

Geopolitics and Geoeconomics in a Multipolar World

The course *Geopolitics and Geoeconomics in a Multipolar World*, taught by Antonia Colibasanu, examines how shifting power structures are reshaping the global system in the 21st century. As the international order moves away from a unipolar moment toward a more fragmented and competitive multipolar landscape, the course explores how states and non-state actors deploy economic tools, strategic positioning, and political influence to pursue their interests.

Students are introduced to key concepts in both geopolitics and geoeconomics, as well as to classical geopolitical theory, including the foundational ideas of Halford Mackinder, Alfred Thayer Mahan, and Nicholas Spykman. Alongside these theoretical foundations, the course emphasizes the use of specific analytical frameworks that enable students to interpret complex global developments in a structured and rigorous way. A strong focus is placed on the intersection between geography, power, and economic behavior.

The course analyzes how supply chains, energy routes, financial systems, and technological competition are increasingly used as instruments of strategic leverage. Particular attention is given to the role of major powers such as the United States, China, and the European Union, as well as emerging regional actors navigating complex dependencies and rivalries.

By combining theoretical frameworks with real-world analysis, it equips students with practical and transferable skills: the ability to assess geopolitical risk, analyze geoeconomic strategies, interpret complex international developments, and apply structured analytical models to policy (but also business) decision-making. Students will develop critical thinking, strategic foresight, and the capacity to navigate uncertainty in an increasingly complex global environment, preparing them for careers in international affairs, consulting, finance, and risk analysis.