



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
**National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**
— EST. 1837 —



**National
Technical
University of
Athens**

School of Economics and Political Sciences
Department of Turkish Studies and Modern Asian Studies

School of Rural, Surveying and Geoinformatics
Engineering

Inter-Institutional Program of PostGraduate Studies

“Theoretical and Applied Geopolitical Analysis in
International Relations and Strategy”

DETAILED STUDY GUIDE

Athens, 2024

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Course information

The MSc in “Theoretical and Applied Geopolitical Analysis in International Relations and Strategy” is a 18 months taught postgraduate program, run by the Department of Turkish Studies and Modern Asian Studies, School of Economics and Political Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, in collaboration with the School of Rural, Surveying and Geoinformatics Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens.

Highlights: The course provides detailed study of international security topics ranging from; particular geographical regions to vital contemporary issues such as asymmetric threats, power relations & conflicts. It offers a unique and current insight at the key geopolitical issues impacting and shaping developments and shifts of power worldwide. It prepares students for a wide range of professional careers including government, NGOs, IOs and regional organizations, such as the EU. Furthermore, it seeks to train researchers, diplomats, members of the armed forces, security officers and SME executives, to soberly analyze and evaluate international developments, further targeting the rational solution of the resulting international and/or regional crisis, based on the use of systemic geopolitical analysis. The program will enable students to understand better considerations of international security, peace and stability and also, to acquire the ability to analyze the risks and opportunities with regard to: energy reserves, conflicts, geostrategic competition and global power shift.

Teaching format: Modules are taught through a mixture of lectures and seminars. Assessment methods might vary and include a combination of exams and assignments. Every MSc student is assigned two dissertation supervisors who will advise him on the choice of subject as well as provide guidance throughout the research process. Students are able to suggest the supervisors (depending on the title and the scientific requirements of the MSc dissertation).

Modules: The modules in this program have varying methods of delivery and assessment. More details regarding each module, including weekly contact hours, teaching methods and assessment, are in the latest module catalogue. The faculty of the program is comprised of scholars and practitioners with international experience. Each course has its own unique design, led by a professor responsible for teaching core lectures.

Studies & ECTS

Program begins in the winter semester of each academic year. Each semester of study (winter-spring) is structured into thirteen (13) weeks of teaching and two (2) weeks of exams.

A total of ninety (90) credit points (ECTS) are required to obtain a diploma.

Specifically, each semester corresponds to a total of thirty (30) ECTS, with the postgraduate thesis corresponding to seventeen (17) ECTS out of the 30 credit units of the third semester. All courses are taught weekly and, where appropriate, include theoretical courses, exercises and seminars.

The language of instruction is Greek, while the writing of the postgraduate thesis can be done in Greek or English, following a relevant decision by the Study Program Committee.

During their studies, postgraduate students are required to attend and successfully pass all postgraduate courses, write papers, participate in scientific conferences and seminars, and prepare a postgraduate thesis.

The thesis is prepared after the completion of two semesters of studies and is credited with seventeen (17) ECTS.

The organization of the educational process is implemented through conventional face-to-face classroom teaching.

List of Courses

1st Semester (winter)		
Compulsory Courses	Teaching hours per semester	ECTS
Geopolitics I: Epistemology and Methodology of Systemic Geopolitical Analysis	39	10
Cartography	39	7
Public International Law	39	7
SEMINAR Writing scientific and academic papers	12	0
Elective Courses (choose 1)		
Geostrategic analysis of armaments and contemporary weapon technologies	39	6
Contemporary Issues of International Law: legal restrictions on violence in armed conflicts	39	6
Ideology and politics of the Ottoman Empire in contemporary Turkey	39	6
TOTAL	168	30

2nd Semester (spring)		
Compulsory Courses	Teaching hours per semester	ECTS
Introduction to Geographic Information System (GIS) – Application of the Systemic Geopolitical Analysis	39	10
Spatial Analysis and Strategic Impact Assessment	39	7
Studying the Modern Middle East: Perspectives, Theories, Methods	39	7
Elective Courses (choose 1)		
Mathematical applications in Systemic Geopolitical Analysis(SGA)	39	6
Geopolitics II: case studies	39	6
National identity: theoretical and practical issues	39	6
TOTAL	156	30

