

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:	
IR 4255 STRATEGY AND GEOPOLITICS (Previously IR 4255 Geopolitics) (Updated Fall 2023)	UK LEVEL: 6 UK CREDITS:15 US CREDITS: 3/0/3
PREREQUISITES:	PO 3131 Theories of International Relations IR 3225 Foreign Policy
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	A theoretical and empirical survey of the history and current discourse of strategy and geopolitics. A critical analysis of the role and actions of the main state and non-state actors as seen through the lenses of strategy and geopolitics in a simultaneously globalizing and regionalizing world.
RATIONALE:	The course introduces the students to the subfields of strategic studies and geopolitics. The module offers an in-depth look at the theories and ideas that have shaped the strategic and geopolitical debate from the end of the 19 th century to the beginning of the 21 st century. The course covers the foundation of modern strategic thought and geopolitics in the twentieth century before focusing on the new challenges presented by the complexity and uncertainty of the post-Cold War world, including the return of great power competition. Particular attention is paid to developing an awareness of the changing nature of war and the key trends shaping the future development and employment of military capabilities.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	As a result of taking this course, the students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize key ideas and themes of geopolitics and strategic studies. 2. Analyze key theoretical narratives—and their applications— that have shaped and are shaping the strategic and geopolitical debate from the 19th century to the 21st. 3. Appraise through a geopolitical explanatory and analytical framework the role and the actions of key national, international, and transnational state and non-state actors. 4. Critically engage with the perspective of strategic studies regarding the use of force for political objectives.
METHOD OFTEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures and class discussions • Homework assignments. • Office hours held by the instructor to provide further assistance to the students. • Use of library facilities for further study and preparation for the exams. • Use of the Blackboard course management platform to further support communication, by posting lecture notes, assignment instruction, timely announcements, formative quizzes, and online

	submission of assignments.										
ASSESSMENT:	<p>Summative:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1st Assessment: Written examination essay-type questions (1 hour)</td> <td>30 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Assessment: Research paper (3,000 words)</td> <td>60 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class Participation</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Formative:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In-class presentations.</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Case Discussion.</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </table> <p>The formative test aims to prepare students for the summative assessments. The 1st summative assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1 and 2. The 2nd summative assessment tests Learning Outcomes 2 and 3.</p> <p><i>The final grade for this module will not be determined through grade averaging. Students are required to resit any failed assessments.</i></p>	1 st Assessment: Written examination essay-type questions (1 hour)	30 %	2 nd Assessment: Research paper (3,000 words)	60 %	Class Participation	10%	In-class presentations.	0%	Case Discussion.	0%
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INDICATIVE READING:	<p>REQUIRED READING: Baylis, J., James J. Wirtz, Jeanie L. Johnson, (2022), <i>Strategy in the Contemporary World</i>, (7th edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Black, J. (2016) <i>Geopolitics and the Quest for Dominance</i> (Indiana: Indiana University Press) Cohen, B., S. (2015) <i>Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations</i>, 3rd Edition (Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield) Balzacq, T., Ronald R Krebs, (2021), <i>The Oxford Handbook of Grand Strategy</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press. Milevski, L., (2016) <i>The evolution of modern grand strategic thought</i>, New York: Oxford University press. Gray, Colin, S., (2015): <i>Strategic Studies and Public Policy: The American Experience</i>, Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky. Luttwak, E., (2012), <i>The Rise of China vs. The Logic of Strategy</i>, Cambridge Mass: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Luttwak, E., (2009), <i>The Grand Strategy of the Byzantine Empire</i>, Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.</p>
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL:N/A</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:N/A</p>
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	<p>Assignment tasks presented in Word. Effective writing skills using appropriate terminology.</p>
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	<p>Blackboard, MS Office, search engines.</p>

<p>WWW RESOURCES:</p>	<p> www.brookings.edu www.crisisgroup.org www.isn.ethz.ch https://jamestown.org www.stratfor.com www.chathamhouse.org.uk www.iiss.org www.eurasianet.org www.cfr.org http://eng.globalaffairs.ru valdaiclub.com www.heritage.org www.rand.org </p> <p>Other internet sources suggested by the instructor throughout the semester.</p>
<p>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategy in the Contemporary World <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Defining the Subfield of Strategic Studies? 2. Introduction to Geopolitics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Definition of Geopolitics. b. Evolution of Geopolitical Thinking. c. Geopolitical Concepts. 3. Enduring Issues of Strategy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The History of the Practice of Strategy from Antiquity to Napoleon b. The Evolution of Modern Warfare c. Strategic Theory d. The causes of war and conditions of Peace e. Strategic Culture 4. Contemporary Problems <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Irregular Warfare b. The Second Nuclear Age c. Conventional Power and Contemporary Warfare d. The Rise of Cyberpower 5. The future of strategy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strategic Studies and its Critics b. A New Agenda for Security and Strategy? c. The Practice of Strategy d. Does Strategic Studies have a future?