KARTA PRZEDMIOTU

Nazwa przedmiotu: ***Elective Course:The Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Balkans & Caucasus and the Struggle for Global Superpower Hegemony (PDW-IR5-BSE-02)***
Name:

Nazwa w języku polskim: **Bliski Wschód, Europa Wschodnia, Bałkany i Kaukaz oraz walka o hegemonię globalnego supermocarstwa**
Name in Polish:

Nazwa w jęz. angielskim: ***Elective Course:The Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Balkans & Caucasus and the Struggle for Global Superpower Hegemony***
Name in English:

Dane dotyczące przedmiotu:
Information on course:

Jednostka oferująca przedmiot:	Kierunek-Stosunki Międzynarodowe
Course offered by department:	*missing department name in English*
Przedmiot dla jednostki:	Akademia Finansów i Biznesu Vistula
Course for department:	VISTULA UNIVERSITY
Cykl dydaktyczny:	Semestr zimowy 2024/2025
Term:	Winter semester 2024/2025
Koordynator przedmiotu cyklu: **Cordinator of course edition:**	dr Piotr Pietrzak

Domyślny typ protokołu dla przedmiotu:

Egzamin/zaliczenie na ocenę/zal w skali zal-std2

Default type of course examination report:

missing description of the type of examination report

Język wykładowy:

angielski

Language:

English

Short description:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

There are no prerequisites for this course. It will consist of a series of seminar sessions with pre-assigned readings and pre-recorded materials. We will utilize all resources available, both academic publications and the resources provided by governments, international organizations, various think tanks, and nonprofit organizations. Students are expected to do all the readings and watch all asynchronous content prior to each session, as well as attend and participate in all sessions. The sessions will focus on critically discussing the assigned readings.

Description:

Final grades will be assigned as follows:
• Participation in discussions & learning log 30%;
• Book Review between 500 – 1000 words 20%;
• Final essay: between 2000 - 3000 words 50%.

Note: To receive an overall passing grade, students must receive a passing grade in at least two components of the final grade. Failing one component of the course will lead to a failing grade in the overall course.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS
Participation: 15%; Students should do all the readings and watch all the prerecorded lectures for each session in advance and come to the synchronous sessions prepared to contribute to class discussion by bringing questions that stem from the readings.

Learning log 15%; –Students should summarize & synthesize their knowledge after each class (please do so in a couple of sentences, but in a consistent manner). If needed, you can also ask unanswered questions about each module in this log. The learning log does not have to discuss all the readings assigned for the session; you may discuss just one or two pieces, or you can pick a broader range and compare them to each other (or to readings for earlier sessions). You should mainly reflect on your experience from the class. In this respect, I encourage all critical, and open-minded suggestions and any argument that exposes the main weaknesses of arguments used in the class.

All (12 modules) learning logs should be emailed to me after the last class.

Book review 20%; - Students are expected to write a critical review of one recently read publication related to contemporary conflict & conflict management (book of your choice). When it comes to longer publications such as Samantha Power's 2007. A Problem from Hell: America and the age of genocide, you can review just one of the chapters.

A paper: Each ambitious student is expected to write a short paper (between 2000 - 3000 words) on a "chosen contemporary conflict" that will comprise one section with their suggestions on what would they do to improve the situation of civilians who found themselves in a crossfire between two or more conflicted sides. Alternatively, students can launch a broader debate on various geoeconomic, geopolitical and socio-economic dimensions related to a given humanitarian emergency. The paper should compose: the title, the name of the student, the abstract, keywords, an introduction, the main body of the paper, the concluding paragraph/debate/recommendations, and at least 5 pieces of carefully selected biographic records

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Course content, Topics,
Lecture One. The 9/11, Hasta la Vista to Unipolarity and Global Hegemony & Introduction to “Conflict-ology” Managing Impossible: Superpowers and their role in Conflict Management, Conflict Resolution of the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Balkans & Caucasus in 2024: The Use of Geoeconomics, Geostrategy, and International Relations to Discover New Patterns, Theories and Concepts in the XXI Century,

Lecture Two. Historia Magistra Vitae Est: Auschwitz’ Failed Promise: and the International Community’s Inadequate Response to the War Crimes Committed in the Balkans, Chechnya, and Ukraine: From Srebrenica, Sarajevo, and Grozny to Bucha, Mariupol, and Irpin

