



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Geopolitics

2526-3-E4001N089

Learning objectives

The course provides the necessary knowledge to understand major geopolitical dynamics related, mainly, to the Anthropocene, as well as to other critical issues, in order to make it possible for students to disentangle, understand, and frame the main contemporary global issues and their implications on world politics.

In detail, in line with the learning objectives of the degree programme, the course articulates its educational goals as follows:

Knowledge and Understanding

The course provides the theoretical foundations necessary to understand geopolitical processes.

Applying Knowledge and Understanding

The course offers an overview of the main analytical methods used in geopolitical analysis.

Independent Judgment

The course encourages the development of critical perspectives in the interpretation of geopolitical processes.

Communication Skills

The course enhances both oral and written communication skills in English.

Learning Skills

The course fosters a critical and open-minded approach towards the plurality of perspectives in the field of geopolitics.

Contents

The geopolitics of the Anthropocene and of other critical issues, energy and the fossil fuels regime, global climate politics and the implications on world politics.

Detailed program

The course explores the geopolitical dynamics between the Anthropocene, conflicts, disasters, food security, economic growth, water, and migration. Then, the course analyses the role of the fossil fuels industry in climate change in view of the necessary energy transition. Finally, the issues analyzed are framed in terms of world politics.

The topics covered in the course are dealt with in an interdisciplinary perspective and through the use of case studies.

Prerequisites

Knowledge of the theoretical and methodological foundations of social sciences and good writing and communication skills.

Teaching methods

Approximately 75% of the course uses a 'didattica erogativa' (DE) mode; it consists in lectures with the use of slides, audio and video.

Approximately 25% of the course makes use of a 'didattica interattiva' (DI) mode; it consists in exercises, group work, presentation of case studies from which individual and subgroup work can be developed, prepared and discussed during the course.

Approximately 20% of the course will be delivered through asynchronous online teaching, i.e. recorded lectures by the instructor that will be available prior to the lecture itself and then kept online. They are offered at the conclusion of the various teaching blocks into which the course is divided with the aim of expanding and deepening them.

The teaching is delivered in English and the study materials are in English.

Assessment methods

Written exam: open-ended questions (duration 90 minutes).

Please note that all students, regardless of the exam format followed, may request an optional oral examination during the official exam sessions, which may modify the final grade.

It consists of five open-ended questions, each corresponding to one of the five sections of the course. No midterm assessments are foreseen. The written test aims to evaluate students' theoretical knowledge, critical understanding, and ability to apply analytical tools to geopolitical processes. Evaluation criteria include the accuracy and completeness of answers, the clarity of argumentation, the capacity to engage critically with different perspectives, and the use of appropriate terminology. Grading is based on the overall quality of the responses. The exam format is fully aligned with the intended learning outcomes, fostering both theoretical comprehension and the development of autonomous, well-structured reflections.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Dalby, S. (2020). Anthropocene Geopolitics. Globalization, Security, Sustainability. University of Ottawa Press.

Other material indicated by the instructor during the course.

Sustainable Development Goals

CLIMATE ACTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
