

Identification	Subject	PSIR 215 Geopolitics 3KU / 6ECTS credits
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Program	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall, 2024
	Instructor	Rahil Dadashli
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	Classroom/hours	11 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus), On FRI
	Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites	Consent of instructor	
Language	English	
Compulsory/ Elective	Required	
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core textbooks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to geopolitics. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003138549</i> • <i>Mearsheimer, J. J. (2003). The Tragedy of Great Power Politics (Updated Edition). W. Norton & Company.</i> • <i>Nye, J. S. (2011). The future of power. Public Affairs.</i> • <i>Gaddis, J. L. (2007). The Cold War. Penguin UK.</i> • <i>Cohen, S. B. (2014). Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations. Rowman & Littlefield.</i> • <i>“The Geographical Pivot of History” by Halford Mackinder (1904)</i> • <i>Dodds, K. (2019). Geopolitics: A very short introduction. In Oxford University Press eBooks. https://doi.org/10.1093/actrade/9780198830764.001.0001</i> • <i>Alexander Dugin, The Foundations of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia (Moscow: Arktogeia, 2000).</i> • <i>Tuathail, G. Ó., Dalby, S., & Routledge, P. (2003). The Geopolitics Reader. In Routledge eBooks.</i> • <i>N. Spykman “Geography and Foreign Policy”, The American Political Science Review, 1938, Vol 32, No 2.</i> • <i>Mark Blacksell (2006) “Political Geography”, The Idea of The State.</i> • <i>C.Gallaher, C.T.Dahlman, M.Gilmartin, A. Mountz & P.Shirlow (2009) “Key Concepts in Political Geography”.</i> <p>Suggested readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783, A. T. Mahan. Little, Brown, 1890.</i> • <i>The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives, Zbigniew Brzezinski, New York, Basic Books, 1997.</i> • <i>Strategic Vision: America and the Crisis of Global Power, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Basic Books, 2012.</i> • <i>Huntington, S. P. (1997). The clash of civilizations and the remaking of world order. Penguin Books India.</i> • <i>Fukuyama, F. (2006). The end of History and the Last man. Simon and Schuster.</i> 	
Course outline	This course aims to introduce students to the main concepts and research themes in contemporary geopolitics. We will explore the interactive relationships between power, place, and political spaces, examining how geography shapes global affairs.	
Course objectives	This course allows students to identify linkage between geography and politics. Students explore concepts such as power, territory, and resources, and how they influence the behavior of states and non-state actors. It aims to develop their analytical and critical thinking skills in understanding global politics	
Learning outcomes	By the end of the semester, students will be able to:	
	1. Define and distinguish between traditional and critical approaches to geopolitics.	

	2. Discuss the main elements of the geopolitical imagination that shape our understanding of the world and our place in it. 3. Be informed about famous theories and authors in this field. 4. Learn about geographical specifications of world countries.		
Teaching methods	Lecture		x
	Group discussion		x
	Case analysis		x
	Others		
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam	8 th week	30
	Attendance and Active Participation	During the semester	10
	Presentations	Will be set individually	10
	Book Reading	At the end of each term	15
	Quizzes	One in each term	10
	Final Exam	At the end of the course	30
	Total		100
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for class <p>The structure of this course makes your individual study and preparation outside the class extremely important. The lecture material will focus on the major points introduced in the text. Reading the assigned chapters and having some familiarity with them before class will greatly assist your understanding of the lecture. After the lecture, you should study your notes and work relevant problems from the end of the chapter and sample exam questions. After each lesson for the next class all students are required to be well-prepared and answer the questions. The core reading materials are emphasized in <i>bold italic</i> scripts in respective places in the tentative schedule. The rest of the given materials are supplementary and are highly advised to read. If a student shows irresponsible manner and does not get prepared for the class for more than 2 successive lessons appropriate marks will be deduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Withdrawal (pass/fail) <p>This course strictly follows grading policy of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Thus, a student is normally expected to achieve a mark of at least 60% to pass. In case of failure, he/she will be required to repeat the course the following term or year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheating/plagiarism <p>Cheating or other plagiarism during the Quizzes, Mid-term and Final Examinations will lead to paper cancellation. In this case, the student will automatically get zero (0), without any considerations. AI generated answers will not be tolerated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussion 		

For each class students are expected to digest the material and be well prepared for the discussion. Further reading and fresh ideas are welcomed. For their active participation in total, 10 points will be added to the final marks.

- Case Studies (Presentations)

Students will be assigned different topics. They will do mini research and present their findings in a Power Point slideshow. The deadline for this project is different for each student which will be assigned randomly based on draw and failure to meet this deadline will result in a score of "0" for this section. Further details will be shared with them during the class for "how to do".

