

MGIMO University
School of Government and International Affairs

Political Geography

Undergraduate Course Syllabus

Instructors

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This syllabus is designed in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor Program in International Affairs.

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Director MGIMO Library _____ Marina Reshetnikova

PART 1: INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1 General information

- Full course title: Political Geography
- Type of course: Compulsory
- Level of course: B.A.
- Year of study: 2nd
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 4
- Name of the instructors: Ass. Prof. Igor Okunev, Ass. Prof. Lidia Zhirnova.
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1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes

The course on political geography is devoted to a discipline concerned with the spatial dimensions of politics. This course is an introduction to the study of political science, international relations and area studies, providing a systemic approach to the spatial dimension of political processes at all levels. It covers their basic elements, including states, supranational unions, geopolitical systems, regions, borders, capitals, dependent, and internationally administered territories. Political geography develops fundamental theoretical approaches that give insight into the peculiarities of foreign and domestic policies. The ability to use spatial analysis techniques allows determining patterns and regularities of political phenomena both at the global and the regional and local levels.

Students will learn:

- The structure and elements of modern world political map
- Territorial aspects of international relations and world politics
- Political and geographical organization of the state
- Conceptions and methods of political geography

1.3 Course requirements and grading

Requirements

Students are required to attend no less than 80% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. Reading of the required materials and active engagement in class discussions are expected.

Always read and think about assigned reading materials before class. Perceptive observations and thoughtful questions contribute equally to a good discussion.

The class seminars are accompanied with a special workbook that is designed to streamline the educational process, reinforce the student's knowledge of the course material, and make the course more interesting. Like the textbook, the study guide is arranged by topic, with the corresponding paragraphs of the textbook being indicated for each chapter.

Students are encouraged to read the relevant chapters of the textbook, listen to the relevant lectures as part of the curriculum, or checking the online materials before starting with this study guide. Most tasks can be completed by reading the material in the core textbook carefully and studying the political atlas of the world. However, in some cases, additional sources may be required, for example, to reflect the current geopolitical situation, which changes from year to

year. The facts and figures presented in the workshop correspond to the year in which the first edition was printed.

The study guide contains various types of tasks:

- work with contour maps;
- key terms;
- completing data tables;
- building diagrams;
- detailed practical tasks;
- topics for essays and presentations.

Students can fulfil some tasks, for instance, those with maps and tables, in the workbook. For other exercises, including open-ended questions and essays, students need a separate exercise book. It is not necessary to complete all the tasks – the instructor can choose the most appropriate exercises depending on the level of the group, as well as the scope and duration of the course.

Grading

Final examination – 70%.

Three multiple choice tests – 15% (5% each test).

Class participation – 15%.

PART 2. COURSE CONTENT

2.1 Course content and readings by topic

1. Introduction to Political Geography. Geopolitics.

Subject Matter of Political Geography. Levels of Spatial Organization. Principles of Spatial Organization. Elements of Spatial Organization. Research Methods in Political Geography. Field Research in Political Geography. Subdisciplines of Political Geography. Globalization. Geopolitical Systems. Binary Geopolitical Systems. Ternary Geopolitical Systems. Heartland, Lenaland, and Rimland. Polar Geopolitical Systems. Great and Regional Powers. Civilizations.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §1-16.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 1-2.

2. Macroregions and Mesoregions.

Macroregions and Continents. Transcontinental Macroregions. Transcontinental Countries. Mesoregions of Europe. Mesoregions of Asia. Mesoregions of Africa. Mesoregions of America. Mesoregions of Australia and Oceania.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §17-24.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 3.

3. Integration Groups.

Integration. Integration Theories. Regional Intergovernmental Organizations. Cross-Border Regions. International Transport Corridors. Visa-Free Zones. Preferential Trade Areas. Free Trade Zones. Customs Unions. Common Markets. Economic Unions. Currency Unions. Military Alliances. Incorporating Unions. Confederal Unions. Integration Systems. Mesoregionalism. Transregionalism.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §25-42.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 4.

