



COURSE SYLLABUS

GEOPOLITICS, GLOBALIZATION AND BUSINESS

(ECTS 5)

Misija ZSEM-a je prenijeti vrijednosti, znanja i vještine potrebne studentima za dugoročan uspjeh u globaliziranom poslovnom svijetu izloženom stalnim tehnološkim i tržišnim promjenama.

The mission of ZSEM is to transfer values, knowledge, and skills that students need for long-term success in a globalized business world undergoing constant technological and market transformations

FACULTY

Faculty Prof. Zvonimir Stopić, Ph.D. (lectures, exams)

Teaching assistant N/A

Contact

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Office hours per appointment

SCHEDULE

Schedule is consistent with one determined for Summer School 2026 at Zagreb School of Economics

and Management. 9 classes * 3 hours/class (July 2026)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to delve into contemporary political and economic developments, exploring the evolving security landscape and the future reshaping of the world order. It will focus on the intricate relationships between diverse actors in international relations, vying for influence and control through political, diplomatic, military, and economic means. The 21st-century megatrends, such as globalization and the fourth industrial revolution, along with advancements in communication sciences, artificial intelligence, and other technological branches, have significantly redefined political, economic, and security environments. As a result, both public and private institutions are confronted with new opportunities and security risks. Throughout this course, students will gain insight into the magnitude of global competition, cooperation, and conflicts involving political, military, technological, and economic powerhouses such as the United States of America, China, the European Union, Russia, and India, among others. Additionally, the course will provide an understanding of the geopolitical and economic positions of prominent countries in Southeast Asia, Africa, and South America. By examining these complex global dynamics, students will be equipped with valuable knowledge to navigate the multifaceted world of international affairs and contribute to shaping a more sustainable and cooperative global landscape.

COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

<u>General course goals</u>	<u>Learning outcomes</u>
<i>Student will:</i>	<i>After finishing the course Geopolitics, Globalism and Business students will be able to:</i>

1	select elements of business and political systems and evaluate organizational solutions while integrating the phenomena of social thinking, behavior and influence.	- Review the meaning, value, and functionality of the ethical dimension of international relations. - Assess the social and political responsibility of actors in international relations.
2	propose solutions to social challenges based on economic, political and philosophical insights.	Formulate, compare, and classify the fundamental concepts and currents of international relations current in the world today.
3	lead changes in organizations and the community by monitoring external influences and circumstances.	Assess and valorize relations between state administrations, interstate organizations and other stakeholders in international relations.
4	critically assess the legal and political environment and the conduct of legal business in a globalized economy.	Critically assess the legal and political environment and the conduct of legal business in a globalized economy.

TOPICS (COURSE CONTENT)

Sessions for Geopolitics, globalization and business Summer School class of 2026 cover these topics.

#	Topic	Exercises (as part of the session)	Methods	Readings
1.	Introduction – current global landscape	Inquiry, debate	Lecture and Discussion	Baylis, J., Smith, S., Owens, P. (2020). <i>The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2.	United States in contemporary global politics	Debate	Student team presentation, discussion, lecture	- Allison, Graham (2018). <i>Destined For War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides' Trap?</i> Mariner Books. - Fukuyama, Francis (2006). <i>The End of History and the Last Man</i>. Free Press. - Huntington, Samuel P. (2011). <i>The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order</i>. Simon & Schuster. - Mearsheimer, J. John, Rosato, Sebastian (2023). <i>How States Think: The rationality of Foreign Policy</i>. Yale University Press. - Reveron, Derek S., Gvosdev, Nikolas K., Owens, Mackubin Thomas (2014). <i>US Foreign Policy and Defense Strategy: The Evolution of an Incidental Superpower</i>. Georgetown University Press.
3.	The European Union in contemporary politics	Debate	Student team presentation, discussion, lecture	- Cini, Michelle, Borragán, Nieves Pérez-Solórzano (2022). <i>European Union Politics</i>. Oxford University Press. - Hill, Christopher, Smith, Michael, Vanhoonacker, Sophie (2023). <i>International Relations and the European Union</i>. Oxford University Press.

				Osterhammel, Jürgen (2014). The Transformation of the World: A Global History of the Nineteenth Century. Princeton University Press.
4.	Russia in contemporary global politics	Debate	Student team presentation, discussion, lecture	- Galeotti, M. (2019). Russian Political War: Moving Beyond the Hybrid. London: Routledge, Taylor&Francis. - Sakwa, Richard (2023). The Lost Peace: How the West Failed to Prevent a Second Cold War. New Haven London: Yale University Press. - Zubok, Vladislav M. (2009). A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev. University of North Carolina Press.
5.	China in contemporary global politics	Debate	Student team presentation, discussion, lecture	- Sutter, R. G. (2016). Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Politics Since the Cold War. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc. - Wang Ban (2017). Chinese Visions of World Order: Tianxia, Culture and World Politics. Durham: Duke University Press. - Westad, O. A. (2012). Restless Empire: China and the World Since 1750. New York: Basic Books.
6.	Heartlands of Eurasia	Debate	Student team presentation, discussion, lecture	- Megoran, Nick, Sharapova, Sevara (2013). Central Asia in International Relations: The Legacies of Halford Mackinder. London: Hurst. - Pant, Harsh V. (2020). Politics and Geopolitics: Decoding India's Neighborhood Challenge. Rupa Publications India. - Sengupta, Anita (2019). Heartlands of Eurasia: The Geopolitics of Political Space. Lexington books.
7.	Global crisis zones	Debate	Discussion, lecture, case study	-
8.	Takeaway journal presentation	-	Individual student presentations	-
9	Exam Conclusions, assessments, projections, theories, ideas	-	Exam Discussion	-

Overall dynamics of the course

Each session will consist of:

1. Student presentation of the lesson or a lecture given by the professor

- Students in teams will prepare a presentation, based on the required readings, which covers the topic of the lesson. All resources which are aligned with ZSEM policy are permitted.
- Approximately 60 min.

