



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



NatoLin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S)/ STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (Study Track: European Security and Strategy)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies - European Security and Strategy)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

Geo-economics

SEMESTER

1

PROFESSOR(S)

WIGELL Mikael

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

KIVI Emmi-Ilona

COURSE TYPE

Contextual Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

0

TEACHING HOURS

10

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

10

TUTORIAL(S)

0

COEFFICIENT

0

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course equips students with the conceptual tools and analytical frameworks to understand and critically assess the rise of geoeconomics as a defining feature of international relations in the 21st century. It explores how states and firms deploy geoeconomic strategies, the structural forces driving the geoeconomic turn, and the implications for global order.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- 1) Define and explain the concept of geoeconomics and its evolution (ESSST4);
- 2) Identify and analyze key strategies of geoeconomic statecraft (A5, MATA1.6);
- 3) Evaluate the structural forces reshaping the global economy (A5);
- 4) Assess how companies act as geoeconomic actors, both responding to and shaping state strategies (ESSST4); and
- 5) Interpret the implications of geoeconomics for the future of world order (A5, MATA1.6).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Please read the following background readings before the first session:

R. D. Blackwill and J. M. Harris, War by Other Means: Geoeconomics and Statecraft. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2016. Please read 'What Is Geoeconomics' (Chapter 1).

C. Pfeiffer, *Goeconomics in International Relations: Neorealist and Neoliberal Conceptualizations*. Routledge, 2023. Please read 'Introduction to Goeconomics' (Chapter 1).

M. Leonard (ed.), *Connectivity Wars: Why Migration, Finance and Trade Are the Geo-economic Battlegrounds of the Future*. European Council of Foreign Relations, 2016. Please read 'Introduction: Connectivity Wars' (Chapter 1).

E. N. Luttwak, 'From Geopolitics to Geo-economics: Logic of Conflict, Grammar of Commerce'. *The National Interest* 20, pp. 17-23, 1990.

M. Wigell, S. Sholvin, and M. Aaltola (eds.), *Geo-economics and Power Politics in the 21st Century: The Revival of Economic Statecraft*. Routledge, 2018. Please read 'Geo-economic power politics: an introduction' (Chapter 1).

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures and in-class discussion.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

The course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis based on:

1. A digital onsite multiple-choice, closed-book test (80% of the final score) at the end of the final course session - 15 minutes to answer 7 questions, and
2. overall attendance (20% of the final score).

The weighted average of both assessment elements needs to be equal to or greater than 50% for a student to pass the course. Each student is entitled to retake the test once. The retake test will account for 80% of the final score, while overall attendance will account for the remaining 20%.

COURSE CONTENTS

The course traces the rise of goeconomics as a defining logic of international affairs. It begins by introducing the concept of goeconomics, its historical roots, and its growing prominence in global politics. It then examines how states deploy goeconomic statecraft through strategies of coercion, binding, wedging, and hedging.

Building on this foundation, the course explores the structural forces driving the goeconomic turn, including digitalization, decarbonization, weaponization, securitization, and the balkanization of the global economy, as well as the shift from market capitalism to strategic capitalism. A dedicated session addresses the role of corporations as goeconomic actors, focusing on state-business relations, goeconomic risk management, and how to evaluate goeconomic preparedness for businesses.

The course concludes by analyzing the implications of goeconomics for world order, with particular emphasis on the oscillation between goeconomics and geopolitics, and the prospects for stability or fragmentation in the international system.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

The course draws on a mix of scholarly readings, policy reports, and podcasts.