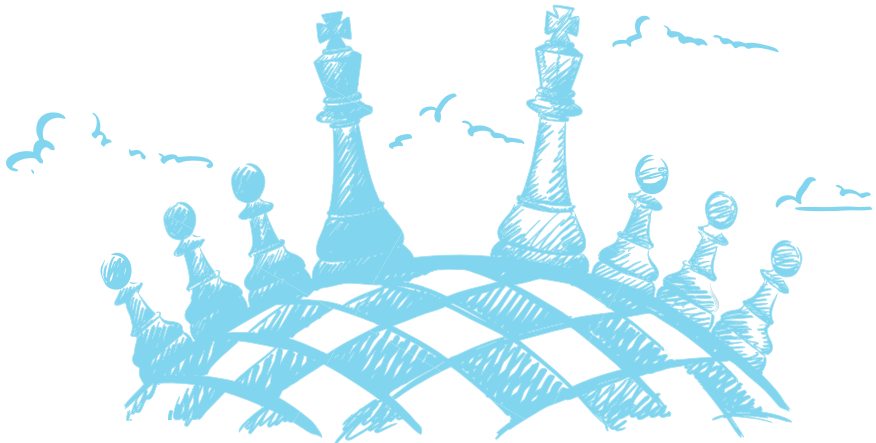


# GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST



# THE NEW GREAT GAME OF GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION BETWEEN MAJOR POWERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Get involved in Lebanese and international political and diplomatic processes in the Middle East with this online course from the Higher Institute of Political and Administrative Sciences (ISSPA)-School of Law and Political Sciences and USEK Continuing Learning Center (UCLC) specifically targeted at future political leaders, representatives, envoys, ambassadors, and consuls.

This distance learning geopolitics course will give you exposure to the geopolitical dynamics which affect the Middle East, and Lebanon in particular, as well as explain how Lebanon has become a crucial part on the geo-strategic

chessboard, and why it is on the agendas of the U.S. and European Union. Through tailored training, delivered in English and in line with the needs of the current labor market, you will expand your knowledge of the Middle East, understand the main geopolitical factors that shape regional politics and the role of the Great Powers in the region, learn new techniques in the field, and develop your skills in negotiation, decision-making, and consultation.



## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

**100 percent online** via the Moodle learning management system (<http://elearning.usek.edu.lb>)

Taught by **3 campus faculty members** and **1 external expert**

Lasts for **8 weeks** – the equivalent of **30 hours of learning**


Equivalent value of **2 university credits**

Open to students and professionals **over 21 yrs**



## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This training opens up the possibility of pursuing a career in diplomacy, defense, and consultancy for national and international companies that deal with issues of security, peace and risk management, domestic politics, international and regional organizations (United Nations, NATO, OSCE, the Arab League, etc.), non-governmental organizations, political marketing, war and conflict correspondence, etc. This course is for anyone interested in knowing more about the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East and the great changes occurring in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean and in the Gulf region.





## SYLLABUS

SESSION	TOPIC	PROFESSOR
<b>WEEK 1</b>	Presentation of the course and explanation of the basic concepts: geopolitics, strategy, geostrategy, security, etc.	<b>Dr. Francisco Barroso</b> USEK
<b>WEEK 2</b>	The Middle East in the agenda of the United States of America	<b>Dr. Joseph Kechichian</b> Faisal Center
<b>WEEK 3</b>	Russia in the Middle East: security, energy, geopolitical influence and performance	<b>Dr. Joseph Kechichian</b> Faisal Center
<b>WEEK 4</b>	Geopolitics of Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)	<b>Dr. Joseph Kechichian</b> Faisal Center
<b>WEEK 5</b>	The role of Turkey in the Middle East	<b>Dr. Joseph Kechichian</b> Faisal Center
<b>WEEK 6</b>	Geopolitical dilemmas of the 'State of Israel'	<b>Dr. Jennifer Layoun</b> USEK
<b>WEEK 7</b>	The European Union in the current Geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East	<b>Dr. Nassif Hitti</b> USEK
<b>WEEK 8</b>	Future perspectives for Lebanon in the geopolitics of the Middle East	<b>Dr. Nassif Hitti and</b> <b>Dr. Francisco Barroso</b> USEK



## OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE COURSE

At the end of this course, students will acquire:

- Knowledge of the various definitions of geostrategy and geopolitics and their implications for the field of international relations.
  - An understanding of the linkages among international relations, political science, security and defense studies, regional studies, history, political and economic geography, geopolitics, geoeconomics and geostrategy.
  - Familiarity with theories of the state as a geographical and political unit, such as geopolitics.
  - An understanding of the elements and nature of power, power analysis, and power projection in the world of politics, to include not only the traditional nation-state as an actor, but also contemporary non-state phenomena, such as Hezbollah, the Islamic State, and the environment as geostrategic factors.
  - An understanding of the geopolitical dynamics registered in the Middle East and the geopolitical behavior of the regional and external potencies and Great Powers (U.S.A, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, etc.)
  - An awareness of the geostrategic implications related to contemporary international relations issues (international migrations, globalization, international terrorism, etc.)
  - Competence in reading, understanding, and analyzing articles of varying complexity on geopolitics.
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## FLEXIBILITY

This exclusively online course means you can study and work at the same time and at your own pace, allowing you to boost your career and academic experience. The course is open to students over 21 years of age, teachers, members of the diplomatic corps, security and defense personnel, business professionals, and all those interested in knowing more about the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East and the great changes occurring in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean and in the Gulf region.

Evaluation and Grading System: You will submit a final paper at the end of the course focused on a specific geopolitical risk discussed during the course. Throughout the course, you will be expected to participate in peer review activities, group discussions, simulations, risk factor analysis, mapping conflicts, etc.

## CERTIFICATE

A certificate will be delivered jointly by ISSPA and UCLC to students who complete successfully the course.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be 21 years old or above and preferably from the field of social sciences: political science, law, international relations, sociology, history, philosophy, etc.
- Professional candidates who can demonstrate the validity and usefulness of the course for their job will also be considered.

## START DATE

Start of course:  
First Week of November 2019

Cost:  
\$450

For application and registration:  
Please contact the UCLC via email [uclc@usek.edu.lb](mailto:uclc@usek.edu.lb) or via phone on 00961 9 600 821

