



PO/IR 227 GEOPOLITICS AND SECURITY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION
IES Abroad Rome

DESCRIPTION:

The Mediterranean Region is considered one of the most complex geopolitical scenarios in the world due to its historical, social and cultural wealth resulting from the presence of numerous and diverse civilizations since ancient times. In the era of globalization, peace and global security are increasingly dependent on the stability of the Mediterranean Region, undermined by long-term conflicts and new destabilizing factors.

After providing an overview of the region's history and cultures, the course explores the social, political and economic frameworks of the main Mediterranean sub-regions such as Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and the Balkans. Students will examine the nature of different actors, from states to hostile entities, by considering specific case studies, including Greco-Turkish tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean; the Libyan civil war and the role of foreign countries; the regional identities and aspirations of the Balkan states; the outcome of the Gulf War and the challenges to global energy security; developments in the system of alliances in the Middle East; the geopolitics of North African oil; and the competition for securing maritime energy resources in the eastern Mediterranean. Contemporary security studies are discussed to contextualize the evolution of security approaches applied to the Mediterranean Region. Crucial issues affecting the Mediterranean today will be examined, including terrorist threats, the role of organized crime in human smuggling, drug trafficking and other relevant contemporary issues such as border control and migration flows.

Security and geopolitics will be presented using the paradigm of concepts and characteristics; human security, migration and transnational organized crime and terrorism will be discussed through the paradigm of concepts, actors, roots, and dynamics.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

INSTRUCTOR: Instructor Name

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, seminar discussions, students' presentations, use of multimedia resources (selected by the instructor.), Moodle, and course-related trips.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 30%
- Research Paper - 20%
- In-Class Presentation - 10%
- Final Exam - 30%

Exams

Both midterm and final exams consist of 2 short essays each, 400 words per essay.

Research Paper

From 2500 – 3000 words dealing with a topic chosen with the instructor. Topics will relate to one of the Mediterranean sub-regions analyzed in the course (Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, the Balkans). Paper is due by 11.59 pm on session 22, week 11.



Presentation

Student will give a class presentation on the research paper topic. Presentations will last a maximum of 5 minutes each and will take place on session 23.

Participation

A rubric for participation will be posted on Moodle and shared with students at the beginning of the term.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the deep roots of historical evolution of the Mediterranean Region;
- Explain the current public debate on geopolitics and security of the Region;
- Analyze the complexity of the Mediterranean actors and dynamics;
- Identify the main and transnational issues of illicit trafficking connecting others continents;
- Recognize the different types of migrants and their centrality in Mediterranean issues;
- Discover key differences between cultures and societies involved in the Mediterranean complexity;
- Take part in initiatives and actions to conduct research in this field;
- Develop strategies to promote peace and security in the Region.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including field studies. If a student misses more than two classes, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. **Please note: 4 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade in case of an absence on a scheduled Academic Day Trip.** Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies. IES will only consider extreme emergency cases and will strictly adhere to this policy.

CONTENT:

Week and session	Content	Assignments
Week 1 Session 1	Introduction to the Course Overview of the course Definition of the Mediterranean Region	• Abulafia, D. (2011). 4. Mediterranean History as Global History. History and Theory, 50(2), John Wiley and Sons, pp. 220–228. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2303.2011.00579.x (8 pages) • Abulafia, D. (2014). The Mediterranean in History. Chapter 1, Chapter 2 (65 pages)
Session 2	Geopolitics: Concepts and Characteristics • Theories and Perspectives: Approaches to Geopolitics Actors and Dynamics	• Venier, P. (2010). 3. Main Theoretical Currents in Geopolitical Thought in the Twentieth Century. L'Espace Politique, Revue en ligne de géographie politique et de géopolitique, 12(2010-3). https://doi.org/10.4000/espacepolitique.1714 (10 pages) • Haverluk T. W., Beauchemin K. M., Mueller A. B. (2014). The Three Critical Flaws of Critical Geopolitics: Towards a Neo-Classical Geopolitics, Geopolitics, 19:1, 19-39, DOI: 10.1080/14650045.2013.803192 (20 pages) • Sloan G. (2017). Geopolitics, Geography and Strategic History. Routledge. Preface, Chapter 1 pp. XIII-XVII; pp.1-37 (41 pages)

