UK

SYLLABUS 2026-2027

Geopolitics

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Module Code	2627_ECO_1_EN_011
Campus	Oxford
Department(s)	Territorial Economy and Sustainable Development
Level / Semester	Undergraduate Year 3 (U3); Equivalent to FHEQ level 6 Semester 06
Language of Instruction	English
Teaching Method	☒ In-person (face-to-face) ☐ Distance learning (live online) ☐ e-Learning (asynchronous) ☐ Hybrid: _____
Pre-requisite(s)?	None
ECTS *Reminder: 1 ECTS = between 20 and 30hr- student workload*	4
Equivalent FHEQ credits	8
Study Hours	80 hours which comprise of 30 directed learning and 50 independent learning/assessment hours

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module Aims	This module explores global political and economic dynamics and their implications for organisations and international relations. Students examine power structures, global stability, and the interplay between economics and strategy. The module fosters the ability to formulate and compare geopolitical perspectives in diverse contexts.

Teaching Arrangement	Class time will be devoted to lectures by the instructor, in-class exercises linked to lectures, and discussions on readings. In addition, students are expected to read the recommended chapters and articles and to solve the exercises related to each session. The module material (slides and exercises) is available to students through the school extranet.
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this module, students should be able to: 1. Critically analyse global political and economic dynamics and their impact on organisations, territories, and international relations. 2. Develop evidence-based geopolitical analyses on key global issues, distinguishing between critical analysis and personal opinion. 3. Evaluate the interplay between economic prosperity, power relations, and global stability in shaping geopolitical strategies. 4. Synthesise and compare geopolitical perspectives in a collaborative environment, demonstrating cultural awareness and strategic thinking.
Competency Goals *(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)*	PGE_U_CG06 - Evolve in a globalised world
Alignment with Programme Learning Goals	PGE_U_CG06_LO01 - Work in a multicultural team and/or environment
	PGE_U_CG06_LO02 - Address the economic challenges of your organisation within a globalised world

SESSION TOPICS / MODULE SCHEDULE

(Please note, a session/sequence may be more than one scheduled class)

Session 1: Introduction to the Key Concepts and Main Definitions

Content:

- Key concepts and main definitions to identify all facets covered by discipline of geopolitics
    - Particular emphasis on dynamic interaction between geopolitics and economic-financial market forces
- Presentation of case studies by group

Assignments:

- Identification of key sources available on the net and methodology to cross-reference and verify information related to political science and geopolitics

Session 2: Dominant Theories and Schools of Thought in Historical and Contemporary Geopolitics

Content:

- Reflection and group discussions on the main ideological structures of modern geopolitics

Assignments:

- Synthesis of several extracts from reference collections

Session 3: The Toolbox of Geopolitical Analysis

Content:

- Multidisciplinary views on several essential points (resource geography, demography, history, etc.)

Assignments:

- Each of the multidisciplinary viewpoints will be addressed through the use of texts and cases

Session 4: Applying the Toolbox Through Illustration and Practice

Content:

- Crossed views in 3 dimensions: how to develop a critical look to understand what geopolitics is for in tomorrow's world
- For illustrative and non-exhaustive purposes:
    - Belt and Road Initiative and the planned vision of a sinocentric world
    - The Trump Administration and its legacy: "Make America (still) Great (Again)!"
    - Brexit and the European Union: the (real) end of geopolitical utopia with a vocation
    - The climate and its disruption: political stakes and stakes for civilisation

Session 5: Presentation Workshop

Content:

- Workshop for the presentation of students' work and cross reflection with other groups
- Selection of geopolitical themes with an established pre-list and possibility of having chosen subjects that will have been already validated in previous sessions by the faculty

Assignments:

- Various sources chosen and argued by the students
- Critical approach to the selection of references

Session 6: Continuation of Work Initiated in Sessions 4 and 5

Content:

- Presentations by working groups with a dynamic session: each group is criticised in an interactive debate
- Presentation with PowerPoint or video support
    - Possible construction of original computer graphics

Assignments:

- Prepare group presentations

KEY TEXTS

1. Dodds, K. (2019) *Geopolitics: A very short introduction*. 3rd edn. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. N/A

Last reviewed: 18/09/2026

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment (40%)	Case study	20%
	Group project	20%
Final Exam (60%)	Case study	

MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *Brigitte Daudet*
- Reviewer: *Sandra Preciado*
- External Reviewer: *Andreia Guerra Areal*

Last reviewed: 18/09/2026