

**Syllabus:
GEOPOLITICS**

Academic credit: 4 UMA (60 class hours)

Code: GEO

Semester III, Year II

Professor: Nicholas Virzi (nicholasvirzi@ufm.edu)

“For the first time we can perceive something of the real proportion of features and events on the stage of the whole world, and may seek a formula which shall express certain aspects, at any rate, of geographical causation in universal history.”

— Halford Mackinder

Course description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the concepts and theories of geopolitics. Geopolitics represents an interaction between power and place, and how this interaction has led to the construction and reconfiguration of world affairs. This course aims to review the different representations of International Relations through the lens of geopolitics during the era of globalization. We will examine the formation of geopolitical representations of the world, from the imperial geopolitics of Mahan, Mackinder, and Haushofer to more recent theories from the end of the 20th century to the present nature of world affairs.

Course aims:

- Gain an understanding of the major theoretical perspectives of geopolitics;
- Promote a critical debate about, and analysis of, the current state of world affairs and conflicts within the context of modern history;
- Compare and analyze the relation between geopolitics and globalization;
- Foster the student’s ability to research, debate, and present precise and strong arguments through written and oral work.

Methodology:

Three weekly sessions: one teacher-led, one student-led, and a third session Thursdays / Fridays composed of seminar presentations and debates.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Understand what geopolitics is and the different political dimensions it covers.
- Interpret and discuss the factors that determine the geostrategic guidelines that move the different actors that make up the international system.
- Understand the importance of current geopolitics and the value of the discipline for explaining international political economy, conflicts, and market trends.

Course schedule:

Date	Objectives	Content	Evaluations
09/01/2017	Introduction	Course syllabus	N/A
11/01/2017 – 27/01/2017	Theories of International Relations Globalization and Geopolitics	<i>The End of History</i> F. Fukuyama <i>Clash of Civilizations</i> S. P. Huntington	Class discussion and Seminars January 20/27
30/01/2017 – 24/3/2017	Geopolitical Theories	<i>Preface</i> , Chs. I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII KAPLAN, <i>The Revenge of Geography</i>	Paper 1 – 3/2/2017 Seminars February 3, 10, 17, 24 March 3, 10, 17, 24
27/03/2017 – 19/05/2017	Review of current Geopolitics: Eurasia, Middle East, Latin America	Chs. 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 13 – 19, 24, 25, 27, 28 KHANNA, <i>The Second World</i>	Paper 2 – 31/03/2017 Seminars March 31 April 7, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19

Evaluation:

- 2 papers – 5 points each (10 points)
- Class debate – 20 points (monthly assignments)
- Seminars – 40 points (monthly assignments)
- FINAL ESSAY – 30 points

Reading list:

- FUKUYAMA, F. (1989) “The end of History,” *The National Interest*.
- HUNTINGTON, S. (1993) “The Clash of Civilizations,” *Foreign Affairs*.
- KHANNA, P. (2008) *The Second World*. New York, Random House.
- KAPLAN, R. (2012) *The Revenge of Geography*. New York, Random House.

ACTUALIZADO: ENERO 2018/EMA