4. The Evolution of Statehood.

Statism. Emergence of Statehood. Evolution of Statehood. City-States. Empires. Terms for Different States. Forms of Government.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §43-49.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 5.

5. State-Building.

Nation-States. Pan-National States. Multinational States. Divided States. Stateless Nations.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §50-55.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 6.

6. Sovereign States.

Sovereign States. Territory and Sovereignty. Stateness. Jurisdictional States. Failed States. Governments in Exile. States with Limited Recognition. Unrecognized States. Insurgent States. Proto-States. Quasi-States. Vexillology.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §56-67.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 7.

7. Properties of State's Territory.

Political and Geographical Position. Geopolitical Code. Size of State. Shape of State. Neighboring States. Landlocked States. Island States. Enclaves and Exclaves. Corridors.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §77-88.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 8.

8. Composition of State Territory.

Land Space. Maritime Space. Airspace. Subsurface Space. Contiguous Zone. Exclusive Economic Zone. Continental Shelf. Enclosed Seas. Territorial Leases. Occupied Territories. Extraterritoriality. Territories with Special Status.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §68-76.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 9.

9. Territorial Changes.

Geopolitical Field. Territorial Changes. Disintegration and Partition. Cession, Secession, Irredenta, and Annexation. Territorial Adjudication, Retorsion, and Reprisal. Marine Accretion, Regression, and Transgression. Acquisition and Exchange.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §89-95.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 10.

10. International and Internationalized Entities.

High Seas. International Seabed Area. International Airspace. Outer Space and Celestial Bodies. Arctic. Antarctica. International Straits. International Maritime Canals. International Rivers and Lakes. Buffer Zones. Transitional Administrations. Free Territories. Terra Nullius.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §96-108.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 11.

11. Colonialism and Decolonialization.

Expansion and Succession. Discovery Doctrine. Metropolises. External Colonization. Internal Colonization. Colonialism. Imperialism. Decolonization. Neocolonialism. Postcolonialism. Missions and Reductions. Trading Posts. Plantations. Chartered Companies. Crown Dependencies. Mandates. Trust Territories.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §109-125.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 12.

12. Dependent Territories.

Non-Self-Governing Territories. Unincorporated Unorganized Territories. Incorporated Unorganized Territories. Unincorporated Organized Territories. Incorporated Organized Territories. Bantustans and Reservations. Condominiums. Suzerainty. Exarchates. Dominions. Princely States. Tributary and Vassal States. Puppet States. Associated States. Protectorates and Satellite States. Limitrophe States. Spheres of Influence.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §126-142.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 113.

13. Capitals.

Geographical Center. Pole of Inaccessibility. Zipf's Law. Capitals. Multicapital States. Quasicapitals. Coefficient of Metropolitanism. Hypertrophy and Hypotrophy of Capitals. Classification of Capitals. Capital Relocation. World Capitals.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §143-153.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 14.

14. Borders.

Cleavages. Limology. Boundary Delimitation and Demarcation. Limes, Limitrophes, and Frontiers. Demarcation Lines. Border Junctions. Separation Barriers. Divided Cities. Electoral Geography.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §154-161.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 15.

15. Regions and Municipalities.

Administrative Division. Administrative Divisions and Autonomies. Unitarism and Federalism. Unitary States. Federations. Sovereign Regions. Monarchical Regions. Federal Territories. Directly Administered Cities. Capital Territories. Regions with Multiple Subordination. Extraterritorial Regions. Supraregional Associations. Subregional Entities. Subregional Autonomies and Federations.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §163-177.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 16.

16. Local Politics.

Municipalities. Unincorporated Territories. Communes. Urban Regimes.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §178-181.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 17.

17. Spatial Identity.

Territoriality and Spatiality. Absolute and Relative Space. Heterotopias and Spatial Inversion. Spatial Experience and Commemorative Places. Spatial Myths and Co-Spatiality. Territorial and Spatial Identity. Place-Based Policy and Place Branding.

Basic Literature:

Okunev I. Political Geography. — Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021. — 474 p. §182-188.

