

Geopolitics gr1 (EM054U62B1)

Program	PGE
Course set (UE) / Credits (ECTS) / Track / Specialization	Module :02.02. Geopolitics : 3 ECTS. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MGA
Discipline	Strategy
Year	2014
Semester	B
Open for visitors	yes (3 ECTS)
Available spots	120

Coordinator

Alexander MELNIK

Lecturers

Instructor	Population	Email
Alexander MELNIK		

Course format

Working language :	English
Volume of contact hours :	20 h
Workload to be expected by the student :	60 h

Course track

Track : Attendance

Attendance track :

Attendance at lectures/tutorials and intermediate/final assessments is mandatory. As in-class work constitutes an essential element of evaluation, any unjustified absence will be penalized (*see Study and Examination Regulations*) and factored into the final grade (*see Assessment*).

Autonomous track :

Attendance at intermediate/final assessments is mandatory, but students have the option of attending lectures/tutorials.

Attendance at lectures/tutorials and intermediate/final assessments is mandatory for all degrees making up the Master's Program and all degrees involving co-op (*apprentissage*). Attendance track must therefore be selected.

Contribution of the course to the educational objectives of the program

How the course contributes to the program :

Description

The aim of this course is to permit student to develop a critical understanding of the key global geopolitical challenges of the XXI century through the analysis of the interrelationship between geography and politics. It investigates how political processes shape human geography and, conversely, how assumptions about places underpin world politics. The critical approach to geopolitics seeks to understand the interrelationship between scientific investigation and its political appropriation. Geographical knowledge is essential to an understanding of politics, while geography itself is much informed by politics. It presents the main theories developed in political geography, as well as essential concepts and terminology. It will provide students a clear visibility of the main geostrategic and geopolitical issues of today's globalization this course uses a multidisciplinary approach on the crossroads of economy, geopolitics, diplomacy, history, collective mentality and culture.

Educational organisation

In class

Lectures

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to :

- **Explain** - thinkers such as Ratzel, Haushofer, McKinder, Mahan, Spykeman, Yves Lacoste, Gerrold O'Tuathail, Dardel, etc.

- **Express** a new perspective on current political, economic and cultural issues from a “geopolitical” perspective

Outline

1. The epistemology of modern geography. History of geography & geopolitics. What is “Geopolitics”? Is it a science, a philosophical discussion of scientific issues or an ideology? The reasons for “geopolitics” to be a controversial discipline. We will study the history of the discipline called “geopolitics” or “political geography” from Ratzel to Yves Lacoste and early 21st century post-modern geopoliticians.

READING: G. Ó Tuathail, “Thinking Critically About Geopolitics”, GR, p. 1-15; Halford J. Mackinder, “The Geographical Pivot of History”, GR, p. 27-32; G. Ó Tuathail (1994); Lacoste Yves, « La géographie, la géopolitique et le raisonnement géographique », Hérodote, 2008/3 n° 130, p. 17-42.

Available online at: file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/Faculty/My%20Documents/Downloads/HER_130_0017.pdf

2. Representation and Communication. The problems of representation and perception: maps and other visual tools in geography and their political dimension.

READING: G. Ó Tuathail, “Postmodern Geopolitics? The Modern Geopolitical Imagination and Beyond”. in Rethinking Geopolitics, eds. Gearóid Ó Tuathail and Simon Dalby. Routledge, 1998, p. 16-38;

Available online at: https://gerardtoal.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/toal_ch1postmoderngeo.pdf

Claude Raffestin, « Pourquoi n’avons-nous pas lu Éric Dardel? », Cahiers de géographie du Québec, vol. 31, n° 84, 1987, p. 471-481 ;

Available online at : www.erudit.org/revue/cgq/1987/v31/n84/021898ar.pdf

"Nature and the American Identity" at <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~CAP/NATURE/cap2.html>

3. Contemporary issues in geopolitics (I). Globalization. What is “globalization”? What is its geopolitical dimension? Borders and the “borderless world”. The “clash of civilizations”.

READING: Lacoste Yves et Cléro Jean-Pierre, « Le dépérissement de l'idée de frontière ? », Cités, 2007/3 n° 31, p. 127-133.

Available online at: file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/Faculty/My%20Documents/Downloads/CITE_031_0127.pdf

G. Ó Tuathail, « Borderless Worlds: Problematizing Discourses of Deterritorialization in Global Finance and Digital Culture », in Geopolitics at the End of the Twentieth Century: The Changing World Political Map, eds. Nurit Kliot and David Newman. London: Frank Cass, 2000, p. 141-152.

Available online at: https://gerardtoal.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/toal_borderlessworlds.pdf

For Huntington, see GR, p. 159-179.

4. Contemporary issues in geopolitics (II). Geostrategy of seapower, land & space. Natural resource, water.

Simon Dalby, “Environmental geopolitics: introduction”, in GR, p. 179-188.

Ross, Michael L.. “How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence From Thirteen Cases” International Organization, N° 58, 2004, p. 35-67

Available online at: <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/ross/IO%202004.pdf>

Prerequisites

Key concepts to understand :

Knowledge of :

Politics, economics

Teaching material

Documents in all formats

- Guide
- Manuals

Recommended reading

Major works :

Ó Tuathail, Gearóid, Simon Dalby, and Paul Routledge (editors), The Geopolitics Reader, Routledge, London and New York: 2003. (Later referred as GR)

Available online at: <https://frenndw.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/geopol-the-geopolitics-reader.pdf>

Alexei de Tocqueville « De la démocratie en Amérique »

Raymond Aron « Le spectateur engagé »

Michail Gorbatchev « Nouvelle Mentalité Internationale »

Milan Kundera « L'Immortalité », « L'Insoutenable légèreté de l'être »

Francis Fukuyama « The End of the History »

Samule Huntington « The Clash of Civilizations »

Thomas Friedman « The Word is Flat »

Dominique Moïsi « La géopolitique de l'émotion »

Alexandre Melnik – Tribunes sur la Globalisation Revue de la Défense nationale (novembre 2011 – janvier 2012)

Fareed Zakaria « The Post-American World »

Further reading :

Research works by EM Strasbourg :

Assessment

Final assessment : exam week

written (60 min) / individual / English / weighting : 100%

Grounds for expulsion from classes

Behaviors such as

arriving late, leaving early, or exiting the classroom at inopportune moments during class

ostentatiously eating or drinking in class

using smartphones or laptops for non-class-related purposes

reading texts unrelated to the course

discussing topics unrelated to the course

disrespecting the lecturer

may lead to expulsion from the class/course.