knowledge and understanding:* Regular and active participation in the course’s activities (lectures, reading assignments and group presentations on selected topics) will enable the students to: 1) recall the basic tenets that historically defined the concept of geopolitics. 2) compare its main schools and their critics. 3) exemplify the most relevant geopolitical current scenarios. 7) critically assess the normative, political and geopolitical extents, contents and developments of this analytical discipline.

*Communication and lifelong learning skills:* active and regular participation in the educational activities offered will enable students to learn how to: 1) approach the analysis of geopolitics with solid and coherent methodology; to frame research hypotheses; 2) develop analysis and compare different cases; 3) support coherent results achieved with compelling arguments; 3) organize group work; 4) deliver presentations; 5) practice public speaking. Regular and active participation will also enable students to acquire full ability to communicate and disseminate research results to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

### Course content

- Introduction to the concept of geopolitics.
- Geopolitics, geostrategy, geoeconomics.
- The development of geopolitics in Europe and the US between the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century.
- The classic schools of geopolitics: the Anglo-Saxon school, the French school and the German school.
- The “end of geopolitics” during the Cold War.
- Post- bipolarity and the return of geopolitics.
- Lacoste and the French school.
- Critical geopolitics.
- New geopolitical approaches: security studies, geoeconomics, human security, geostrategy, geopolitics of emotion, geopolitics of religions, geopolitics of conflicts.
- Contemporary case-studies analysis.

### Reading list

The reading list will be indicated during the course (available on Blackboard).

### Teaching method

Lecture-style presentations with the support of slides and multimedia content; reading assignments given to single students or small groups who must critically read and present results to the class at the beginning of the



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lecture; class discussion of selected topics previously communicated on the basis of reading assignments; group works and presentations.

### Assessment method and criteria

The examination is written and aims at assessing students' knowledge and skills by means of various assessment methods: 1) assessment of students' ability to critically analyse course content as well as orally elaborate upon and discuss knowledge acquired during discussions of theoretical references and case studies; 2) verification and assessment of knowledge acquired through the discussion of the main theoretical and methodological references examined during lectures; 3) assessment of students' ability to make both multi-disciplinary and intra-disciplinary connections from an historical, political, economic and social perspective; 4) assessment of students' ability to intervene in an informed, motivated manner in methodological and scientific debate concerning historical, institutional, geopolitical and geoeconomic problems examined.

The grade will vary from 18 to 30. Active participation in class, presentations and work groups might contribute to the final assessment.

### Notes and prerequisites

The course does not require formal prerequisites. Nevertheless, An understanding of contemporary international history is recommended. The use of an Atlas of contemporary world history is extremely recommended.

Blackboard is the selected platform where students can find all the information, materials, updates, list of readings and news. Students are encouraged to regularly visit and check the course's page on Blackboard.