

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	PSCI/ECON265		
Course Title	Geographical Political Economy		
Prerequisites	ECON101 Microeconomics OR PSCI220 Comparative Politics		
Course Instructor	RAJAONARISON Haja	Year Available (Grade Level)	2
Subject Area	Political Science	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	Geographical Political Economy is an engaging and interdisciplinary course that invites students from all backgrounds to explore the fascinating intersection of politics, economics, and geography. This course is designed to appeal to a broad range of students, including those studying Political Science, Economics, International Relations, Geography, and other liberal arts disciplines. We examine regional integration, the influence of geography on global decision-making, and the impact of culture and political institutions on economic outcomes. Students will develop an understanding of the strategies, tools, and power dynamics used by states and non-state actors to influence trade, investment, technology, and resources and achieve their geopolitical goals.
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	Feedback from previous year has been reflected in this syllabus. Students were asking to increase the word limit for the final paper, which was capped at 2000 words before. So, It would be increased between 3000 to 4000 words.
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	N/A
Learning Goals	Analyze the political and economic dynamics of regional integration using the Geographical Political Economy (GPE) approach. (DP1, DP2) Evaluate how geographical factors influence global decision-making and economic outcomes. (DP1, DP2) Assess the benefits and challenges of regional economic integration, including monetary unions, policy coordination, the role of transportation, globalization's impact, and regional trade agreements. (DP1, DP2) Examine real-world examples of regional integration across North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. (DP1, DP2, DP4) Collaborate effectively to develop and present comparative regional and spatial analyses. (DP3)

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3/DP4
---------------------	-----------------

## iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning/Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	<p>Problem-Based Learning (PBL): Students work in groups to tackle real-world, open-ended problems, encouraging collaboration, research skills and the development of practical solutions.</p> <p>Discussion: Guided exchange of ideas on a topic, promoting critical thinking, deeper understanding of multiple perspectives and communication skills.</p> <p>Debate: Structured argument between opposing sides on a given issue, developing research, persuasive argument and the ability to consider alternative viewpoints.</p> <p>Group work: Collaboration on projects or tasks, promoting teamwork, sharing responsibilities and the opportunity to learn from the different strengths of peers.</p> <p>Presentation: Students share their research, findings or solutions with an audience, developing communication skills, confidence and the ability to synthesise information effectively.</p>				
Use of ICT	<p>Microsoft Teams: The primary platform for class discussions, file sharing, collaboration, and assignment submissions. Students will use Teams for group work, presentations, and instructor communication.</p> <p>UNIPA (LMS): Used as a course information hub, where students can access announcements, syllabus updates, and general course materials.</p> <p>Office 365: Students will utilize Microsoft Word for report writing and PowerPoint for presentations, fostering collaborative work and professional presentation skills.</p> <p>Data Analysis &amp; Visualization: Students will be introduced to Python, R, and JASP for statistical analysis. Additionally, tools like Google Charts and Datawrapper will be used to create compelling visual representations of data for research and presentations.</p>				
Contents of class preparation and review	<p>3 hours of class preparation: Assigned readings with questions to guide understanding and prepare students for deeper engagement.</p> <p>2-hours class review: Short concept quiz or review activity to identify gaps in understanding. Short problem sets or concept summaries.</p>	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	<p>Quizzes: All quizzes will be auto-graded using Microsoft Forms, and results will be available through Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>Assignments: Feedback on written and oral assignments will be provided via Teams Assignments.</p> <p>Instructor Feedback: Students who require additional clarification can message the instructor on Teams. If further discussion is needed, it can be addressed during office hours.</p>				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Systematic Assessment	30%	Systematic assessment: quizzes, cases, discussions and critical thinking.
Group presentation	30%	Group presentations emphasise collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and creative thinking.
Final paper	40%	3000 to 4000 words Based on the case assigned for the presentation

Required Textbook(s)	<p>Flint, Colin. Introduction to Geopolitics. 3rd ed., Routledge, 2021.</p> <p>Marshall, Tim. Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything About Global Politics. Scribner, 2015.</p>
Other Reading Materials/URL	<p>Online Resources for Continuous Learning</p> <p>Khartis (Sciences Po) - <a href="https://www.sciencespo.fr/cartographie/khartis/en/#home">https://www.sciencespo.fr/cartographie/khartis/en/#home</a></p> <p>Thematic mapping tool for geopolitical and economic analysis.</p> <p>Supports visualization of trade flows, infrastructure projects, migration patterns, and territorial conflicts.</p> <p>World Map Creator - <a href="http://worldmapcreator.com/#1/home">http://worldmapcreator.com/#1/home</a></p> <p>Interactive tool for creating global, regional, and customized maps.</p> <p>Useful for analyzing maritime routes, geopolitical claims, energy networks, and strategic corridors.</p>

