

THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Approval of Undergraduate Course

Section 1: Academic Administration ⁽¹⁾

1.1 Catalog

- a) Course to be effective from: Academic Year **2021–2022** Term **Fall**
- b) Department Code⁽³⁾: **HUMA** Subject Area⁽³⁾: _____ Course Number ⁽⁴⁾: **4620**
- Previous Course Code⁽⁵⁾: _____
- c) Full Title⁽⁶⁾ (max. 100 characters): **Geopolitics**
- d) Abbreviated Title⁽⁷⁾ (max. 30 characters): **Geopolitics**
- e) Course Credits⁽⁸⁾: ☒ Fixed: **3** ☐ Range: From _____ To _____

- f) Catalog Description⁽⁹⁾ (word limit = 150):

This course surveys the history of modern geopolitical thinking and its relation to world politics over the past two centuries. What is the relationship between state power and the mastery of geographic space? How does geography both constrain and facilitate the ambition of states? Is geography destiny? Students will read some of the classics of modern Western geopolitical thought, alongside critical commentary and historical contextualization, and consider their relevance for understanding contemporary global affairs.

- g) Grading Type⁽¹⁰⁾: ☒ Letter Grades ☐ Distinction/Credit/Pass/Fail ☐ Pass/Fail
☐ Distinction/Pass/Fail ☐ Others (please specify): _____

- h) ☐ Prerequisites⁽¹¹⁾:

Course Code / Public Exam	Course Title / Exam Subject and Level / Grade attained

- i) ☐ Corequisites⁽¹²⁾:

Course Code	Course Title

- j) ☐ Exclusions⁽¹³⁾:

Course Code / Public Exam	Course Title / Exam Subject and Level / Grade attained

- k) ☐ Co-listing⁽¹⁴⁾: ☐ Multi-coding⁽¹⁴⁾:

Course Code	Course Title

- l) Other Enrollment Restrictions⁽¹⁵⁾ ☐ No ☒ Yes

☐ Instructor's approval required

☐ Restricted to specified student group(s)
 (please specify, e.g. year and program of study): _____

☒ Others (please specify): **To facilitate seminar discussion, I wish to restrict the size of the class to max. 20 students.**

m) Medium of Instruction/Materials⁽¹⁶⁾: ☒ English ☐ Others, (Pls specify and provide a justification in Section 1.3):

n) Allow course repetition for credit⁽¹⁷⁾: ☒ No ☐ Yes

1.2 Contribution of course to Programs of Study [Check all appropriate boxes below]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Program of Study</th> <th colspan="3">As</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Global China Studies</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Required Course</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Free Elective</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite</td> </tr> </table>	Program of Study	As			Global China Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Required Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Free Elective	<input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite
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1.3 Rationale for Introducing this course and other relevant information ⁽¹⁸⁾

My aim in introducing this course is to provide undergraduate students with an accessible, seminar-format course on modern intellectual history. To maximize the appeal of the course to the undergraduate population, I have chosen a theme that does not require any real prerequisite knowledge of modern history or philosophy, and whose texts are non-technical in nature. I propose to survey the history of modern Western geopolitical thought from the late nineteenth century up until the present. Geopolitics is the interdisciplinary field of knowledge that investigates the impact of geography—and space, more broadly—on the development and interaction of polities. Since the end of the nineteenth century, the literature associated with this field has inspired and engaged politicians, scholars, and analysts around the world. Developed in part as a response to growing international and imperial rivalries in an era of globalization, geopolitics has served as an alibi and ideology of imperialism, but also as a framework for critiquing imperialist policies. The classic works of geopolitics have the advantage of engaging and responding to one another, and addressing concrete events of world history, which make them suitable texts for class discussion and paper-writing. They also speak to students with interests in history, political science, geography, political and social thought, and economics, which enables a course like this to appeal to a fairly wide student population. Though most of the authors to be discussed in this course came from Europe and the United States, I intend to also emphasize the relevance and reception of these texts outside the West, i.e. in Japan and China.

