# Geopolitics

## Professor Riccardo Redaelli

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Course aims: 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 (particularly in the Middle East and Asia Pacific) and on the use of geopolitical theories as a tool for understanding international dynamics (the geopolitics of resources, demography and geopolitics, etc.).

Intended learning outcomes: at the end of the course, students will have basic knowledge of geopolitical theories and their application to contemporary contexts. More specifically:

*Applying knowledge*

Students will be able to: 1. make observations on geopolitical theories and use them as an intellectual tool for interpreting the dynamics of the international system, referring in particular to changes to the post-bipolar system; 2. make critical use of the current literature as well as documentary, journalistic and multimedia sources; 3. critically evaluate the main global geopolitical scenarios.

*Critical analysis and communication*

By studying classic geopolitical doctrine, in its most recent formulations and applications, students will be able to improve their own capacity for evaluation and analysis, applying a long-term critical vision. Students’ capacity for learning will be stimulated through PowerPoint presentations, seminars and class discussions. Lastly, through acquiring basic terminology and key analytical tools, students will be able to communicate, both verbally and in writing, with society in general in their areas of expertise.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Introduction to the concept of geopolitics.

– Geopolitics, geostrategy, geo-economics.

– 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.*

– The expansion of NATO and elements of European defence and security.

– New geopolitical approaches: security studies, geo-economics, human security, geostrategy, geopolitics of emotion, geopolitics of religions, geopolitics of conflicts.

– Contemporary “geopolitics”.

– The concept of deterrence and its development.

– Geopolitical and contemporary new scenario and the rise of Pacific area: Chinese new strategy: the “” and “anti-area access denial”: the answer of the USA and India.

* The new geopolitical scenarios in the Middle East and the jihadist phenomenon.

– Geopolitics of resources: water, raw materials, energy.

***READING LIST***

– F. Bordonaro, *La geopolitica anglosassone.* *Dalle origini ai giorni nostri,* Guerini, Milan, last edition, pages 27-195 only.

– R. Redaelli (edited by), *Materiali per il corso di Geopolitica,* Educatt, Milan, 2010. The entire book except Critical Approaches to Geopolitics, pages 99-132.

– On-line material, article and PowerPoint presentations are an integral part of the course and it will be indicated during the course (available on Blackboard).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, seminars and accounts from experts.

***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 written examination consists of two parts. The first based on multiple-choice questions; the second based on 4 open-ended questions. It is possible to sit for a written examination “in itinere”, at the end of the first semester, consisting of multiple-choice questions. The mark is espressed in thirtieth.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course has no formal prerequisites.

Attendance is strongly recommended. Updates to the syllabus, reading list instructions and other documents will be published on the course Blackboard platform. Blackboard will also be used to communicate timetable changes, information on exams etc. All students (attending and non-attending alike; studying within the standard course timeframe or otherwise i.e. *in corso* and *fuori corso* respectively) should register on the course on Blackboard and keep themselves updated.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.