Week and session	Content	Assignments
Session 3	Security: Concepts and Characteristics Concepts and approaches to Security Actors and Dynamics	- Abulafia, D. (2014). The Mediterranean in History. Chapter 3, Chapter 4 (55 pages) - Dalby, S. (2000) Geopolitical Change and Contemporary Security Studies: Contextualizing the Human Security Agenda https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/46517/WP30.pdf, 1-24 (24 pages) - Sloan G. (2017). Geopolitics, Geography and Strategic History. Routledge. Chapter 2 pp.38-61 (23 pages)
Week 2 Session 1	Roots and History of the Mediterranean Region (Part I) The Mediterranean from early history to classical antiquity Culture and People	- Abulafia, D. (2014). The Mediterranean in History. Chapter 5, Chapter 6 (63 pages) - Sloan G. (2017). Geopolitics, Geography and Strategic History. Routledge. Chapter 3 pp. 62-86 (24 pages)
Session 2	Roots and History of the Mediterranean Region (Part II) The Mediterranean from the Middle Ages to modern era Culture and People	- Abulafia, D. (2014). The Mediterranean in History. Chapter 7, Chapter 8 (63 pages) - Sloan G. (2017). Geopolitics, Geography and Strategic History. Routledge. Chapter 4 pp. 87-113 (26 pages)
Session 3	In Search of a Mediterranean Identity?	- Berti A. (2021). Re-Discovering Italy's Mediterranean Vocation. IAI Commentaries pp. 21-61 (7 pages) - Feleki E. (2018). Preservation of the Mediterranean Identity: An Intra-City Analysis Towards a Macro-Regional Approach for the Characterisation of Urban Sustainability (21 pages) - Agostini F. et al. (2020) Shared Awareness and Deconfliction in the Mediterranean. SHADE MED Challenges for cooperation in the Mediterranean after the global pandemic, Conference Book. L'Armadillo editore pp. 1-79 (79 pages)
Week 3 Session 1	Europe - Conflicts and security issues: opposing forces and identities within the EU - The impact of the last three systemic crisis on the EU Member States - The role of China and Russia in the area.	Abulafia, D. (2014). The Mediterranean in History. Chapter 9, Chapter 10 (33 pages)

Week and session	Content	Assignments
Session 2	The Foreign Terrorist Fighters' threat in Europe. The Greek-Turkish rivalry and the Cyprus question; NATO and the European defense; the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (EUROMED). Midterm Review	- Dawson, L. L. (2021). A Comparative Analysis of the Data on Western Foreign Fighters in Syria and Iraq: Who Went and Why? https://icct.nl/app/uploads/2021/02/Dawson-Comparative-Analysis-FINAL-1.pdf, pp.1-56 (56 pages) - OSCE. (2018). Guidelines for Addressing the Threats and Challenges of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" within a Human Rights Framework. Chapter 1, Chapter 2 https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/4/7/393503_2.pdf, pp. 1-74 (74 pages) - Sloan G. (2017). Geopolitics, Geography and Strategic History. Routledge. Chapter 5 pp.114-151 (37 pages)
Session 3	Midterm Exam	Assignment(s) and/or Reading(s)
Week 4 Session 1	The Middle East - Conflicts and security issues: the tensions between Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds - The outcomes of the Gulf Wars - The challenges to global energy security	D.J. Whittaker (ed.), The Terrorism Reader, Chapter 7 ("Israel"), pp. 79-87; Chapters 9-10 ("Lebanon I" and "Lebanon II"), pp. 106-132 (34 pages)
Session 2	The Middle East, continued The terrorist threat; the strategy of Turkey for a leadership role in the Middle East; the role of China and Russia in the Mediterranean; the effects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.	- Beinin J., Hajjar L. (2014). Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. A Primer. MERIP http://merip.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/02/Primer_on_Palestine-IsraelMERIP_February2014final.pdf pp.1-16 (16 pages) - Sloan G. (2017). Geopolitics, Geography and Strategic History. Routledge. Chapter 6 pp.152-188 (36 pages)
Session 3	North Africa - Conflicts and security issues: - Anticolonialism - Berberism - The Arabization and linguistic domination - The rise and fall of the Islamist movements - The terrorist threat - The Libyan chaos and the role of foreign countries - The geopolitics of North African oil - The role of China and Russia in this area - Anatomy of the Arab Spring	- Sloan G. (2017). Geopolitics, Geography and Strategic History. Routledge. Chapter 7 pp.189-221 (32 pages) - Ray S., Schwarz, H. (2016). The Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies, Arab Spring 2011 (2016, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd) (2 pages) - Cordesman, A. (2011). Rethinking the Arab "Spring" Stability and Security in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and The Rest of the MENA Region. https://csiswebsiteprod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fspublic/legacy_files/files/publication/111102_MENA_Stability_Security.pdf, pp.1-13 (13 pages)