Technical requirements are as below for presentation:

Criteria	Share of points
Content	0-2
Organization and Structure	0-2
Clarity and Visuals	0-2
Overall Impact and Creativity	0-2
Use of Visual Aids (if applicable)	0-2
Total	0-10

Guideline for the presentation preparation:

1. Title Slide
2. Introduction (Briefly introduce yourself and your topic. State the purpose or main goal of the presentation. Provide an overview of what the audience can expect.
3. Agenda or Outline (Outline the main sections or topics you will cover in the presentation)
4. Main Content (Should be organized in logical way, divide your presentation into several sections or topics)
5. Conclusion (Summarize the main points of your presentation)
6. References and Sources (Include a slide with citations or sources if you've used external material)

- Exams

To assess students' preparedness in the course, both mid-term and final exams will be administered, with the specific dates determined by the dean's office. Typically, mid-term exams will commence around the midpoint of the course, while the final exam will be scheduled at the conclusion of the course. On the exam paper, students will encounter **7** potential questions, but they are only required to select and respond to **5** of them. Each chosen question in the mid-term and final exams holds a weight of **6** points. The questions are open-ended, and the evaluation will consider the development of English language skills, comprehension of the question, and the organization of the answers, aiming to enhance these aspects during the assessment process.

- Book reading

	<p>Student will be assigned to read a selected geopolitics masterpiece during each term and at the end there will be all group involved debate and discussion. It should be noted that those books are different from core reading and suggested reading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes <p>There will be quizzes during the semester each covering the material has been digested so far. Students will be asked to take multiple choice test which will weigh 5 point for each, in total 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional behavior guidelines <p>The students shall behave in a way to create a favorable academic and professional environment during the class hours. Unauthorized discussions and unethical behavior are strictly prohibited.</p>
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Tentative Schedule

Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	20.9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Geopolitics 2. State and Territory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nation, State, Nation-state • Territory • Space • Place 	<p><i>Mark Blacksell (2006) "Political Geography", The Idea of The State, pp. 37-58</i></p> <p><i>C.Gallaher, C.T.Dahlman, M.Gilmartin, A. Mountz & P.Shirlow (2009) "Key Concepts in Political Geography", pp.19-41; 77-87</i></p>
2	27.09	<p>Understanding Geopolitik (German Geopolitics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Friedrich Ratzel</i> • <i>Rudolph Challen</i> • <i>Friedrich Naumann</i> • <i>Karl Haushofer</i> • <i>Adolf Hitler</i> • <i>Karl Schmitt</i> 	<p><i>Tuathail, G. Ó., Dalby, S., & Routledge, P. (2003). The Geopolitics Reader. Routledge. Chapters 1, 3, 4.</i></p> <p><i>Alexander Dugin (2000), The Foundations of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia Part I: Chapters: 2, 8.</i></p>
3	4.10	<p>French School of Geopolitics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vidal de la Blache and the others</i> 	<p><i>Alexander Dugin (2000), The Foundations of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia Part I: Chapter 5.</i></p>
4	11.10	<p>British School of Geopolitics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mackinder</i> • <i>Age of Exploration</i> • <i>Maritime Power</i> 	<p><i>H. Mackinder "Geographical pivot", The Geographical Journal, 1904, Vol 23 No 4</i></p>
5	18.10	<p>American School of Geopolitics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Admiral Mahan</i> • <i>Nicholas Spykman</i> 	<p><i>A. T. Mahan (1890). The Influence of Sea Power upon History. Little, Brown and Company.</i></p> <p><i>N. Spykman "Geography and Foreign Policy", The American Political Science Review, 1938, Vol 32, No 2</i></p>

6	25.10	Russian School of Geopolitics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Nikolaevich Savitsky • Lev Gumilev • Alexandr Dugin 	Alexander Dugin, <i>The Foundations of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia.</i>
7	1.11	Cold War Geopolitics (1945-1991) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry Truman • George Kennan • Andrei Zhdanov • Leonid Brezhnev • Mikhail Gorbachov 	Tuathail, G. Ó., Dalby, S., & Routledge, P. (2003). <i>The Geopolitics Reader</i> . Routledge. Chapters 6, 7, 8, 10.
8		Midterm exams week	None
9	15.11	Geopolitical theories after 2 nd half of XX century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Atlantism • Mondialism • Applied Geopolitics • Geopolitics of European “New Right” • Neo-Eurasianism 	Alexander Dugin, <i>The Foundations of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia</i> Part II: Chapters: 1-6.
10	22.11	Geopolitics of China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Chinese Geopolitics • Xi Jinping doctrine • Tianxia concept 	American University of Beirut. (2016, March 8). <i>IFI Lecture - China’s Foreign Relations: Theories & Approaches [Video]</i> . YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-6zpBxBjd0 Further material will be distributed on class day.
11	29.11	Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Power • Military Power • Soft Power 	Nye, J. S. (2011). <i>The future of power</i> . Public Affairs. Pp.3-109.
12	6.12	Critical Geopolitics	Murphy, A. B., & Tuathail, G. O. (1998b). <i>Critical Geopolitics: The Politics of Writing Global space</i> . <i>Geographical Review</i> , 88(3), 446. https://doi.org/10.2307/216022
13	13.12	Great Power Politics in the Twenty-first Century	Mearsheimer, J. J. (2003). <i>The Tragedy of Great Power Politics (Updated Edition)</i> . W. W. Norton & Company. Chapter 10
14	20.12	Current Events Analysis	<i>In this class students will use their accumulated knowledge from this course to have a geopolitical analysis of actual issues of contemporary world.</i>
15	27.12	Presentations	<i>Student will present their projects</i>

This syllabus is a guide for the course and any modifications to it will be announced in advance.