

30141 - The world today

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 30141 - The world today

Faculty / School: 179 - Centro Universitario de la Defensa - Zaragoza

Degree: 563 - Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Organisational Engineering

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 4

Semester: Second semester

Subject type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

The subject and its expected results respond to the following approaches and objectives:

- To know the main political, social, cultural, economic and scientific phenomena that have shaped and moulded today's world.
- To know the origins and characteristics of the current world order, as well as its possible consequences and lessons that can be deduced.
- To differentiate the structures, units of power and typology of conflicts in today's world.
- To identify the main geopolitical theories.
- To understand the evolution of the missions of the Spanish Armed Forces (FAS).
- Defence Profile: These approaches and objectives are aligned with all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/>), in such a way that the acquisition of the learning results of the subject provides training and knowledge, skills and competencies to contribute to some extent to their achievement.

2. Learning results

1. To understand the historical evolution of political, economic and social movements during the twentieth century.
2. To analyze the scientific-technical revolution in twentieth-century society.
3. To know world changes since 1989 identifying current conflict hubs and the main IR actors.
4. To know the foundations of Geopolitics, its evolution throughout the twentieth century and current trends.
5. To identify and analyze current geopolitical blocs. Geopolitical study of the areas in which the SAF are deployed in international missions.

3. Syllabus

INTRODUCTION

- Unit 1: Notions of Geopolitics.

PART I: THE COLD WAR WORLD

- Unit 2: The Geopolitics of the Cold War.
- Unit 3: Estrangement and Bipolar Confrontation (1945-53).
- Unit 4: *Pax Americana* and Decolonization (1953-62).
- Unit 5: The East Bloc (1953-62).
- Unit 6: The Crisis of the Bipolar Order (1962-71).
- Unit 7: The Era of Détente (1971-80).
- Unit 8: The End of the Cold War (1981-1991).

PART II: THE PRESENT WORLD

- Unit 9: The Liberal International Order.
- Unit 10: The Unipolar Moment (1991-2001).
- Unit 11: The Global War on Terror (2001-09).
- Unit 12: The Global Financial Crisis (2009-16).
- Unit 13: The Second Cold War (2017-24).
- Unit 14: Geopolitical Competition Areas.
- Unit 15: The Future of Geography.

4. Academic activities

- **Classroom lectures:** expositive sessions to develop the subject content.
- **In-class Papers:** in-class written essays based on the mandatory readings and class debates and discussions.
- **Global Observatory:** written (and/or) oral on the current news concerning a geopolitical actor or area.
- **Exam:** theoretical test on the subject content on the basis of studying the mandatory readings.
- **Personal study; tutorials.**

5. Assessment system

FIRST CALL

Continuous Assessment

1. In-class activity (60% of the final grade).
 - 1.1. One or several in-class papers (45% of the final grade).
 - 1.2. Global Observatory, written and/or oral (15% of the final grade).
2. Exam (40% of the final grade). All questions will be essay questions, so answers shall be properly argued and supported with historical references.

Final Exam

The students who do not pass the subject by continuous assessment or who would like to improve their grade, will have the right to take the Final Exam set in the academic calendar, prevailing, in any case, the best of both grades. This Final Exam will weight 100% of the final grade. All questions will be essay questions, so answers shall be properly argued and supported with historical references. To pass the exam, the student's grade must be equal to or higher than 5,00.

SECOND CALL

The students who do not pass the subject in the First Call have the right to take a Final Exam set in the academic calendar for the Second Call. This Final Exam will weight 100% of the final grade. All questions will be essay questions, so answers shall be properly argued and supported with historical references. To pass the exam, the student's grade must be equal to or higher than 5,00.

ITEMS VS. LEARNING OUTCOMES (LO)

Assessment items	Weight	LO-1	LO-2	LO-3	LO-4	LO-5
In-class Papers	45%	X	X	X		
Global Observatory	15%			X	X	X
Exam	40%	X	X	X	X	X

6. Sustainable Development Goals

- 4 - Quality Education
- 5 - Gender Equality
- 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions