

# Geopolitics: The United States in the World during the Trump Era

## Language

English

## Mode

**Classes:** online (synchronous mode). Additional materials and/or activities will be made available to students.

**Final exam:** in person

## Course content and objectives

This course examines contemporary U.S. foreign relations, with a particular focus on Donald Trump's foreign and security policy: its cultural and strategic roots, its objectives, and its modus operandi.

The course will explore the interplay between domestic and foreign policy issues—what many scholars today describe as the “intermestic.” Particular attention will be devoted to the elements of structural continuity linking the current foreign policy of the United States to longer-standing traditions and practices, as well as to the significant novelties and ruptures introduced by Donald Trump.

After an initial overview of the nature and dilemmas of modern U.S. power and hegemony, the remaining sessions will examine the principal strategic, political, and cultural matrices shaping the Trump administration's worldview, along with two specific case studies: U.S.-China relations and competition, and the Transatlantic alliance.

## Evaluation Methodology

To pass the exam, participants must correctly answer at least **8 out of 15 multiple-choice questions**. Admission to the final exam is subject to meeting the minimum attendance requirement (at least **80% of total hours**). The final exam will be held **in person**.

## Faculty for the course

**Mario Del Pero:** Professor of International History at SciencesPo, Paris, where he teaches courses on the United States in the World, the Cold War and XX/XXI century global history. Among his most recent publications are *Buio americano: Gli Stati Uniti e il mondo nell'era Trump* (Il Mulino, 2025), *Libertà e Impero. Gli Stati Uniti e il Mondo, 1776-2011* (Laterza, 2017, 3rd ed.), *Era Obama. Dalla Speranza del Cambiamento all'Elezione di Trump* (Feltrinelli, 2017) and *The Eccentric Realist. Henry Kissinger and the Shaping of American Foreign Policy* (Cornell University Press, 2009).

Before joining SciencesPo, Prof. Del Pero taught at the University of Bologna and held fellowships and visiting professorships at the European University Institute, the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, Columbia University, New York University and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva. He is currently writing a book on a mission of Texan evangelicals in early post-World War II Italy, which tries to offer a micro-historical account of the global dynamics of integration of the Cold War. Mario del Pero runs a blog and regularly comments on US and international politics for the Italian and Swiss public radios and for SkyNews.