3rd Semester (winter)		
Compulsory Courses	Teaching hours per semester	ECTS
Modern Remote Sensing Technologies for the Observation of the Natural Environment	39	7
Preparation of a postgraduate thesis	-	17
Elective Courses (choose 1)		
Space geopolitics-satellite systems	39	6
International diplomacy and strategy	39	6
Methods of Political discourse analysis	39	6
TOTAL	78	30
TEACHING HOURS TOTAL:	402	
ECTS TOTAL:		90

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1st Semester (winter)

- **Geopolitics I: Epistemology and Methodology of Systemic Geopolitical Analysis**

The purpose of the course is to highlight, describe, and analyze the epistemological theoretical and methodological basis on which Modern Systemic Geopolitical Analysis is based, as well as to highlight the importance of methodological indicators, as analysis tools in general, on the one hand, and in the context of Systemic Geopolitical Analysis, on the other hand, specifically. The aim is also to understand, through description and analysis, the action of ethnocratic and supranational international actors (International Poles of Power) in the context of the Geopolitical Supersystem, in the light of the broad spectrum of the Geostrategic Synthesis, and the historical approaches of the various schools of Geopolitics thinking.

Emphasis is placed on the understanding and rigorous use of the terminological and conceptual background and methodological frameworks of analysis of the basic epistemological approaches. The Poperian, Kuhnian and Lakatean scientific approaches are analyzed. Also, the definition of Geopolitics is analyzed in contrast to that of Geostrategy, while the most complete, scientifically, method for the analysis of "international becoming" is proposed, that is, that of Modern Systemic Geopolitical Analysis with the introduction and critical presentation of the concepts of simple and composite indicators, culminating in the innovative proposal to create a Geopolitics Observatory. With reference to the German, Anglo-Saxon and French schools of geopolitical thought, these are described and analyzed thoroughly, while based on the methodology of the Contemporary Systemic Geopolitical Analysis, the individual parameters of the Greek foreign policy are examined in the context of the post-Cold War balances with reference to the systemic and sub-systemic/bilateral cases.

- **Cartography**

The purpose of the course is to understand the role of power and influence of maps in geopolitics, going beyond their role as simple navigational tools. They are dynamic repositories of knowledge that shape the way we perceive and interact with our world. In the field of geopolitics, maps are not simply illustrations of physical borders, they are tools of statecraft, offering a visual language for defining, asserting, and sometimes supporting territorial claims. Geography and maps are inextricably linked as they provide a spatial framework for understanding the relationships between places, peoples and resources. Moreover, throughout history, maps have played a key role in the richness of narratives, conquests, and the course of nations. They capture the essence of time and place, reflecting the political, cultural and environmental dynamics of a particular era. Essentially,

maps are not static representations but function as dynamic and influential tools in geopolitics, geography and history, offering a window into understanding the complexity of the evolving world.

The ultimate goal of the course is for students to get to know the principles that govern cartographic language and the visual rendering of geospatial phenomena and concepts, to understand that cartographic products must respond to the needs of readers, resulting in the creation of more functional spatial representations, and to be able to evaluate if the cartographic products follow the above design principles

- **Public International Law**

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the concepts of international law and familiarize them with the use of international law as a tool to strengthen the validity of the geopolitical model, in the context of systemic geopolitical analysis.

In systemic geopolitical analysis, the decisions of international judicial bodies are particularly critical elements, and this is because they can potentially cause a major redistribution of power at a systemic, sub-systemic and supra-systemic level. Specifically, emphasis will be placed on highlighting this power-international law relationship, which is an integral part of the systemic geopolitical analysis and, by extension, an important factor in the accuracy of the geopolitical model.

