SYLLABUS

EC407E_0108_26

Geo-economy

ACADEMIC AREA :	**FINANCE AND GEOPOLITICS**
PROGRAMME :	**PGE**
PERIOD :	**FALL**
COORDINATOR :	**Ms. Pauline WEIL**
INSTRUCTOR(S) :	**Mr. Antoine GILLOD** **Mr. Didier DANET**
CONTACT HOURS :	**Ms. Léa DAUPHAS** **Ms. Pauline WEIL**
STUDY TIME :	**15.0 hours**
CREDITS :	**null hours (Class preparation, homework and assessments)**
	2.0 ECTS
AOL :	**NO**

PRE-REQUISITE MODULES :

None

MODULE DESCRIPTION :

This course explores geo-economics, the strategic use of economic tools by states and corporations to pursue geopolitical objectives. Students will analyze trade wars, sanctions, technological rivalries, and resource control as part of modern global power dynamics. The course bridges international business strategy with political economy, helping future managers and policymakers navigate an increasingly fragmented world.

CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OBJECTIVES :

- Connect (eco) Systems to develop a sustainable strategic vision to navigate complex transformations #ConnectSystems

MODULE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILOs) :

• Understand the current rulebook of geopolitical confrontation through analysis of real-world cases.
Measurable professional skill: Anticipate impacts on businesses.

• Have a policy and public good outlook on global challenges.
Measurable professional skill: Analyze how private and public interests interact.

• Apprehend stakes surrounding critical strategic resources.
Measurable professional skill: Evaluation and risk approach to international value chain strategy.

TOPICS COVERED :

Session 1: Basics of geoeconomic confrontation

Session 2: Sources of power in the 21st century - Looking at three superpowers

Session 3: Interpendencies: strategic sectors and global public goods

Session 4: Implications of national political economy

Session 5: Group Presentations and Debate

RESEARCH-LED TEACHING :

Incorporation of contemporary news articles, data from IMF, WTO, World Bank, and OECD, and real-time case studies from Financial Times and The Economist.

CSR AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS :

SDGs Addressed: SDG 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17

Integration: Ethical analysis of sanctions, debt diplomacy, tech ethics, and corporate governance.
Hours Dedicated: ~3 hours

CSR NB HOURS :

10

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS COVERED :

- 07 - Affordable and clean energy
- 08 - Decent work and economic growth
- 09 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- 10 - Reduced inequalities
- 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- 13 - Climate action
- 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- 17 - Partnership for the goals

TEACHING METHODS :

• Interactive lectures with real-world cases
• Independent and duo work
• Group simulations and workshops
• Use of Moodle for support materials

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT :

Continuous/Final	Group/Individual	Assessment	Weight	Duration	ILOs assessed
Continuous	Individual	Written Assessment in class	10%	15 Minutes	All
Continuous	Individual	Written Assessment in class	10%	15 Minutes	All
Continuous	Individual	Written Assessment in class	10%	15 Minutes	All
Continuous	Group	Oral Assessment	20%	30 Minutes	All
Final	Individual	Final written exam	50%	2 Heures	All

Assessment 1 details:

Session 2

Activity: in duo, explain to one another the readings. Take a few minutes to write down comments and submit on Moodle.

Followed by group debate
- Submit: comments from conversation in class. Questions when reading at home. Comments on summary given by an AI.

Assessment 2 details:

Session 3

Activity: in duo, explain to one another the readings. Take a few minutes to write down comments and submit on Moodle. Followed by group debate
- Submit: comments from conversation in class. Questions when reading at home. Comments on summary given by an AI.

Assessment 3 details:

Session 4

Activity: in duo, explain to one another the readings. Take a few minutes to write down comments and submit on Moodle. Followed by group debate
- Submit: comments from conversation in class. Questions when reading at home. Comments on summary given by an AI.

Assessment 4 details:

Group presentation and debates

Assessment 5 details:

Written exam questions

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY :

Academic integrity at Rennes SB is about sharing a set of values and practices promoting intellectual honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility in all aspects of learning, studying and researching. Upholding academic integrity is key to maintaining the reputation of the student and the ultimate value of Rennes SB Degrees. Students are expected to demonstrate these values when submitting assessed work.