Plagiarism Policy	Plagiarism is the dishonest presentation of the work of others as if it were one's own. Duplicate submission is also treated as plagiarism. At iCLA, we believe in fostering a culture of academic integrity and responsibility. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Any work submitted must be the student's own original work. The use of AI is permitted, but the student must ensure that the work produced is their own and that any sources used are properly cited. Ethical behavior is expected when using AI, and any unethical behavior, such as using AI to generate work for which credit is taken, will result in disciplinary action. Any instance of plagiarism or unethical behavior will result in a failing grade for the assignment and may result in further disciplinary action.
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	<p>Late Submission Policy</p> <p>5% deduction per day for late submissions (including weekends).</p> <p>No submissions accepted beyond 5 days late.</p> <p>Exceptions only for documented emergencies.</p> <p>Attendance &amp; Classroom Conduct</p> <p>Arriving 10+ minutes late will be recorded as an absence.</p> <p>Repeated lateness will impact the final grade.</p> <p>All electronic devices must be silenced unless used for class activities.</p> <p>Final Paper Submission Policy</p> <p>Due: Week 15 Friday 23:59.</p> <p>Format: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx).</p> <p>File Naming: [Last Name]_[First Name]_FinalPaper_PSC1265.docx</p> <p>Submission Platform: Microsoft Teams Assignments.</p>

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	<p>Week 1: Course Overview &amp; US-China Competition</p> <p>Class 1: Course Overview &amp; Expectations</p> <p>Lecture: Explanation of syllabus, assessments, and key themes.</p> <p>Discussion: How geography shapes global political economy.</p>
Class 2	<p>Class 2: US-China Competition</p> <p>Lecture: The rivalry in economic, technological, and military aspects.</p> <p>Case Study: Taiwan, trade wars, military posturing in the Indo-Pacific.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Flint, Introduction to Geopolitics, Ch. 2: Geopolitical Codes.</p> <p>Marshall, Prisoners of Geography, Ch. 3 (United States), Ch. 2 (China).</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 1: US-China Rivalry in Geoeconomics &amp; Security.</p>
Class 3	<p>Week 2: Belt and Road Initiative &amp; Infrastructure Geopolitics</p> <p>Class 3: China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)</p> <p>Lecture: China's global infrastructure project and its geopolitical influence.</p> <p>Case Study: Debt diplomacy in Africa and South Asia.</p>
Class 4	<p>Class 4: PBL - Assessing Infrastructure Investments</p> <p>Exercise: Students analyze BRI vs. U.S.-led PGII and EU Global Gateway projects.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Flint, Introduction to Geopolitics, Ch. 6: Territorial Geopolitics.</p> <p>Marshall, Prisoners of Geography, Ch. 5 (Africa).</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 2: Infrastructure as a Geopolitical Tool.</p>
Class 5	<p>Week 3: Climate Change Geopolitics</p> <p>Class 5: Climate Change &amp; International Relations</p> <p>Lecture: Global warming, resource competition, and security risks.</p> <p>Case Study: Water Wars (South Asia, Nile Basin, Arctic resource race).</p>
Class 6	<p>Class 6: PBL - Climate Adaptation Strategies</p> <p>Exercise: Students propose national adaptation plans for vulnerable regions.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Marshall, Prisoners of Geography, Ch. 10 (The Arctic).</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 3: Climate Change &amp; Geopolitical Conflicts.</p>
Class 7	<p>Week 4: Cyber Warfare and Security</p> <p>Class 7: Cyber Warfare &amp; National Security</p> <p>Lecture: The geopolitical impact of cyber threats and digital infrastructure.</p> <p>Case Study: U.S.-China Tech War, 5G, and AI Competition.</p>
Class 8	<p>Class 8: PBL - Cybersecurity Policy Development</p> <p>Exercise: Students develop national cybersecurity strategies.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Flint, Introduction to Geopolitics, Ch. 7: Network Geopolitics.</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 4: Cybersecurity &amp; Global Power Struggles.</p>