- **Contemporary Issues of International Law: legal restrictions on violence in armed conflicts**

In the systemic geopolitical analysis, international political and international legal data, international law (hard and soft law) and especially the decisions of international judicial bodies (international jurisprudence) are particularly critical elements and should be given particular weight in a geopolitical assessment, and this potentially, can be factors of significant redistribution of power at a systemic, sub-systemic and supra-systemic level. The aim of the course is to acquaint the students with the use of International Law as a tool belonging to its philosophy in the "Cultural" Pillar of the Method and its application in the "Political" pillar of the Method of the geopolitical paradigm, in the context of the systemic geopolitical analysis of Greek foreign policy issues and, on the other hand, the in-depth understanding of the geopolitical approach to the issues concerning the application of international legal acts and related data originating or emanating from the applicable international law, in each case that is particularly studied in a given geopolitical analysis.

The critical overview of targeted topics of international criminal law and the international law of armed conflicts, the examination of which serves the above problem in terms of learning, and, at the same time, the familiarization of students with the theoretical principles and basic concepts of international criminal law and the international law of armed conflicts, as well as the procedures for their application around the world, is also the purpose of teaching this subject.

- **Geostrategic analysis of armaments and contemporary weapon technologies**

The purpose of the course is the recording, study and analysis of modern weapon technologies and war methodologies and the interactive relationship they may have with other factors shaping the international system. As a scientific methodology, the Systemic Geopolitical Analysis is used, as it has been defined by Emeritus Professor Ioannis Th. Mazis. Particular emphasis is placed on the study of the power environment formed by the synthesis of modern weapon technologies with other geopolitical factors in individual regions, of critical importance, of the international system. Some of these are the Arctic Ocean, the China Seas and the Greater Middle East.

Study of weapons systems combined with a series of major geographical changes on the planet, creating a new geostrategic reality. Particular emphasis is placed on weapons technologies and warfare methodologies that offer the possibility to major Eurasian powers to control the nearby seas in the Eurasian periphery and the grid of closed seas on the "World Island", i.e. the Eurasian-African complex.

Also under consideration are asymmetric warfare capabilities that might allow rising international powers, with China prominent, to challenge American primacy in the field of military power and shape a new international system. Emphasis is placed on identifying synergies between various forms of warfare and power projection, such as cyber warfare, nuclear warfare and space warfare, so that a complex picture of the evolving strategic environment emerges.

- **Ideology and politics of the Ottoman Empire in contemporary Turkey**

The purpose of the course is to acquaint the students with the ideological current of Ottomanism and the constitutional ideas of the Neo-Ottomans, the currents of Islamism/Pan-Islamism during the period of Abdulhamit II (1876-1909), Turkism/Pan-Turkism in the Ottoman Empire and the political ideology of Ziya Gökalp. With the political ideas and their main exponents, as well as with the central political choices, as they developed in the 19th century. in the Ottoman Empire until its end. Also, the course aims to highlight and analyze the ideologies of Kemalism, Turkish nationalism, Islamism and governance policies (with their main exponents) as they manifested and evolved in the Turkish Republic from its foundation until today. The aim of the course is twofold: not only the understanding and knowledge of the policies and ideologies that have shaped the Ottoman Empire and today's Turkey, but also the knowledge, critical evaluation and use of the relevant literature.

The course is divided critically and historically into two broad thematic parts. The first concerns the reception of Western ideas, especially the Enlightenment and the French Revolution and their effects on the development of ideological currents in the Ottoman Empire. The ideological currents of the Neo-Ottomans and the development of constitutional ideas. The ideological current of Islamism/Pan-Islamism, its spread and evolution is examined. The use of Islam, its evolution from a religious identity to a political ideology and the institution of the Ottoman caliphate. The ideological current of Turkism/Pan-Turkism, the political ideology of Ziya Gökalp, its evolution and effects on the development of the Turkish national identity. The second part focuses on the study, critical

knowledge and comparative analysis of: a) the ideological propositions and goals of Kemalism, Turkish nationalism, Islamism - as well as their main exponents, b) the parties that have been associated with these ideologies, and c) the policy that has been implemented or proposed within the framework of these ideologies.