2. Discussion

- Presenting team and the faculty member are facilitators.
- Important themes to cover are: What is the topic of the class about? Why is it important/not important for companies, and employees? How does it relate/impact/helps/not help to understand the context of the international environment?

3. Activity

- In class exercise, debate, varies session to session.

4. Summary

5. Reflection time

- Should help prepare a final individual presentation at the end of the course.
- Points to consider: What was interesting for you? How do the topics relate to you and your workplace? What will you change and how?

TEACHING METHODS AND STUDENT WORKLOAD

Lectures	27 hours
Individual student work and tasks	98 hours
Online activities	10 hours
Total	135 hours (5 ECTS-a x 27 hours)

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

- Professor reserves the right to invite for the oral exam students before official first exam term as well as in regular examination periods. Professors will make their assessment based also on the criterion of regularity in the performance of all obligations (arrivals, commitment, and demonstrated interest in the subject).

Table 1. GRADE ELEMENTS

Grade elements	Percentage	
Participation in class discussions& exercises	15%	Active participation in class is assessed.
Exam	30%	The final exam will be available on the LMS during the last session.
Individual presentation	25%	During the course students are asked to take notes on key

		takeaways of the session and their applicability. At the end of the course, they present their learning.
Group presentation	30%	Teams will be assigned to research and present on several topics that are part of the course curriculum.
TOTAL	100%	

Table 2. GRADING SCALE

Grades:	Points range
2	60-69
3	70-79
4	80-89
5	90-100

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) attendance at lectures and exercises (required),
- (2) participation in discussions and assignments,
- (3) taking the written exam
- (4) required presentations

LITERATURE

Compulsory literature:

- Baylis, J., Smith, S., Owens, P. (2020). The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Additional literature:

- Ahamed, Meenakshi (2022). A Matter of Trust: India-US Relations from Truman to Trump. Harper Collins India.
- Allison, Graham (2018). Destined For War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap? Mariner Books.
- Atkins, G. Pope (1999). Latin America and the Caribbean in the international political system. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Cini, Michelle, Borragán, Nieves Pérez-Solórzano (2022). European Union Politics. Oxford University Press.
- Copper, J. F. (2009). Taiwan Nation-State or Province. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Dominguez R. (2015). EU Foreign Policy Towards Latin America. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Fukuyama, Francis (2006). The End of History and the Last Man. Free Press.
- Galeotti, M. (2019). Russian Political War: Moving Beyond the Hybrid. London: Routledge, Taylor&Francis.
- Hill, Christopher, Smith, Michael, Vanhoonacker, Sophie (2023). International Relations and the European Union. Oxford University Press.
- Huntington, Samuel P. (2011). The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order. Simon & Schuster.
- Kingston, J. (ed.) (2014). Critical Issues in Contemporary Japan. London: Routledge.
- McGregor, R. (2017). Asia's Reckoning: China, Japan, and the Fate of U.S. Power in the Pacific Century. New York: Viking Press.
- Mearsheimer, J. John, Rosato, Sebastian (2023). How States Think: The rationality of Foreign Policy. Yale University Press.
- Megeran, Nick, Sharapova, Sevara (2013). Central Asia in International Relations: The Legacies of Halford Mackinder. London: Hurst.

- Osterhammel, Jürgen (2014). *The Transformation of the World: A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*. Princeton University Press.
- Pant, Harsh V. (2020). *Politics and Geopolitics: Decoding India's Neighbourhood Challenge*. Rupa Publications India.
- Reveron, Derek S., Gvosdev, Nikolas K., Owens, Mackubin Thomas (2014). *US Foreign Policy and Defense Strategy: The Evolution of an Incidental Superpower*. Georgetown University Press.
- Sakwa, Richard (2023). *The Lost Peace: How the West Failed to Prevent a Second Cold War*. New Haven London: Yale University Press.
- Sengupta, Anita (2019). *Heartlands of Eurasia: The Geopolitics of Political Space*. Lexington books.
- Singh, Zorawar Daulet (2020). *Powershift: India–China Relations in a Multipolar World*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Smith H. P. (2013). *Talons of Eagle: Dynamics of US-Latin American Relations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Sutter, R. G. (2016). *Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Politics Since the Cold War*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc.
- Taylor, I. (2007). *China and Africa: Engagement and Compromise*. London: Routledge, Taylor&Francis.
- Tsang, S., Men Honghua (2016). *China in the Xi Jinping Era*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Vogel, E. (2019). *China and Japan: Facing History*. Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- Wang Ban (2017). *Chinese Visions of World Order: Tianxia, Culture and World Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Westad, O. A. (2012). *Restless Empire: China and the World Since 1750*. New York: Basic Books.
- Womack, Brantly (2006). *China and Vietnam, the Politics of Asymmetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Yan Xuetong (2011). *Ancient Chinese Thought, Modern Chinese Power*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
- Zubok, Vladislav M. (2009). *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev*. University of North Carolina Press.