

## Course Outline

<b>Course number</b>	<b>RBE317</b>				
<b>Course title</b>	<b>Geo-economics</b>				
<b>Credit points</b>	3 ECTS (2 LV)				
<b>Total hours</b>	80				
<b>Contact hours</b>	32				
<b>Independent studies</b>	48				
<b>Course level</b>	Bachelor				
<b>Prerequisites</b>	-				
<b>Category</b>	Mandatory		Restricted elective	X	Free elective

### COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Tjaco Theo van den Hout	LLM	Professorial Fellow*

\*Jan Ramberg Distinguished Visiting Professorial Fellow

### COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Tjaco Theo van den Hout	LLM	Professorial Fellow*

### COURSE ABSTRACT

This course introduces students to the concept of geo-economics and the field of economic statecraft. It will explore how changes in the international environment have affected foreign policy decisions and the ways in which States increasingly practice power politics by economic means. Seven economic tools are considered suitable to geo-strategic application: trade policy, investment policy, economic and financial sanctions, cyber, aid, financial and monetary policy, and energy and commodities. Each carries its own leading cast of countries and institutions and its own levers of State control and determinants of success. All will be covered in this course. Some academics consider geo-economics to be a genus of geopolitics. Others see the former more as an evolutionary transformation of the latter — a position that will be challenged in this course. Teaching is based on the (U.S. law school version

of the) “Socratic method”. As a consequence the course is highly interactive — blurring the distinction between lecture and seminar.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course has the following main objectives:

### **Knowledge:**

1. Students will familiarise themselves thoroughly with the term Geo-economics: they will learn the different ways in which it is used and the context in which it is applied. They will also have an understanding which instruments of economic statecraft States can use to achieve their strategic objectives.

### **Skills:**

2. In addition to the knowledge gained, students practice and hone their skills in discussing the various issues that have been raised in the course — both in writing and in class room debates.

### **Competencies:**

3. The teaching method (see above) challenges students to apply their skills to the specific knowledge gained. The course’s grading criteria (below) will assure that those challenges are taken seriously.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

<b><i>Criteria</i></b>	<b><i>Weighting</i></b>
Assignments and class participation	25%
Tests	25%
Final Exam	50%

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Assignments and Class Participation (ACP) together account for 25% of the course grade. The grade for the first element is determined by timely submission of assignments. Assignments are graded with a Pass (7) or Fail (3). Non-submission automatically leads to a Fail (3). The second element is class participation. Students who attend class receive an automatic Pass (7) and, if they are active in classroom discussions, can achieve a higher grade at the discretion of the teacher.

The Tests which are also graded with a Pass (7) or Fail (3). Tests are meant as a didactic tool for students to test their knowledge but also, importantly, help them prepare for the Final Exam. The average test score constitutes another 25% of the course grade.

(In calculating the course grade, the grades for ACP and Tests are averaged (by dividing their sum by 2) after which they then account for 50% of the course grade.)

There are two conditions to be able to sit for the Final Exam. First, students must, as a rule, have attended at least 12 of the 16 classes (exemptions from this rule are, however, possible). Second, by Friday of the week prior to the Final Exam, all outstanding assignments must be submitted. The Final Exam tests students' knowledge of all material covered during the course and accounts for the remaining 50% of the course grade.

#### **COURSE PLAN - MAIN SUBJECTS**

<b>No.</b>	<b><i>Main subjects</i></b>	<b><i>Planned hours</i></b>
1	Defining the concept of geo-economics	8
2	Exploring the instruments of economic statecraft	12
3	Economic sanctions	6
4	Cases	4
5	Recap and exam preparation	2