

Geopolitics and Strategic Foresight

2024 /2025

2nd Semester

5.5 ECTS

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Syllabus

In a strategic context characterized by great uncertainty, learning and reflecting on the main theories of geopolitical studies from the classical period to the present allows a better perception of the international context.

By reading works of reference in the field studies of Geopolitics and Prospective we will studied, in the various sessions, the main the main authors throughout history, from Mahan to Brzezinski , through Ratzel and McKinder , ending with the Geopolitics of outer space and Cyberspace, and try to identify the main evolutionary trends in this field. This theoretical reflection will be complemented with the analysis of specific case studies that intend to stimulate an informed debate on the most recent trends in geopolitical studies.

OBJECTIVES OF THE DISCIPLINE AND COMPETENCES TO ACQUIRE

Objec tives : Knowing the fundamentals of the classical theory; Understand the evaluation of the State's Power; Recognize the structural and cyclical generatrices of power ; Deepen Geopolitics and Prospective as one of the theoretical foundations of the Strategy; Characterize the geopolitics of cyberspace and outer space; Characterize the main challenges of Geopolitics; use the methodology of analysis of Geopolitics and Prospective . Presentation and critical discussion of key concepts, the different theoretical perspectives, history and scientific development in Geopolitical Studies. Promote theoretical reflection on the ephemeral turbulence of everyday life as opposed to the immutable / perennial factors that determine or delimit the possibility of strategic action, aiming to understand the dynamics underlying the visible reality; Exploration of prospective methods as a useful tool in anticipating futures in order to better define strategic action. Underlying these thematic objectives is a whole path that aims to familiarize students with research and analysis techniques and instruments for the presentation of oral exhibitions and the preparation of scientific papers.

Competences : Acquire theoretical and practical knowledge on the area of Geopolitical Studies, that allow to identify and debate in a fundamental way concepts, current themes, and policies that mark the discipline. Oral presentations, writing of an applied geopolitical analysis, elaboration of oriented bibliographic research, analysis of texts for the development of a research topic.

References

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TEACHING METHODOLOGY (EVALUATION INCLUDED)

Teaching: Theoretical-Practical.

Assessment: A weighted average of the following assessment elements:

1. Attendance, punctuality and participation of students in class (20 %) ;
2. Working group (30 %) ;
3. Test (20 %) ;
4. Essay on Geopolitics (30 %).