Week and session	Content	Assignments
Week 5 Session 1	The Balkans and the Mediterranean Region - The breakup of Yugoslavia between ethnic nationalism and international conflict - Conflict and security issues: - The Russian influence - Pro-EU vs national and regional identity and the process of joining the EU - The impact of transnational criminal networks - The mujahid's identity in local social contexts	- Radeljić B. (2010). Europe 1989-2009: Rethinking the Break-up of Yugoslavia http://aei.pitt.edu/13910/1/Radeljic,_B.,Rethinking_the_Breakup_of_YU_(European_Studies).pdf, pp. 1-13 (13 pages) - Hajdinjak M. (2004). The Root Cause of Instability in the Balkans: Ethnic Hatred or Trans-Border Crime? International Centre for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (IMIR), pp.1-22 (22 pages) - Sloan G. (2017). Geopolitics, Geography and Strategic History. Routledge. Conclusions pp.222-231 (9 pages)
Session 2	Human Security, Borders and Migration Concepts, actors, roots and dynamics	- Laux M (2021). The evolution of the EU's naval operations in the Central Mediterranean: A gradual shift away from search and rescue. https://us.boell.org/en/2021/04/16/evolution-eus-naval-operations-central-mediterranean-gradual-shift-away-search-and (12 pages) - UNCHR (2019). Routes towards the Mediterranean reducing risks and strengthening protection https://www.unhcr.org/5d1327ab7.pdf pp.1-32 (32 pages)
Session 3	Human Security, Borders and Migration, continued Environmental migration, displacement and resettlement	- Sanchez G., Arrouche K., Capasso M., Dimitriadi A., Fakhry A. (2021). Beyond Networks, Militias and Tribes: Rethinking EU Counter-Smuggling Policy and Response. EUROMESCO https://www.euromesco.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/RETHINKING-EU-COUNTER-SMUGGLING-POLICY-AND-RESPONSE-1.pdf pp.1-95 (95 pages) - Antinori A (2012), The Italian Mafias and Migrant Smuggling in Global Environment of Policing (Boca Raton: CRC Press, 2012). pp.221-233 (12 pages) Research paper due by 11.59 pm
Week 6 Session 1	Illicit Trafficking between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism Concepts, actors, roots and dynamics	SOM, UNODC Research (2021). West Africa, North Africa and the Central Mediterranean. Key Findings on the Characteristics of Migrant Smuggling in West Africa, North Africa and the Central Mediterranean https://www.unodc.org/res/som/docs/Observatory_Storymap_1_Final_2021.05.19.pdf pp.1-23 (23 pages) Class presentations on research papers

Week and session	Content	Assignments
Session 2	Illicit Trafficking between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism, continued Final Review	- Achilli L. (2021). Irregular Migration to the EU and Human Smuggling in the Mediterranean. The Nexus between Organized Crime and Irregular Migration. Dossier: Mobility and Refugee Crisis in the Mediterranean https://www.iemed.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/01/Irregular-Migration-to-the-EU-and-Human-Smuggling-in-the-Mediterranean-The-Nexus.pdf pp.1-6 (6 pages) - Delicato V. (2010). Maritime Security and the Fight Against Drug Trafficking in the Mediterranean and Atlantic Approaches. GMF, IAI https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/mediterranean-paper_05.pdf pp. 1-15 (15 pages)
Session 3	Final Exam	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Visit to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - Students will meet a staff member of the UNHCR Office in Rome to learn about how the organization seeks to ensure that migration-management policies, practices and debates take into account the particular protection needs of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless people, and acknowledge the legal framework that exists to meet those needs;
- Visit to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Students will meet IOM’s personnel who will give a presentation on how the organization works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.
- Visit to Interpol National Centre Bureau – Students will visit the NCB Rome headquarters and will learn how it coordinates international investigations and police action on behalf of Italy’s four principal police forces and how it circulates information between agencies and staff, particularly as it relates to people suspected of aiding and abetting migrant smuggling and human being trafficking.
- Guest lectures (dates TBD):**
 - Research analyst from IAI – Istituto Affari Internazionali - to give a lecture on Geopolitics
 - LEA representative to give a lecture on Security Issues in the Mediterranean

