

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Name of Module		Geopolitics					
Parent School/Dept		Political Science and International Relations					
Programme(s) where module is offered		BA Major in Political Science/International Relations					
Status (core, option, free choice)		Core		Pre-Requisite Modules or Qualifications		None	
FHEQ Level	6	Unit Value	6 ECTS	Module Code		Module coordinator	Marko Hoare
Term taught		Autumn		Applicable From		2020	

Educational Aims of the Module

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the principal issues in contemporary geopolitics, with a focus on the three world powers: the US, Russia and China. The course will begin with an examination of the most important theorists of geopolitics, followed by an examination of geopolitics before and during the Cold War. The course will then focus on the geopolitics of the US, Russia and China in the present day, before finishing with an examination of two regional case studies: the contemporary Middle East and contemporary Asia. The course will examine the grand strategies of the world powers and their relationship with each other and with regional powers, and the influence on them of geography, climate, environment, demography, natural resources and other factors. The course will aim to draw from the case studies wider theoretical conclusions about the nature of geopolitics.

Module Outline/Syllabus

- Introduction to Geopolitics
- Theories of Geopolitics: Alfred Mahan, Halford Mackinder, Nicholas Spykman
- Theories of Geopolitics: Friedrich Ratzel, Rudolf Kjellen, Karl Haushofer
- Geopolitics before the Cold War
- Geopolitics during the Cold War
- The geopolitics of the Trump's United States
- The geopolitics of Putin's Russia
- The geopolitics of Xi's China
- Contemporary Middle Eastern geopolitics - The conflict over Syria
- Contemporary Middle Eastern geopolitics - The conflict over Yemen
- Contemporary Asian geopolitics - The conflict over Afghanistan
- Contemporary Asian geopolitics - The conflict over Korea
- Conclusion and module review

Student Engagement Hours

Type	Number per Term	Duration	Total Time
Lectures	13	90 minutes	19.5 hours
Tutorials	14	90 minutes	21 hours

Mid-term exam	1	60 minutes	1 hour
Total Guided/Independent Learning Hours			96 hours
Total Contact Hours			41.5 hours
Total Engagement Hours			137.5 hours

Assessment Method Summary				
Type	Number Required	Duration / Length	Weighting	Timing/Submission Deadline
Final exam	1	3 hours	50%	End of semester
Mid-semester exam	1	1 hours	25%	Week 7
Student presentation	1	25 minutes	25%	By week 14

Module Outcomes		
<p><u>Intended Learning Outcomes:</u></p> <p>At the end of the Course, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the main concepts in the study of geopolitics; Understand the influence of geopolitics on international relations Critically, analytically and competently engage with issues related to the influence of geography, climate, environment, demography and natural resources on international politics Understand the geopolitics of the principal states and regions of the world 	→	<p><u>Teaching and Learning Strategy:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Course readings and class discussion (ILO: 1-4) Lectures (ILO: 1-4) Individual tutorials (ILO: 1-4).
	→	<p><u>Assessment Strategy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Course work – mid-term exam (25%), in-class presentations (25%). (ILO: 1-4) Final Exam – 50% (ILO: 1-4)
<p><u>Practical Skills</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a sophisticated understanding of the intellectual theories behind geopolitics. Acquire knowledge and understanding of the geopolitics of the principal world powers and regions. Develop the ability to formulate and analyse ideas, theses and projects related to geopolitics Develop the ability to communicate ideas, theses and projects related to geopolitics in oral presentations and written essays. 	→	<p><u>Teaching and Learning Strategy:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Seminars and personal study with tutor-led support (PS:1-4)
	→	<p><u>Assessment Strategy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation (PS: 1-4) Mid-term exam (PS: 1-4) Final exam (PS: 1-4)
<p><u>Transferable Skills</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding and interpreting key theoretical and academic works; Capacity to understand and critically interpret the geopolitics phenomenon; Public presentation skills, including oral, written and power-point presentations; Ability to write clear, structured essays presenting arguments in a clear and systematic way; Ability to engage in argument-based discussions. 	→	<p><u>Teaching and Learning Strategy:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Course readings and class discussions. (TS: 1,2,3,5) Lectures and in-class exercises (TS: 1,2,4,5) In-class presentation, public speaking exercises (TS: 1,2,3,5) Post-exam feedback (1,2,4)
	→	<p><u>Assessment Strategy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Course work –mid-term exam (25%), presentation (25%) (TS: 1-5) Final Exam – 50% (TS: 1-5)

Key Texts and/or other learning materials

Paul J. Bolt and Sharyl N. Cross (2018), *China, Russia, and Twenty-First Century Global Geopolitics*, Oxford University Press

Aleksandr Burilkov (2020), *Arsenal of Autocracy: Russia and China's Military Strategy in a Multipolar World*, Verlag Barbara Budrich

Saul Bernard Cohen (2009), *Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations*, Rowman and Littlefield

Ginny Hill (2017), *Yemen Endures: Civil War, Saudi Adventurism and the Future of Arabia*, Hurst

Raymond Hinnebusch (ed.)(2019), *The War for Syria*, Routledge

Richard W. Mansbach and James M. McCormick (eds)(2019), *Foreign Policy Issues for America: The Trump Years*, Routledge

Daniel S. Markey (2020), *China's Western Horizon: Beijing and the New Geopolitics of Eurasia*, Oxford University Press

Richard McGregor (2018), *Asia's Reckoning: China, Japan, and the Fate of U.S. Power in the Pacific Century*, Penguin

Christopher Phillips (2018), *The Battle for Syria: International Rivalry in the New Middle East*, Yale University Press

Andrew Small (2020): *The China-Pakistan Axis: Asia's New Geopolitics*, Hurst

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the module and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module and programme can be found in the departmental or programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed annually by the University of Buckingham and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency.

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