Obiettivi

Comprensione delle principali questioni relative allo studio degli oceani e degli spazi transnazionali secondo la prospettiva delle geopolitica critica.

Capacità avanzata di analisi critica e di comprensione della letteratura scientifica e delle narrative relative agli oceani, e delle dinamiche geopolitiche in atto per la conquista del sea-power.

Comprensione delle principali sfide (acidificazione, estrazione di petrolio e gas, pesca eccessiva, attività minerarie, bio-prospecting, geoingegneria) per la gestione dei fondali marini profondi.

Abilità di condurre studi e ricerche interdisciplinari.

Contenuti sintetici

Dopo una breve introduzione sugli approcci più recenti alla geografia politica e alla geopolitica critica, il corso si concentra dapprima sulla rappresentazione storica dell’oceano come “spazio politico e sociale” e su come il mare possa essere inquadrato dal discorso geopolitico internazionale, in relazione ai processi di territorializzazione, di geo-power e di extra-territorialità degli spazi marini. La seconda parte del corso riguarda la geopolitica dei fondali marini profondi, e si focalizza in particolare su definizioni, valori, diritti di proprietà, accesso, stato di salute e futura condizione dei fondali marini, una dimensione degli oceani ricca di riserva e sempre più contesa e contestata.
Programma esteso

Elena dell’Agnese

Parte I - Political geography of the sea

The political geography of the sea: a classical approach (maritime boundaries and Law of the Sea, transport and trade, strategy and warfare)

A (critical) political geo-graphy of the sea? thinking about the sea / representing the sea / exploiting the “geopolitical features” of the sea

Geo-graphy and the power of representation / Dividing (and naming) the ocean: the East Sea/ Sea of Japan issue

The territorialisation of the sea / Territorial claims and islands disputes: the Dokdo-Takeshima issue

Geographical definitions and island disputes: the Sankeku-Diaoyu issue / Climate change and vanishing islands/reefs: Okininotori: a shima, or a reef?

A classical approach to the geopolitics of the sea/ the myth of sea power: A.T. Mahan theoretical positions / China as a maritime power and the South China Sea competition (Spratly, Paracel and more)

Sea power, sea nodes and islands as U.S. bases: The Hawai’i and Pearl Harbor, Midway and Wake, Guam

Sea power, sea nodes and islands as overseas U.S. bases/ bases of empire and lily pads: Guantanamo, Micronesia and Marshall Islands, Okinawa, Diego Garcia

LSMPAs (Large Scale Maritime Protected Areas): conservation or geopolitics?

Extra-territoriality 1: Pirates as enemies of all nations The golden age of piracy and the "pirate commonwealth” against the “world political map”, pirates of today, popular geopolitics of "pirates"

Extra-territoriality 3: Seasteading: “How Floating Nations Will Restore the Environment, Enrich the Poor, Cure the Sick, and Liberate Humanity from Politicians” (maybe)

Extra-territoriality 2: Cruising ships: Cruise tourism as an example of globalization? (History and Development, Crews, Employment, exploitation)

Marco Grasso

Parte II – Geopolitics of deep oceans

The tragedy of the commons

Harvesting the Commons: the Oceanic frontier and the devolution of the seas

Deep oceans: potential and problems

The deep seabed governance: the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA)
The deep seabed governance

The deep seabed governance: the mining regime

Claiming the commons: Sovereignty and the deep seabed

Claiming the commons: the Arctic deep seabed

Protecting the commons

Climate change and the future of the deep oceans

Prerequisites

Adeguata conoscenza delle scienze sociali rilevanti (geografia, scienza politica, economia, diritto, sociologia).

Capacità di lavoro secondo prospettive multidisciplinari e interdisciplinari.

Modalità didattica

Lezioni frontali

Materiale didattico

Elena dell’Agnese

Parte I - Political geography of the sea

1. The political geography of the sea: a classical approach (maritime boundaries and Law of the Sea, transport and trade, strategy and warfare)

Glassner M.I., The new political geography of the sea, Political Geography Quarterly, 1986, pp. 6-8

A (critical) political geo-graphy of the sea? (thinking about the sea / representing the sea / exploiting the “geopolitical features” of the sea)


2. Geo-graphy and the power of representation: The geo-graphy of the ocean sea / Dividing (and naming) the ocean sea

Steinberg, P.E. (1999), Lines of division, lines of connection: Stewardship in the world ocean, Geographical Review
The East sea/ Sea of Japan case study

Chi Sang-Hyun, *One feature, two names and many issues: The political geographies of naming the sea between Korea and Japan*, eastsea1994.org/data/bbsData/14912842071.pdf

3. The “political geography of the sea”: the territorialisation of the sea

Territorial claims and islands disputes (Dokdo-Takeshima)


4. Geographical definitions and island disputes (Sankeku-Diaoyu)


climate change and vanishing islands/reefs (Okininotori: a shima, or a reef?)


5. A classical approach to the geopolitics of the sea: the myth of sea power (A.T. Mahan)


China as a maritime power and the South China Sea competition

Nohara J.J. (2017) *Sea power as a dominant paradigm: the rise of China’s new strategic identity*, *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies*, 6, 2, pp. 210-232

6. Sea power, sea nodes and islands as U.S. bases

The Hawai’i and Pearl Harbor, Midway and Wake, Guam


7. Sea power, sea nodes and islands as overseas U.S. bases: bases of empire and lily pads

Guantanamo, Micronesia and Marshall Islands, Okinawa, Diego Garcia

8. LSMPAs (Large Scale Maritime Protected Areas): conservation or geopolitics?


9. Extra-territoriality 1: Pirates as enemies of all nations The golden age of piracy and the “pirate commonwealth” against the “world political map”, pirates of today, popular geopolitics of “pirates”


10. Extra-territoriality 2: Cruising ships: Cruise tourism as an example of globalization? (History and Development, Crews, Employment, exploitation)


Marco Grasso

Parte II – Geopolitics of deep oceans


- Articoli scientifici e policy briefs indicati sotto. Sono tutti accessibili online dall'interno del campus. Per accesso esterno fare riferimento a:

https://www.biblio.unimib.it/it/risorse/accesso-alle-risorse-remoto
The tragedy of the commons


Harvesting the Commons: the Oceanic frontier and the devolution of the seas

- Hanningan (2016): Introduzione e Capitolo 1

Deep oceans: potential and problems


The deep seabed governance: the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA)

- Hanningan (2016): Capitolo 2

The deep seabed governance: the mining regime


The deep seabed governance: the mining regime


**Claiming the commons: Sovereignty and the deep seabed**

- Hanningan (2016): Capitolo 3


**Claiming the commons: the Arctic deep seabed**

- Borgerson, S. (2013). The coming Arctic boom: as the ice melts, the region heats up. *Foreign Affairs*, 92, 76.


**Protecting the commons**

- Hanningan (2016): Capitolo 4


**Climate change and the future of the deep oceans**

- Hanningan (2016): Capitolo 5


**Periodo di erogazione dell'insegnamento**

Secondo semestre

**Modalità di verifica del profitto e valutazione**

Elena dell'Agnese

**Parte I - Political geography of the sea**

Paper di 2000-2500 parole su uno dei temi trattati durante il corso, indicato dal docente.
Marco Grasso

**Parte II – Geopolitics of deep oceans**

Paper di 2000-2500 parole su uno dei temi trattati durante il corso, indicato dal docente.

**Orario di ricevimento**

**Elena dell'Agnese**

martedì 2,30-4,30 PM

Stanza 358/U7 terzo piano

**Marco Grasso**

Giovedì 15:30 - 17:00

Stanza 333/U7 - Terzo piano