- **SEMINAR: Writing scientific and academic papers**

This seminar aims to familiarize students with the technique of writing a scientific and academic paper and the stages of its development: from the preparation of a research proposal to the complete writing of the academic paper.

The seminar includes four three-hour lessons and concludes with a written assignment.

Attendance and success in this seminar is necessary for each graduate student to undertake a written coursework and - ultimately - a graduate thesis.

2nd Semester (spring)

- **Introduction to Geographic Information System (GIS) – Application of the Systemic Geopolitical Analysis**

The purpose of the course in this subject is to present to students the basic characteristics of geographic data and the basic capabilities of geographic information systems so that they can use them as a tool in systemic geopolitical analysis.

- **Spatial Analysis and Strategic Impact Assessment**

The necessary technical and institutional knowledge and familiarity with the basic concepts of the Strategic EIA process for Energy Pipelines and other cross-border Plans and Programs is provided.

The aim is to understand the current institutional framework of the Strategic EIA at European and national level.

- **Studying the Modern Middle East: Perspectives, Theories, Methods**

The course seeks to introduce participants to the academic study of the Middle East and in particular to the theories, considerations and methodological avenues through which the Middle East has been attempted to be studied and analyzed by academics and intellectuals of the Western world, during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, with an emphasis on the last fifty years.

The course discusses the dominant intellectual/theoretical trends and approaches that have emerged in the field of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies, as well as the views that aimed to place

knowledge at the service of power, in other words that were linked to foreign policy and strategy of the Western powers, and mainly the USA.

The course will study texts and opinions about the Middle East and the Islamic world by: Hamilton Gibb, Bernard Lewis, Edward Said, Samuel Huntington, Roger Owen, John Esposito, Peter Mandaville, etc.

- **Mathematical applications in Systemic Geopolitical Analysis (SGA)**

The purpose of the course is the practical application of **Systemic Geopolitical Analysis (SGA)** with both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis, while emphasis is placed on the management and analysis of data and indicators, on the targeted identification of geopolitical systems and complexes and on their identification and analysis.

In particular, an attempt is made to acquaint students with good practices and interdisciplinary approaches in the use of GIS, while data sets and their management are presented. In the complex and ever-changing world we live in, interdisciplinary approaches are a building block for understanding and analyzing international power redistribution trends. In this course, the stages necessary for the construction of complex indicators, the most widespread quantitative methods of data analysis and management (Data Transformation & Weighting, Analytical Hierarchy Process, etc.), as well as important qualitative methods of analysis (Delphi Method, SWOT Analysis) will be presented , PEST/PESTEL, etc.).

- **Geopolitics II: case studies**

The purpose of the course is the targeted identification of geopolitical systems and complexes, their description, highlighting and analysis, with the methodological basis of systemic geopolitical analysis. Also, the purpose is to understand their operation at a suprasystemic level. In particular, the influence they receive and exert on it, through the poles of international power.

The development of the course content concerns seminar applications in the Greater Middle East, the Eastern Mediterranean, Central Asia, the Arctic, with an emphasis on contemporary security challenges and the geopolitics of the Cyprus Issue (Greek Foreign Policy and Cyprus issues during the period 1946- 2018).

- **National identity: theoretical and practical issues**

The purpose of the course is the deeper understanding and familiarization of students with the issues of formation of collective identity, as well as the relations between language and national and/or ethnic identity, language and nationalism, bilingual education, multiculturalism in modern Western society, as a tool to strengthen the validity of the geopolitical model in the context of

systemic geopolitical analysis.

In the systemic geopolitical analysis, the issues of collective identity, the relations of language and national or ethnic identity, language and nationalism, education, as well as the issues of multiculturalism and integration in modern Western society are particularly critical and are part of the 4th pillar of its Methodology: the Culture/Information Pillar. After the aggravation of the immigration issue and the subsequent debate on it, the significant redistribution of power caused by immigration flows in modern Western society, at a systemic, sub-systemic and supra-systemic level, is clearly evident. The course focuses on highlighting the relationship between the entity of power projection and issues of language and collective identity, education of immigrant children, multiculturalism and integration.

