

# *GEOPOLITICS IN CONTEMPORARY WORLD. CHINA'S CASE STUDY*

## **1. MODULE SUMMARY**

### **Aims and Summary**

The module is composed of two parts. The first part is concentrated on evaluation of the place of the state within the context of fixed geographical location – for example how geography and spatial patterns influence behaviors of decision makers. The course will familiarize the students with methodology of geopolitics in theory and practice. Major purpose is to enable them to understand the place of the state (as a main actor in International Relations) in the world constrained by geography, and how those constraints guide human decision making process, thereby making political forecasting possible. This knowledge will be applied in second part, focused on China's emerging role as a global player. It combines information about Chinese civilization, its traditional values, norms, historical factors, character of society and most recent developments with geopolitical perspective. Both parts will allow students to position China's rise in the context of global affairs, predict its outcome, and forecast responses of other international actors by combining various methods and levels of analysis into comprehensive model. This methodology and approach can be applied to any country.

### **Module Size and credits**

<b>CATS points</b>	20.0
<b>ECTS credits</b>	10.0
<b>Total student study hours</b>	200
<b>Number of weeks</b>	12
<b>School responsible</b>	Łazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
<b>Academic Year</b>	2021-2022

### **Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)**

None

### **Excluded Combinations**

None

### **Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)**

Coursework 60%: composed of an essay;

Final exam 40%

### **Pass requirements**

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. final exam and coursework). Re-assessment: coursework component(s) and/or examination as appropriate.

### **Special Features**

None

### **Course stages for which this module is mandatory**

None

### **Course stages for which this module is a core option**

MA Year 2 International Relations (level 7)

## 2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

### Intended Module Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, the student should be able to:

1. Apply concepts of geopolitics to explain modern phenomena in world politics.
2. Critically evaluate the position of states within international relations
3. Assess the modern Chinese transformation process and analyse potential repercussions of Chinese transition for China and world at large
4. Evaluate the Chinese contemporary expansion in the world and relate it to the Chinese traditional expansion patterns and philosophy and place them in context of geopolitical constraints.

### Indicative Content

#### Part 1 Geopolitics

- Geopolitics as a science – basic methodology
- Major theoretical approaches and schools of geopolitics
- History of geopolitical thought: from classical to neoclassical geopolitics
- Methods and factors in geopolitics
- Regional Geopolitics and possible developments in world politics
- Central-European geopolitics

#### Part 2 China and geopolitics

- Origins and most important characteristics of Chinese civilization. Milestones in Chinese modern history (from XIX century till today).
- China today – most important characteristics of contemporary China (physical geography, administrative division, population, natural resources, industry and agriculture, urbanization, etc.)
- Classical philosophical and moral systems (Confucianism, Daoism), and its influence on Chinese mentality
- State and official institutions in past and present. Chinese state ideology.
- China's traditional expansion patterns, traditional philosophy and geopolitics.
- China's expansion in geopolitical context: Africa (case study), Asia-Pacific region (case study), Eurasia: Belt and Road Initiative.

### Teaching and Learning

This module will be taught by means of lectures and self-directed study.

Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam.

Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

<b>Guided</b>	0 hours	(0%)
<b>Lecture</b>	0 hours	(0%)
<b>Self-guided</b>	140 hours	(70%)
<b>Seminar</b>	60 hours	(30%)
<b>Workshop</b>	0 hours	(0%)
<b>Total</b>	200 hours	

### **Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows)**

#### **The intended learning outcomes will be assessed as follows:**

- Essay (60% – 6 Credits): 3500 words; contributes to learning outcomes 1,2, 3, 4
- Final exam (40% – 4 Credits): 120 minutes; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4

#### **Re-sit**

Students failing any component of assessment, at the first attempt, is entitled to one re-sit attempt. This will be by new examination and/or new coursework scheduled for the next assessment opportunity. For coursework, if more than one element existed in the first attempt, this may be combined into one assessment for re-sit.

#### **Date of last amendment**

05-01-2018

### **3. MODULE RESOURCES**

#### **Essential Reading**

Atkinson, D., Dodds, K., 2002. *Geopolitical Traditions: Critical Histories of a Century of Geopolitical Thought*. Taylor&Francis.

Cohen, S.B., 2002. *Geopolitics of the World System*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Mayer, M., 2017. *Rethinking the Silk Road: China's Belt and Road Initiative and Emerging Eurasian Relations*. Singapore: Springer Singapore.

Shinn, D.H., Eisenman, J., 2012. *China and Africa: A Century of Engagement*. Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, Inc.

#### **Recommended Reading**

Cohen, S.B., 2015. *Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Gray, C.S., Sloan, G., 1999. *Geopolitics, Geography and Strategy*. London: Frank Cass Publishers.

Dolman, E.C., 2001. *Astropolitik: Classical Geopolitics in the Space Age*. New York: Routledge.

Mackinder, H.J. On the Scope and Methods of Geography [online].

Toal, G., Dalby, S., Routledge, P., 2006. *The Geopolitics Reader*. London; Abingdon: Routledge.

Alden, C., Alao, A., Chun, Z., Barber, L., 2017. *China and Africa: Building Peace and Security Cooperation on the Continent*. New York: Springer International Publishing.

Gries, P.H., 2004. *China's New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (chapter 7).

Li, H., 2007. China's growing interest in Latin America and its implications. *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 30(4/5), pp.833-862.

Lin, W.S., 2003. *The Art of War*. Long River Press.

Naughton, B., 2007. *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

#### **Required Equipment**

None

### **4. MODULE ORGANISATION**

#### **Module leader**

**Name** Dr Jarosław Jura  
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**Length and month of examination**

120 minutes in January

**Expected teaching timetable slots**

Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module

No timetable information available

**Subject Quality and Approval information**

**Board of Study**

Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

**Subject Assessment Board**

Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

**Shortened title**

**Date of approval by FCPC**

28 February 2018