Class 9	<p>Week 5: South China Sea Disputes &amp; Maritime Geopolitics Class 9: Territorial Conflicts &amp; Global Trade Routes</p> <p>Lecture: Geopolitical tensions in the South China Sea and their economic impact. Case Study: Philippines, Vietnam, and U.S. military presence in the region.</p>
Class 10	<p>Class 10: PBL - Maritime Security Strategy</p> <p>Exercise: Students assess strategies for securing sea lanes and freedom of navigation. Readings: Marshall, Prisoners of Geography, Ch. 8 (Korea &amp; Japan). Take-Home Quiz 5: Maritime Conflicts &amp; Global Trade.</p>
Class 11	<p>Week 6: Geoeconomics Class 11: Economic Instruments in International Politics</p> <p>Lecture: Trade sanctions, economic coercion, and financial warfare. Case Study: U.S. sanctions on Russia and China's economic statecraft.</p>
Class 12	<p>Class 12: PBL - Economic Statecraft Simulation</p> <p>Exercise: Students act as policymakers using economic tools to achieve geopolitical goals. Readings: Flint, Introduction to Geopolitics, Ch. 8: Global Geopolitical Structure. Take-Home Quiz 6: Economic Warfare &amp; International Power.</p>
Class 13	<p>Week 7: Rise of Populism &amp; Global Trade Policies Class 13: The Global Trend of Populism</p> <p>Lecture: Populist movements, economic nationalism, and trade policies. Case Study: Brexit, Trump-era policies, and European right-wing populism.</p>
Class 14	<p>Class 14: PBL - Economic Nationalism Debate</p> <p>Simulation: Students debate protectionism vs. globalization. Readings: Selected article: "Populism &amp; Economic Nationalism" (Foreign Policy, 2023). Take-Home Quiz 7: Populism &amp; Global Trade.</p>
Class 15	<p>Week 8: Energy Geopolitics Class 15: Competition Over Energy Resources</p> <p>Lecture: Oil, gas, renewables, and geopolitical competition. Case Study: OPEC, Nord Stream 2, and China's energy security.</p>
Class 16	<p>Class 16: PBL - Energy Security Policy Design</p> <p>Exercise: Students design energy policies for energy-dependent states. Readings: Marshall, Prisoners of Geography, Ch. 6 (Middle East). Take-Home Quiz 8: Energy &amp; Geopolitical Strategies.</p>
Class 17	<p>Week 9: Migration &amp; Geopolitics Class 17: The Political Economy of Migration</p> <p>Lecture: Refugee crises, economic migration, and national security. Case Study: Europe's migration crisis, U.S.-Mexico border policy.</p>
Class 18	<p>Class 18: PBL - Migration Policy Development</p> <p>Exercise: Students draft policies addressing skilled labor shortages and migration crises. Readings: Flint, Introduction to Geopolitics, Ch. 5: National Identity &amp; Migration. Take-Home Quiz 9: Migration, Borders, &amp; Labor Policies.</p>
Class 19	<p>Week 10: Geopolitics of Technology Class 19: Technological Innovation &amp; Global Power</p> <p>Lecture: The role of technology in shaping international influence. Case Study: China's technological rise and U.S. containment strategies.</p>

Class 20	<p>Class 20: PBL - National Tech Strategy Simulation</p> <p>Exercise: Students design tech policies balancing innovation and security.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Selected article: "Semiconductors &amp; National Security" (Brookings, 2023).</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 10: Technology, Security, &amp; Global Competition.</p> <p>Final Paper Topics Selection - Students must submit a 1-page proposal outlining their topic, key arguments, and sources.</p>
Class 21	<p>Week 11: Space &amp; Economic Frontiers</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 10 due before Class 21.</p> <p>Class 21: The Geopolitics of Space</p> <p>Lecture: Commercial space race, international law, and space militarization.</p> <p>Reading for Quiz 11 (due before Class 23):</p> <p>Flint, Introduction to Geopolitics, Ch. 10: Messy Geopolitics.</p>
Class 22	<p>Class 22: PBL - Investing in Space Development</p> <p>Simulation: Students assess economic and geopolitical risks of space investments.</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 11: Space, Economy, &amp; Military Strategy</p>
Class 23	<p>Week 12: Maritime Trade &amp; Security</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 11 due before Class 23.</p> <p>Class 23: Oceans, Trade &amp; Maritime Power</p> <p>Lecture: Naval power, chokepoints, and global supply chain vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Reading for Quiz 12 (due before Class 25):</p> <p>Marshall, Prisoners of Geography, Ch. 8: Korea &amp; Japan.</p>
Class 24	<p>Class 24: PBL - Regional Maritime Security Strategy</p> <p>Exercise: Students draft maritime security strategies for key shipping lanes.</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 12: Sea Power &amp; Global Trade Routes</p> <p>Students submit a partial draft (2-4 pages) for instructor feedback</p>
Class 25	<p>Week 13: Corporate Power &amp; Economic Influence</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 12 due before Class 25.</p> <p>Class 25: Multinational Corporations &amp; Geo-economics</p> <p>Lecture: MNCs, supply chains, and political influence.</p> <p>Reading for Quiz 13 (due before Class 27):</p> <p>Case Study: Apple &amp; China's supply chain dominance.</p>
Class 26	<p>Class 26: PBL - Corporate Risk Assessment</p> <p>Exercise: Students assess corporate geopolitical risks in key industries.</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 13: Corporations, Sanctions, &amp; Economic Influence</p>
Class 27	<p>Week 14: Global Governance &amp; Power Shifts</p> <p>Take-Home Quiz 13 due before Class 27.</p> <p>Class 27: The Future of Multilateral Institutions</p> <p>Lecture: WTO, G7 vs. BRICS, and the fragmentation of global governance.</p> <p>Reading for Quiz 14 (due before Class 29):</p> <p>Marshall, Prisoners of Geography, Ch. 3: United States.</p>
Class 28	<p>Class 28: Final Paper Presentations &amp; Reflections</p> <p>No quiz - Focus on final research presentations &amp; discussion.</p>
Class 29	<p>Class 29: Final Paper Presentations &amp; Reflections</p> <p>No quiz - Focus on final research presentations &amp; discussion.</p>
Class 30	<p>Class 30: Class Wrap-Up &amp; Final Paper Submission</p> <p>Final Paper Submission (Friday of week 15 23:59 JST on Teams): Students must submit their 3000-4000 word final paper.</p>