



## Course Syllabus

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>ECTS Credits</b>
IREL-478	Great Power Politics in the Eastern Mediterranean	6
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Semester</b>
IREL-101	Politics and Governance	Fall or Spring
<b>Type of Course</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>Language of Instruction</b>
Core	International Relations	English
<b>Level of Course</b>	<b>Lecturer(s)</b>	<b>Year of Study</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle	Dr. Michalis Kontos	4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	<b>Work Placement</b>	<b>Corequisites</b>
Conventional	N/A	N/A

### Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are:

- To introduce students to the study of great power politics in the 2nd half of the 20th and in the 21st centuries
- To provide students with a thorough understanding of the theoretical framework related with the particularities of the great powers' foreign policy and grand strategy
- To analyze the meaning and the use of related concepts and analytical tools like power, "hard power" vs "soft power", power indicators, hegemony, hegemonism, balance of power, back passing, balancing, offshore balancing, coercion, coercive diplomacy, deterrence, containment, grand strategy etc
- To develop students' ability in assessing policies implemented and strategic objectives pursued by great powers within a theoretical framework
- To critically assess the foreign policy decisions and strategies of the United Kingdom in the Eastern Mediterranean in the post-World War II and the post-Cold War era
- To critically assess the foreign policy decisions and strategies of the United States in the Eastern Mediterranean in the post-World War II and the post-Cold War era
- To critically assess the foreign policy decisions and strategies of the Soviet Union/Russian Federation in the Eastern Mediterranean in the post-World War II and the post-Cold War era
- To analyze and discuss the Chinese "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) and its potential ramifications on the Eastern Mediterranean regional environment
- To critically assess the contemporary role of the European Union in the Eastern Mediterranean and its capacity to act as a regional power and/or great power

**Learning Outcomes:**

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary great powers and their particular characteristics
- Illustrate an understanding of theoretical and analytical frameworks that may be applied when analyzing great power politics
- Illustrate a familiarity and capacity to make effective use of concepts and analytical tools that pertain to great power politics
- Demonstrate knowledge of a wide spectrum of policies and strategies implemented by great powers in the Eastern Mediterranean
- Critically assess foreign policy decisions and strategies of great powers in the Eastern Mediterranean
- Evaluate the effectiveness of foreign policy decisions and strategies of great powers in the Eastern Mediterranean
- Illustrate oral and written communication skills in the formulation of conceptual problems and organize the available time and cope with deadlines
- Use IT skills as study and communication tools
- Have the learning skills to allow them to continue education in a self-directed manner and to work on an academic level within the intended professional field
- Make efficient use of libraries, bibliographical material and academic research

**Course Content:**

Introduction: theory and concepts

Theoretical perspectives and levels of analysis

The concept and the indicators of “power”: from “hard power” and “soft power” to “smart power”

Great power politics: foreign policy and grand strategy as analytical frameworks

Hegemony vs. balance of power: why do great powers engage in offshore adventures?

Attributes and limitations of great power foreign policy and strategy options towards lesser powers

Strategies of great powers: war, blackmail and coercion, balancing and buck-passing (and variants)

The Eastern Mediterranean regional framework as a field of great power politics and competition: the post-World War II and the post-Cold War periods and their characteristics

The United Kingdom in the Eastern Mediterranean

The Suez Canal crisis

The Cyprus problem and the British Sovereign Bases

The United States in the Eastern Mediterranean  
The Truman Doctrine and the strategy of containment  
The Palestinian question and the “special relationship” with Israel  
The Cyprus problem  
Contemporary relations with Turkey  
Contemporary relations with Greece  
The US and the Syrian conflict  
Energy-related affairs and the Trilateral partnerships  
The Soviet Union and the Russian Federation in the Eastern Mediterranean  
The Soviet Union and the Cyprus problem  
Contemporary relations between the Russian Federation, Greece and Cyprus  
Contemporary relations between the Russian Federation and Turkey  
Russia and the Syrian conflict  
The People’s Republic of China and the “Belt and Road Initiative”  
Is the European Union a regional power in the Eastern Mediterranean or a great power?

**Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:**

Lectures, discussion, assignments, personal guidance

**Assessment Methods:**

Midterm examination, research essay, oral presentation, attendance and participation, final examination

**Readings:**

John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, W. W. Norton & Company, 2001  
Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of Great Powers*, Vintage, 1989  
Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics*, Cambridge University Press, 1983

Aaron Klieman, *Great Powers and Geopolitics: International Affairs in a Rebalancing World*, Springer, 2015

Sergei Smolnikov, *Great Power Conduct and Credibility in World Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2018

T. V. Paul, *Restraining Great Powers: Soft Balancing from Empires to the Global Era*, Yale University Press, 2018

Joseph S. Nye Jr., *The Powers to Lead: Soft, Hard and Smart*, OUP USA, 2008

T. V. Paul, *Balance of Power: Theory and Practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Stanford University Press, 2004

Robert O. Keohane, *AfterHegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World PoliticalEconomy*, Princeton University Press, 2005

Paul Kennedy, *Grand Strategies in War and Peace*, Yale University Press, 1992

Zenonas Tziarras (ed.), *The New Geopolitics of the Eastern Mediterranean*, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung/PRIO, 2019

Michalis Kontos, Sozos-Christos Theodoulou, Nicos Panayiotides, HaralambosAlexandrou (eds.), *Great Power Politics in Cyprus: Foreign Interventions and Domestic Perceptions*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014

Spyridon N. Litsas, Aristotle Tziampiris (eds.), *The Eastern Mediterranean in Transition: Multipolarity, Politics and Power*, Routledge, 2015

Spyridon N. Litsas, Aristotle Tziampiris (eds.), *The New Eastern Mediterranean: Theory, Politics and States in a Volatile Era*, Springer, 2018

John B. Alterman, Heather A. Conley, Haim Malka, DonatienneRuy, *Restoring the Eastern Mediterranean as a U.S. Strategic Anchor*, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2018

Anna Borshchevskaya, Mohamed Eljarh, *Russia in the Mediterranean : Strategies and Aspirations*, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 2018

Zhang, Wenxian, Alon, Ilan, Lattemann, Christoph (eds.), *China's Belt and Road Initiative: Changing the Rules of Globalization*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2018

Leigh Hancher, Antonis Metaxas (eds.) *Transformation of EU and Eastern Mediterranean Energy Networks: Legal, Regulatory and Geopolitical Challenges (European Energy Studies)*, Claeys& Casteels Publishing, 2019