The reading list may include such primary sources as:

- Alfred Thayer Mahan, *The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660–1783* (1890)
- Halford J. Mackinder, *Democratic Ideals and Reality* (1919)
- Karl Haushofer, selections in translation
- Carl Schmitt, *Land and Sea* (1942)
- Nicholas Spykman, *America's Strategy in World Politics* (1942)
- George Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" (1947)
- Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations* (1996)
- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (2003)
- Barry Posen, "Command of the Commons" (2003)

And secondary sources such as:

- Jeremy Black, *Geopolitics and the Quest for Dominance* (2016)
- Christopher I. Beckwith, *Empires of the Silk Road* (2009)
- Peter C. Purdue, *China Marches West* (2005)
- Neil Smith, *American Empire* (2003)
- Geroid O'Tuathail, *The Geopolitics Reader* (2003)
- Robert Kaplan, *The Revenge of Geography* (2013)
- Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The Grand Chessboard* (1997)
- John Darwin, *After Tamerlane* (2008)
- Peter Paret, ed., *Makers of Modern Strategy* (1986)
- Bruno Macaes, *Belt and Road* (2020)
- Adam Tooze, *The Deluge* (2014)
- Charles S. Maier, *Once Within Borders* (2016)

Section 2A: Learning Outcomes and Alignment (for courses not proposed to be Common Core Courses)

2.1 Key Course Intended Learning Outcomes (Should not normally exceed six or eight outcomes)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to do the following:

	Course ILOs	Nature of the learning outcomes (A - Knowledge/Content Related; B - Academic Skills/Competencies; C - Others)
1	Acquire familiarity with the central themes and arguments of modern geopolitical thought.	A
2	Develop familiarity with key geopolitical events and trends in the past two centuries.	A
3	Gain experience reading and discussing theoretical texts	B
4	Acquire proficiency in writing analytical essays	B
5		
6		
7		
8		

2.2 Contribution of Learning Outcomes to Programs of Study identified in Section 1.2

(Please also complete Section 4.1)

	Program of study 1: GCS Program ILOs	To be achieved through these course ILOs (Write CILO-1, CILO-2, etc.)
1	Applying knowledge in humanities / social science to study issues of social or cultural significance	CILO-1, 2
2	Applying knowledge in humanities / social science to study issues relating to China and the world	CILO-1, 2
3	Develop students' academic and self-learning skills	CILO-3, 4
4	Enhance students' academic writing competence	CILO-4
5		
6		
7		
8		

	Program of study 2: HUMA Minor Program ILOs	To be achieved through these course ILOs (Write CILO-1, CILO-2, etc.)
1	Students will gain exposure to the critical methodologies of the humanities	CILO-1, 2, 3, 4
2	Students will develop their skills as readers and writers	CILO-3, 4
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Section 2B: Additional Information⁽²⁾ (for courses not proposed to be Common Core Courses)

2.3 Planned Teaching & Learning Arrangement

Teaching & Learning Arrangement		Weekly Scheduled Hours/ Estimated Weekly Learning Hours	Indicate which course ILOs this activity serves to achieve (Write CILO-1, CILO-2, etc.)	Additional Information (optional)
Face-to-face activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Lecture*			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tutorial*			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seminar/Small-class*	2 x 1.5 hrs	CILO-1, 2, 3, 4	25% instructor presentation, 75% class discussion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory*			
	*Does the above scheduled component(s) involve structured active learning activities? ⁽¹⁹⁾ <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes If yes, please specify for each scheduled component, the percentage and the type of active learning involved in the "Additional Information" column.			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (e.g. fieldtrip, visit, etc.), pls specify: _____			
Online activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Online lecture videos			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other online learning tasks, pls specify: _____			
The total learning hours of the course [#] is equivalent to <u>120</u> hours ⁽⁸⁾ [#] including both scheduled instructional hours and hours for self-study activities & assessment				

- For course adopting a pedagogic approach other than lecture, tutorial and laboratory, please indicate the pedagogy used:

- ☐ Blended learning⁽²⁰⁾
☐ Pure online delivery⁽²¹⁾
☐ Experiential learning⁽²²⁾
☐ Others, pls specify: _____

2.4 Planned Assessment Weightings

Assessment Task	Proportion of Final Grade (%)	Indicate which course ILOs this task is to assess (Write CILO-1, CILO-2, etc.)	Additional Information (optional)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-class test	20%	CILO-2	Two quizzes
<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-term test			
<input type="checkbox"/> Final exam			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midterm paper	25%	CILO-4	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final paper	35%	CILO-4	
<input type="checkbox"/> Project report			
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation			
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning portfolio			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course participation	20%	CILO-1, 2, 3	
Peer evaluation			

<input type="checkbox"/> Others (e.g. proctored online exam, etc.), <i>pls specify</i> : _____			
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2.5 Course Duration

☒ 1 term ☐ 2 terms ☐ Others, *pls specify*: _____

2.6 Planned Frequency of Offerings [Check all appropriate boxes]:

☐ Every Fall ☐ Every Winter
☐ Every Spring ☐ Every Summer
☒ No fixed pattern
☐ Other (*pls specify*): _____

2.7 Course outline attached

No ☒ Yes

• **Internationalization:**

Internationalization in a course refers to course content and/or pedagogic approaches which incorporate an intercultural and international perspective. Examples may include:

- *Collaboration with overseas institutions to develop and adopt international course content, or to arrange international field trip*
- *Insertion of international theme as part of the course*
- *Integrating the course content with international material as examples or case studies*
- *Elements to provide global diversified perspectives and/or practices around the world*

Please briefly list or summarize any component(s) in the course that contributes to internationalizing the curriculum:

The course covers the recent history of globalization and its ramifications for world politics, focusing on the United States, Europe, and East Asia.

