GDAŃSK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Subject card

Subject name and code	Great power politics and strategic interests , PG_00073964		
Field of study	Management		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	first-cycle studies	Subject group	Optional subject group
Mode of study	Full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	3	Language of instruction	English English
Semester of study	6	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	general academic profile	Assessment form	assessment
Conducting unit	Department of Philosophy and Science Methodology -> Faculty of Management and Economics -> Faculties of Gdańsk University of Technology		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr inż. Izabela Borucińska	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	15.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	5.0	15.0	50

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to prepare students to identify, analyse and critically evaluate the strategic interests of great powers and the means employed to pursue them, with particular emphasis on international rivalry and cooperation, changes in the global balance of power, and their implications for economies and business operations, while developing students' ability to use digital technologies for data analysis and to formulate and present conclusions based on reliable sources of information.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[K6_U02] prepares and delivers persuasive verbal and written presentations	Is able to prepare and deliver persuasive oral presentations and written analyses concerning the strategic interests of great powers and their rivalry and cooperation, formulating and justifying assessments, positions and recommendations based on reliable data and sources of information	[SU5] Assessment of ability to present the results of task
[K6_U07] uses information technology to improve data analysis and decision-making processes	Is able to analyse and compare the capabilities and strategic interests of great powers and assess the implications of their rivalry and cooperation for economies and businesses, using appropriately selected digital technologies to collect, analyse and visualise data and support decision-making processes.	[SU1] Assessment of task fulfilment

Subject contents

Course content – lecture

1. Introduction: Why Great Power Politics Matters for Business
2. Theories of Great Power Politics
3. Power, Strategic Interests and Great Power Rivalry in Contemporary International Relations
4. The United States: Strategic Interests and Global Leadership in the Twenty-First Century
5. China's Rise and Global Ambitions
6. Russia as a Revisionist Power: Security, Resources and International Influence
7. France and Germany: Security and Leadership in Europe
8. The United Kingdom: Strategic Interests and Global Ambitions after Brexit
9. Japan Beyond the Economic Miracle: Strategic Power in a Changing World Order
10. India and the Future of Global Economic Growth
11. Emerging Powers of the Global South: Brazil, Mexico and South Africa
12. Regional Integration and Strategic Competition: The European Union, ASEAN and BRICS+ in a Changing Global Order
13. Global Crisis Simulation: Decision-Making in an Era of Geopolitical Uncertainty
14. Geopolitical Risk Management: Strategies for Governments and Businesses
15. The Future of the International Order

Course content – exercises

1. Introduction: Why Great Power Politics Matters for Business
2. Theories of Great Power Politics
3. Power, Strategic Interests and Great Power Rivalry in Contemporary International Relations
4. The United States: Strategic Interests and Global Leadership in the Twenty-First Century
5. China's Rise and Global Ambitions
6. Russia as a Revisionist Power: Security, Resources and International Influence
7. France and Germany: Security and Leadership in Europe
8. The United Kingdom: Strategic Interests and Global Ambitions after Brexit
9. Japan Beyond the Economic Miracle: Strategic Power in a Changing World Order
10. India and the Future of Global Economic Growth
11. Emerging Powers of the Global South: Brazil, Mexico and South Africa
12. Regional Integration and Strategic Competition: The European Union, ASEAN and BRICS+ in a Changing Global Order
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Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Weekly Geopolitical Briefing	60.0%	20.0%
In-class Presentations of solutions to problem-based tasks	60.0%	45.0%
Written expert commentary for an online think tank	60.0%	35.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

Caldara, D., & Iacoviello, M. (2022). *Measuring Geopolitical Risk.* American Economic Review, 112(4), 1194–1225

Haroche, P. (2024). *Geoeconomic Power Europe: When Global Power Competition Drives EU Integration.* JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies, 62(4), 938–954.

Mitra, S. K., Schottli, J., & Pauli, M. (2023). *Statecraft and Foreign Policy: India, 1947–2023.* DCU Press.

Mokry, S. (2024). *Grand strategy and the construction of the national interest: The underpinnings of Sino-US strategic competition.* International Politics, 61, 742–760

Schindler, S., & Rolf, S. (2025). *Geostrategic globalization: US–China rivalry, corporate strategy, and the new global economy.* Globalizations, 22(6), 897–914.

	Supplementary literature	Alden, C., & Schoeman, M. (2025). *Being Africa's BRIC(S): South Africa's foreign policy turn from 'Neo-Liberalism' to the 'New Era'.* South African Journal of International Affairs, 32(1–2), 71–90. Bradford, A. (2012). The Brussels Effect. *Northwestern University Law Review, 107*(1), 1–68. Göransson, M. B. (2024). *Russia's thinking on new wars and its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.* Defence Studies, 24(3), 449–471. Hadfield, A., & Whitman, R. G. (2023). *The diplomacy of 'Global Britain': Settling, safeguarding and seeking status.* International Politics. He, K., & Feng, H. (2025). *International relations theory and US–China competition: A theoretical exploration.* The British Journal of Politics and International Relations. Publikacja online O'Shea, P., & Maslow, S. (2024). *Rethinking change in Japan's security policy: Punctuated equilibrium theory and Japan's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.* Policy Studies, 45(3–4), 653–676.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	What factors shape the strategic interests of contemporary great powers, and how do they influence the choice of instruments used to pursue these interests? Explain using the examples of two selected countries. How does strategic rivalry between the United States and China affect the international business environment and corporate decision-making? Analyse selected mechanisms of influence and propose possible managerial responses. To what extent could the growing influence of emerging and regional powers reshape the current global balance of power? Assess the role of selected countries and international cooperation frameworks, such as BRICS+ and ASEAN.	
Practical activites within the subject	Not applicable	

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