Academic misconduct is defined as gaining or attempting to gain an unfair academic advantage for yourself or for others during formal assessments. The following are examples of academic misconduct:

· Cheating
· Plagiarism
· Falsification
· Gaining an unfair advantage
· Assisting others in committing academic misconduct, such as by using generative AI
· Falsification of records or official documents
· Unauthorised access to restricted information or data
· Unauthorised or unethical use of generative AI

Academic misconduct is a serious offense and can result in consequences such as module failure, research project failure, or even exclusion from Rennes SB. To prevent unintentional academic misconduct, it is essential to read and comply with the Rennes SB Academic Integrity Policy for Assessments (available on RISE). Regarding use of AI in learning and assessment please consult your professor for specific instructions pertaining to this module.

BIBLIOGRAPHY :

Required Reading:

• Mandatory readings for Session 2:
The real cost of geoeconomic confrontation: The prices people pay; World Economic Forum; May 7 2026
https://www.weforum.org/stories/global-risks/real-cost-geoeconomic-confrontation-price-people-pay/

How Companies Can Navigate Today's Geopolitical Risks; Harvard Business Review; November 28 2022
https://archive.ph/T848O

• Mandatory reading for Session 3:
Case study: TSMC: Chip Manufacturing in the Era of AI
https://www.thecasecentre.org/products/view?id=207438

• Mandatory reading for Session 4:
Case study: Nord Stream 2: A Choice Between Control or Operating
https://www.thecasecentre.org/products/view?id=186764

Additional Reading

Supplementary Reading:
• Blackwill, R. D., & Harris, J. M. (2016). War by Other Means. The Belknap Press
• Harvard Business Review: Managing Geopolitical Risk.
• Zakaria, F. (2008). The Post-American World, Ch. 4. W. W. Norton & Company
• Farrell, H., & Newman, A. (2019). The Uses and Abuses of Weaponized Interdependence. Brookings Institution Press. [eBook available https://learning-center.rennes-sb.com/s.php?h=b6cedfa75feea7d7c5c4ffd83dc6df21]

MODULE PLAN SESSIONS :

Plan Session 01 :

Session 1: Basics of geoeconomic confrontation

Content:
- Historical perspective: geopolitics to geoconomics
- Map of hotspots
- Main actors: states, firms, international organizations, ngos.
- Introduction to a risk approach (trilemma) for nations and firms: political, economic, sustainability risks
- Debate about real life examples

Activity: In small groups choose a firm and map geoeconomic exposure

Support: Slide deck, group activity, map.

Plan Session 02 :

Session 2: Sources of power in the 21st century - Looking at three superpowers

Content:
- Debate about sources of power
- Mapping out power: hard, soft, sharp
- Mapping out geoeconomic tools: weaponization of economic relations, sanctions, tariffs, aid and conditionality
- Case study: proxy wars - mention of Gaza - work on war in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia
- Introduction for strategic sectors and dual use goods for next week

Activity: in duo, explain to one another the readings. Take a few minutes to write down comments and submit on Moodle. Followed by group debate
- Submit: comments from conversation in class. Questions when reading at home. Comments on summary given by an AI.

Mandatory readings for Session 2:
The real cost of geoeconomic confrontation: The prices people pay; World Economic Forum; May 7 2026
https://www.weforum.org/stories/global-risks/real-cost-geoeconomic-confrontation-price-people-pay/

How Companies Can Navigate Today’s Geopolitical Risks; Harvard Business Review; November 28 2022

https://archive.ph/T848O

Plan Session 03 :

Session 3: Interpendencies: strategic sectors and global public goods

- Trilemma: security, economy, sustainability
- Strategic sectors and dual use goods: high technology, energy, weapons, food, medical supplies
- Interpendencies: mapping out energy dependencies, European energy dependence on Russia, trade wars
- Climate: challenge of managing global public goods
- Impact on firms

Mandatory reading for Session 3:
Case study: TSMC: Chip Manufacturing in the Era of AI
https://www.thecasecentre.org/products/view?id=207438

Activity: in duo, explain to one another the readings. Take a few minutes to write down comments and submit on Moodle. Followed by group debate
- Submit: comments from conversation in class. Questions when reading at home. Comments on summary given by an AI.

Plan Session 04 :

Session 4: Implications of national political economy

- Basics of institutions in the EU, US, China
- Differences in decision processes for trade and geoconomic policies
- Impact of internal economic and political constraints
- Integrating with concepts of strategic sectors and geoeconomic confrontation tools

Mandatory reading for Session 4:
Case study: Nord Stream 2: A Choice Between Control or Operating
https://www.thecasecentre.org/products/view?id=186764

Activity: in duo, explain to one another the readings. Take a few minutes to write down comments and submit on Moodle. Followed by group debate
- Submit: comments from conversation in class. Questions when reading at home. Comments on summary given by an AI.

Plan Session 05 :

Session 5: Group Presentations and Debate