Lecture Three. The Limits of the Comparative Method and the Perpetuallity of Modern Conflict: the wars in Ethiopia (2020-2022), Ukraine (2014/2022-), and the Israel vs. Hamas/Hezbollah/Iran Conflict

Lecture Four. Indonesia, India, and South Africa and Their Increasing Role in Conflict Management,

Lecture Five. China’s One Road One Belt initiative, and its more assertive/hawkish policies in the South China Sea, Discussing China-India Relations, US-China Relations, China–Russia, China-Japan relations,

Lecture Six . Superpowers and their role in Deescalating the situation in Global Caucasus: Chechnya, Afghanistan [al Qaeda & Taliban] (2001-2021, Georgia 2008, Nagorno Karabakh 1991-2024,

Lecture Seven: International Community’s Response to the Arab Spring Events | Islamic State and the Radicalization of Iraqi, Syrian, and Kurdi Youth - What Should We Make of It Some 5, 10, 15 Years later,

Lecture Nine. The Rise and Fall of Myanmar’s Aung San Suu Kyi and the Future of Myanmar’s Rohingya Refugees & the Role of Yunus's Caretaker Government of Bangladesh in Stabilizing the Country's Procrastinating Unrest in the Wake of the Fall of Sheikh Hasina's Regime,

Lecture Ten. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons. Discussing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its role in stabilizing the political situation in the Middle East, Southeast East Asia (Kashmir), and Eastern Europe???,

Lecture Eleven. Minority Rights and State Sovereignty, Religion and Ideology Reigniting Global Problems & Global Solutions,

Lecture Twelve. Introduction to the New Era of Software-Defined Warfare – the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Drone Warfare,. European Colonialism and today’s political situation in Sahel, Maghreb, Horn of Africa, Apartheid in South Africa, Conflicts in Africa from Political Irredentism to Islamic Radicalization & Globalization of Narcotrafficking and its impact on today’s political landscape of Latin America,

Bibliography:

Compulsory readings

Power, Samantha. 2007. A Problem from Hell: America and the age of genocide. London: Harper Perennial,

Supplementary readings

Babones, Salvatore 2011. “The Middling Kingdom: The Hype And The Reality Of China’s Rise”. Foreign Affairs Magazines. 90 (5): 79–88.
Brzezinski Zbigniew. 1997. The Grand Chessboard, American Primacy and its Geostrategic Imperative, New York: Basic Books, (available online)
Byman, Daniel. “The Good Enough Doctrine.” Foreign Affairs, Apr 13, 2022. https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/2021-08-24/good-enough-doctrine.
Davutoğlu, Ahmet. 2010. Stratejik Derinlik : Tuŕkiye'nin Uluslarası Konumu: Strategic Depth: Turkey's International Position,
Jaishankar, Subrahmanyam (2020) India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World,
Kant, Immanuel, 1894, 1920. “Eternal Peace.” The Advocate of Peace, Vol. 59, No. 5 (MAY 1897), p. 111–116,
Kissinger, Henry. 1994. Diplomacy, New York: Simon & Schuster,
Mearsheimer, John J. 2005. “Hans Morgenthau and the Iraq War: Realism Vs Neo-Conservatism.” Open Democracy News Analysis,
Mearsheimer, John. J. 1990. “Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the Cold War”. International Security Vol. 15, No. 1. (Summer 1990), p. 5–56,
Nye, Joseph S. 2002. The Paradox of American Power, Oxford, and New York: Oxford University Press,
Nye, Joseph S. “The Decline of America’s Soft Power,” Foreign Affairs, 83, No. 3, May/June 2004,
Nye, Joseph S. 2004. Power in the Global Information Age, London and New York: Rutledge,
Nye, Joseph S. 2004. Soft Power. The Means to Success in World Politics: New York,
Pin-Fat, Véronique. (2009). “How do we begin to think about the world?” in Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, (eds.) Global Politics: A new introduction, New York: Routledge,
Primakov, Yevgeny. 2004: Russian Crossroads: Toward the New Millennium
Jinping Xi, and Jinping Xi. 2014. Xi Jinping: The Governance of China. First edition. Beijing, China: Foreign Languages Press.
Zakaria, Fareed. “The New China Scare.” The New China Scare, www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2019-12-06/new-china-scare. Accessed Nov 1, 2022.