2.8 Resources

Request extra resources for teaching this course? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Section 4: Development, Concurrence and Approval

4.1 Contribution to the Program Learning Outcomes

The course is confirmed by the following Major/Minor program department(s)/unit(s) as indicated in Section 1.2 that it would contribute appropriately to overall program learning outcomes.

<i>Department/Program unit</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
School of Humanities & Social Science	Associate Dean	Prof. Carine YIU	16-Feb-21

4.2 Approvals

Recommendation from offering department(s) and School(s)/IPO

<i>Offering Department/Program Unit</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
<u>Division of Humanities</u>	<u>Head of Division</u>	<u>Prof. Christian A DANIELS</u>	<u>9-Feb-21</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

<i>Recommending School/IPO</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
School of Humanities & Social Science	Dean	Prof. Kellee TSAI	16-Feb-21

Concurrence from other Schools or departments/units

[illegible]

Sample Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Globalization and territoriality

- Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000* (New York: Vintage, 1987), pp. 194–274.
- Sven Beckert, "American Danger: United States Empire, Eurafrica, and the Territorialization of Industrial Capitalism, 1870–1950," *American Historical Review* 122, no. 4 (2017): 1137–70.

Week 3: Sea Power

- Alfred Thayer Mahan, *The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660–1783*, 5th ed. (Mineola: Dover, 1987 [1894]), selections.

Week 4: Land Power

- Christopher I. Beckwith, *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009), pp. 183–262.
- H. J. Mackinder, "The Geographical Pivot of History" (1904), *Geographical Journal* 170, no. 4 (2004): 298–321.

Week 5: Empire without conquest

- Neil Smith, *American Empire: Roosevelt's Geographer and the Prelude to Globalization* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), selections.
- Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: The History of an Idea* (New York: Penguin, 2012), chapter 5.

Week 6: Living Space

- Andreas Dorpalen, *The World of General Haushofer: Geopolitics in Action* (New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1942), selections.
- Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, trans. Ralph Manheim (Boston: Mariner, 1999), pp. 131–44, 659–64.

Week 7: Dividing the World

- Mazower, *Governing the World*, chapter 6.
- Carl Schmitt, "The *Großraum* Order of International Law" (1939), in Carl Schmitt, *Writings on War*, ed. Timothy Nunan (Cambridge: Polity, 2011), pp. 75–124.
- Joshua Derman, "Prophet of a Partitioned World: Ferdinand Fried, 'Great Spaces,' and the Dialectics of Deglobalization, 1929–1950," *Modern Intellectual History*, forthcoming.

Week 8: Securing the American century

- Nicholas Spykman, *America's Strategy in World Politics* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1942), selections.
- Stephen Wertheim, *Tomorrow, the World: The Birth of U.S. Global Supremacy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2020), selections.

Week 9: The Cold War

- George F. Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs* (1947)
- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War*, rev. ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), selections.
- John H. Herz, "Rise and Demise of the Territorial State," *World Politics* 9, no. 4 (1957): 473–93.

Week 10: Globalization and its discontents

- Barry R. Posen, "Command of the Commons: The Military Foundation of U.S. Hegemony," *International Security* 28, no. 1 (2003): 5–46.
- Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996), selections.

Week 11: Realism redux

- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, rev. ed. (New York: Norton, 2014), pp. 55–137.
- Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and its Geostrategic Imperatives*, 2nd ed. (New York: Basic Books, 2016), selections.

Week 12: Redividing the world

- Marlène Laruelle, *Russian Eurasianism: An Ideology of Empire* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012), selections.
- Bruno Macaes, *Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order* (London: Hurst, 2018), selections.

Week 13: Perspectives

- Robert D. Kaplan, *The Revenge of Geography: What the Map Tells Us About Coming Conflicts and the Battle Against Fate* (New York: Random House, 2013), selections.
- Anne-Marie Slaughter, *The Chessboard and the Web: Strategies of Connection in a Networked World* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017), selections.