3rd Semester (winter)

- **Modern Remote Sensing Technologies for the Observation of the Natural Environment**

The evolution of the natural environment due to natural and anthropogenic pressures in the light of climate change requires the continuous monitoring of natural variables with modern low-cost approaches in order to design interventions and policies, which will contribute to reducing the effects of climate change on the environment, to is optimal.

Monitoring changes in the natural environment due to natural and anthropogenic pressures, especially in light of climate change, requires the use of modern, low-cost technologies. These technologies, such as remote sensing, allow the continuous observation of physical parameters, making possible the optimal design of interventions and policies to reduce the effects of climate change on the environment.

The purpose of the course is to understand and apply modern remote sensing technologies for the observation and study of the natural environment. Remote sensing provides the ability to collect and analyze data from remote areas, enabling the monitoring of changes and the analysis of environmental phenomena on a large scale. The course aims to provide the knowledge and skills required to effectively use remote sensing tools and interpret the resulting data, thus contributing to the understanding and management of the natural environment.

The ultimate goal of the course is for students to understand the basic principles and techniques of remote sensing, to be able to apply their knowledge to real environmental studies and to interpret the data resulting from remote sensing technologies. Students will develop skills in data analysis and processing, as well as in the use of specialized remote sensing software.

- **Space geopolitics-satellite systems**

The course aims to make students capable of understanding the importance of strategic and operational integration of space systems in the conflicting forces of the area under consideration. It also aims to analyze the relationships that develop between allied forces.

The aim is to familiarize students with modern satellite networks, to refer to all the necessary theoretical background, from statistics, trajectories to the analysis of a link, but also to understand the differences from terrestrial networks. Also, the students will come into contact with modern digital technologies and the criteria based on which the design and selection of the basic components of a modern satellite system is made.

The course includes a critical examination of the fundamental principles and data of the Space Power Theory, the relevant international conventions and agreements as well as their effects on the actors in the examined complex. The course also includes an analysis of the technical elements involved in the construction, orbiting and control of space systems. The plans and cases of implementation of space programs in the geopolitical complex are analyzed and the intentions and possibilities of developing a National Space Program are examined. The course concludes with an overall view from a geostrategic point of view regarding the potential changes on the pillars of Geopolitics and the emergence of geostrategic techniques.

- **International diplomacy and strategy**

Purpose of the course: To acquaint students with the fundamental concepts of Power, Nation-State, National Interest, Geopolitics, Diplomacy, International Crises, Decision-Making and Strategy as tools for analyzing and interpreting international developments.

The Course includes examination and analysis of the fundamental principles and concepts of the Theory of Power, International Relations, Strategy and Geopolitics, presentation of the genesis, evolution and importance of Diplomacy, examination of the phenomenon of International Crises and presentation and analysis of various forms of Strategy States, taking into account the perennial geopolitical rivalry between Land/Continental Power and Sea Power as well as with due reference to similar empirical historical examples.

- **Methods of Political discourse analysis**

Purpose of the course: The understanding of the concept of discourse (discourse) and the theoretical and applied presentation of modern empirical methods of its analysis, with a focus on the analysis of extreme and radical (political) discourse.

"Political discourse analysis", in its modern empirical version, combines concepts of Critical Discourse Analysis, Argumentation theory and Corpus Linguistics. In the context of the course, the

basic conceptual and methodological background of the three fields will be presented, with a focus on extreme and radical discourse analysis.

- **Postgraduate Diploma Thesis**

The students are required to prepare a Master's Thesis (15,000 words) on a subject related to the field of knowledge of the Inter-Institutional Program of Graduate Studies. The assignment and preparation of a postgraduate diploma thesis takes place after the completion of attendance and the successful examination of all the courses of the study program.

Diploma Thesis is individual, original, must be of a research nature and must be written in accordance with the writing instructions posted on Program's website.

Diploma Thesis can be written in Greek or in English, after the relevant approval of the Study Program Committee.

The minimum grade that can be promoted is established by the Regulation on 6/10.