Other materials

Pietrzak, P. (Ed.). Dealing With Regional Conflicts of Global (2024),
Pietrzak, P. (Ed.). Analyzing Global Responses to Contemporary Regional Conflicts (2024),
Pietrzak, P. (Ed.). Exploring the Implications of Local and Regional Conflicts (2025),
Pietrzak, P. (Ed.). International Relations Theory and Philosophical Political Insights into Conflict Management (2025).

Learning outcomes:

The subject aims to expand knowledge in the field of geoeconomics and geopolitics of classical, Cold War, 21st century, geoeconomic imagination, geostrategy, contemporary concepts of international order. The subject aims to present geoeconomics as a specific and interdisciplinary research approach that deals with the study of the relationship between the center of power (not necessarily the state) and space (mainly geographical), economic rivalry & from the scope of all classical and non-classical theories of international relations.

Assessment methods and assessment criteria:

{Activity in class] * Constructive activity in class is promoted and rewarded.
* Correcting the lecturer/theory in a substantive way will be rewarded.
* Example: I do not agree with Walzer's theory, and I think that the "Charles Taylor" approach is better... because it presents this aspect of the matter from a different perspective

[Group projects]•A group presentation should generally not last longer than 10-15 minutes. Number of slides depends on the amount of content you need to provide to your audience. Don't over exhaust your colleagues with too many slides and information. Be consistent and try to make between 10 to 15 slides that will include the title slide, references, etc. A topic to choose from related to the scope of the issues discussed. Participation in a group project is not necessary, but is suggested.

Regarding written works - at the end of the semester, I suggest students to grade, usually they have a chance to improve the grade if they are below expectations.

[Example topic of a term paper]
A free topic related to international relations, geopolitics, geoeconomics, history of international relations, theory of war, different types of wars. Defining wars, guerrilla war, civil war, world war, local war, regional war, global war, cold war, new cold war, software-defined war, hybrid war, new kind of war, technological changes in the military, relation of war to society, ethical approach to war, philosophical approach to war, economic approach to war

To improve the final grade, the student can write a review of a publication concerning broadly understood humanitarianism and human rights / selected issues of international law.

Rodzaj przedmiotu
Type of course

do wyboru
elective course

ogólnouczelniane
general courses

Założenia (opisowo)
Prerequisites (description)

The Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Balkans & Caucasus and the Struggle for Global Superpower aims to provide students with the fundamental tools essential to building a broader understanding of the post-Cold War global power architecture from theoretical and analytical perspectives. It is dedicated to students interested in current affairs, security studies, and leading approaches to violent conflict after 1991: The Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Balkans & Caucasus, and the Struggle for Global Superpower Hegemony. Our primary research area will be approached from geopolitics, security studies, and humanitarian perspectives. During the classes, we try to approach the new world order in statu nascendi from the perspective of various ongoing conflicts and humanitarian emergencies.

Dane dotyczące przedmiotu cyklu:
Information on course edition:

Domyślny typ protokołu dla przedmiotu cyklu:

Egzamin/zaliczenie na ocenę/zal w skali zal-std2

Default type of course examination report:

missing description of the type of examination report in English

Bibliography:

missing bibliography in English

Szczegóły zajęć i grup
Details of classes and study groups

Konwersatorium (30 godzin)
Seminar (30 hours)

Dane grup zajęciowych
Study groups details

Grupa numer 1
Group number 1

Prowadzący grupy:
Class instructors:

dr Piotr Pietrzak

Przynależność do grup przedmiotów w cyklach:
Element of course groups in various terms:

Opis grupy przedmiotów Course group description	Cykl pocz. First term	Cykl kon. Last term
International Relations 5 sem BA ENG (IR-B5SE) *missing group description in English* (IR-B5SE)	2024Z	2024Z

Punkty przedmiotu w cyklach:
Course credits in various terms:

<bez przypisanego programu> <without a specific program>			
Typ punktów Type of credits	Liczba Number	Cykl pocz. First term	Cykl kon. Last term
Europejski system transferu punktów ECTS (ECTS) European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)	3	2024L	

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Podpis/Signature