

Module Details	
Module Title	Power Shifts: Regional and Global Challenges
Module Code	PES5029-B
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 5

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	11
Seminars	11
Directed Study	178

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2

Module Aims
This module is designed to provide an understanding and in-depth empirical knowledge of the shifting dynamics of global power relations and the implications for international security.

## Outline Syllabus

The module introduces the concepts of power, security and hegemony in the context of global security and subsequently of US national security since the end of the Cold War. It will explore competing frameworks for analysing and understanding policy, focusing especially on the Obama and Trump administrations. It will examine the emergence of the 'grand strategies' of political realism, liberal internationalism and primacy/neo-conservatism and the relationship between US values and national interests. The module will discuss the evolving pattern of relations between the United States and Russia, provide an in-depth analysis of the strategic relationship between the powers with very large nuclear arsenals, and assess the efforts to develop a non-adversarial relationship conducive to global stability as well as the rising tensions and divergence of interest in recent years. There will be detailed analysis of the security challenges to Europe after the Cold War, the evolution of the structure and strategic policy of the NATO alliance, the role of European security and defence cooperation and Europe as an actor and ally in global security. This will include a study of changes in Russian policy towards Europe, the Ukraine crisis and the perceptions of an increasing threat to European security. In relation to East Asia, the module will provide a detailed understanding of the geopolitics of the region with the rise of China, and the potential sources of conflict such as Taiwan, the Korean peninsula and the territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The rise of the BRICS will be discussed in the context of their potential significance for the power shifts in the international system. Finally the module will consider the role of non-state actors and the impact of international terrorism on the way in which the major powers are redefining national security and their relations with the Middle East.

## Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Apply and combine concepts, theories and methods from international relations, politics, peace studies, security studies and other relevant social sciences and humanities to the analysis of power, security and hegemony in the context of global security.
02	Apply relevant concepts, theories and methods to the analysis of geopolitics and contemporary global security, demonstrating an understanding of the complexity of these challenges and critical engagement with relevant international policy debates.
03	Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics, international relations and security studies to analyse the development, implementation and effectiveness of the normative, legal and institutional frameworks of the interactions between major powers.
04	Explain complex concepts and theories in a concise, confident and accurate manner.
05	Systematically review academic debates, clearly distinguishing and explaining the main contending theoretical perspectives, showing awareness of key differences in reasoning.
06	Exercise critical judgement, through distinguishing strengths and limitations in academic theories and research evidence.
07	Recognise and discuss relationships between knowledge practices and the forms and operations of power.
08	Use concepts and theories to analyse case studies that amplify relevant issues and debates pertinent to the study of geopolitics.

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

The classes for the module will contain different types of activities including: lectures, discussion sessions, and group work, some of which may be online. You will take part in small group discussion related to your preparatory reading, group presentations and individual presentation on the different topics of the module.

The aim of the assessment strategy is to promote and review the progressive achievement of learning outcomes. This is achieved through the following:

- Weekly tasks are designed to allow and encourage you to demonstrate your achievement of the learning outcomes in different formats, thus broadening your skills and fostering a more inclusive curriculum.
- Formative assessment includes in-class presentations on the academic literature relating to specific topics based on written notes.
- For summative assessment, you will submit an essay at the end of the semester.

## Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Essay (3400-3600)	100%
Formative	Coursework	Literature Review	N/A

## Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

*Please note:*

*This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.*

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