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Abulafia, D. (2011). Mediterranean History as Global History. History and Theory, 50 (2), John Wiley and Sons, pp. 220–228.
- Abulafia, D. (2014). The Mediterranean in History, J. Paul Getty Museum, chapters 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10.
- Achilli L. (2021). Irregular Migration to the EU and Human Smuggling in the Mediterranean. The Nexus between Organized Crime and Irregular Migration. Dossier: Mobility and Refugee Crisis in the Mediterranean, pp. 1-16
- Agostini F. et al. (2020) Shared Awareness and Deconfliction in the Mediterranean. SHADE MED Challenges for cooperation in the Mediterranean after the global pandemic, Conference Book. L’Armadillo editore 1-79
- Antinori A (2012), The Italian Mafias and Migrant Smuggling in Global Environment of Policing (Boca Raton: CRC Press, 2012). pp.221-233
- Beinin J., Hajar L. (2014). Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. A Primer. MERIP, pp. 1-16
- Berti A. (2021). Re-Discovering Italy’s Mediterranean Vocation. IAI Commentaries 21-61
- Cordeman, A. (2011). Rethinking the Arab “Spring” Stability and Security in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and The Rest of the MENA Region pp. 1-13
- D.J. Whittaker (ed.), The Terrorism Reader, Chapter 7 (“Israel”), pp. 79-87; Chapters 9-10 (“Lebanon I” and “Lebanon II”), pp. 106-132

- Dalby, S. (2000) Geopolitical Change and Contemporary Security Studies: Contextualizing the Human Security Agenda, pp. 1-24
- Dawson, L. L. (2021). A Comparative Analysis of the Data on Western Foreign Fighters in Syria and Iraq: Who Went and Why? Pp. 1-56
- Delicato V. (2010). Maritime Security and the Fight Against Drug Trafficking in the Mediterranean and Atlantic Approaches. GMF, IAI, pp. 1-15
- Feleki E. (2018). Preservation of the Mediterranean Identity: An Intra-City Analysis Towards a Macro-Regional Approach for the Characterisation of Urban Sustainability
- Hajdinjak M. (2004). The Root Cause of Instability in the Balkans: Ethnic Hatred or Trans-Border Crime? International Centre for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (IMIR), pp. 1-22
- Haverluk T. W., Beauchemin K. M., Mueller A. B. (2014). The Three Critical Flaws of Critical Geopolitics: Towards a Neo-Classical Geopolitics, Geopolitics, 19:1, 19-39
- Laux M (2021). The evolution of the EU's naval operations in the Central Mediterranean: A gradual shift away from search and rescue.
- OSCE. (2018). Guidelines for Addressing the Threats and Challenges of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" within a Human Rights Framework, pp. 1-74
- Radeljić B. (2010). Europe 1989-2009: Rethinking the Break-up of Yugoslavia, pp. 1-13
- Ray S., Schwarz, H. (2016). The Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies, Arab Spring 2011 (2016, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd)
- Sanchez G., Arrouche K., Capasso M., Dimitriadi A., Fakhry A. (2021). Beyond Networks, Militias and Tribes: Rethinking EU Counter-Smuggling Policy and Response. EUROMESCO, pp. 1-95
- Sloan G. (2017). Geopolitics, Geography and Strategic History. Routledge, preface, chapters 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, conclusions
- SOM, UNODC Research (2021). West Africa, North Africa and the Central Mediterranean. Key Findings on the Characteristics of Migrant Smuggling in West Africa, North Africa and the Central Mediterranean, pp. 1-23
- UNCHR (2019). Routes towards the Mediterranean reducing risks and strengthening protection, pp. 1-32
- Venier, P. (2010). 3. Main Theoretical Currents in Geopolitical Thought in the Twentieth Century. L'Espace Politique, Revue en ligne de géographie politique et de géopolitique, 12 (2010-3).