Okunev I., Zhirnova L. Political Geography. Workbook. — Moscow: MGIMO University, 2022. — 160 p. Unit 18.

Additional Literature.

1. Agnew, J. & Muscarà, L. (2012). Making political geography. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

2. Agnew, J., Mamadouh, V., Secor, A. & Sharp, J. (2015). *The Wiley Blackwell companion to political geography*. Chichester, UK; Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
3. Busygina, I. (2018). *Russia-EU relations and the common neighborhood: coercion vs. authority*. London: Routledge.
4. Cohen, S. (2015). *Geopolitics: the geography of international relations*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
5. Dodds, K. (2019). *Geopolitics: a very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6. Dragneva, R. & Wolczuk, K. (2013). *Eurasian economic integration: law, policy and politics*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.
7. Dür, A. & Zimmermann, H. (2016). *Key controversies in European integration*. London: Palgrave.
8. Flint, C. (2017). *Introduction to geopolitics*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an Informa Business.
9. Flint, C. & Taylor, P. (2018). *Political geography: world-economy, nation-state, and locality*. New York, NY: Routledge.
10. Gallaher, C. (2009). *Key concepts in political geography*. London; Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.
11. Gilbert, M. (2020). *European integration: a political history*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
12. Glassner, M. & Fahrer, C. (2004). *Political geography*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
13. Hawkins, D. (2006). *Delegation and agency in international organizations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
14. Hout, W. & Salih, M. (2019). *A political economy of African regionalisms: an overview of asymmetrical development*. Cheltenham, UK: Northampton, Massachusetts Edward Elgar Publishing.
15. Jones, M. (2015). *An introduction to political geography: space, place and politics*. London; New York: Routledge.
16. Nelsen, B. & Stubb, A. (2014). *The European Union: readings on the theory and practice of European integration*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.
17. Painter, J. & Jeffrey, A. (2009). *Political geography: an introduction to space and power*. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.
18. Rivarola, A. & Ruiz, J. (2013). *Resilience of regionalism in Latin America and the Caribbean: development and autonomy*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire; New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.
19. Smith, S. (2020). *Political geography: a critical introduction*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
20. Starr, H. (2013). *On geopolitics: space, place, and international relations*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.
21. Toal, G. (1996). *Critical geopolitics: the politics of writing global space*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
22. Toal, G., Dalby, S. & Routledge, P. (2006). *The geopolitics reader*. Abingdon, Oxon New York: Routledge.
23. Voskresenskiĭ, A. (2017). *Non-western theories of international relations: conceptualizing world regional studies*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.
24. Wiener, A., Borzel, T. & Risse, T. (2019). *European integration theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2.2 Recommended Primary Sources and Russian Publications

- President of Russia. All publications. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts>
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Documents, statements, speeches. http://www.mid.ru/en/main_en

- The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation. Documents. <http://eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>
- Russian International Affairs Council. Publications. <http://russiancouncil.ru/en/>
- *Russia in Global Affairs* journal. <http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/>

2.3 Recommended Websites

- Carnegie Moscow Center <http://carnegie.ru/?lang=en>
- Center for Global Interests <http://globalinterests.org/>
- Eurasia Daily Monitor <https://jamestown.org/programs/edm/>
- Johnson's Russia List <http://russialist.org/>
- The Moscow Times <https://themoscowtimes.com/>
- PONARS Eurasia <http://www.ponarseurasia.org/>
- Russia beyond the Headlines <http://rbth.com/>
- Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty <http://www.rferl.org/p/5547.html>
- Russia in Global Affairs <http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/>
- Russia Matters <https://www.russiamatters.org/>

3. Exam questions

1. Subject Matter of Political Geography. Subdisciplines of Political Geography. Research Methods in Political Geography.
2. Levels of Spatial Organization. Principles of Spatial Organization. Elements of Spatial Organization.
3. Macroregions and Continents. Transcontinental Macroregions. Transcontinental Countries.
4. Globalization. Geopolitical Systems. Polar Geopolitical Systems.
5. Binary Geopolitical Systems. Ternary Geopolitical Systems.
6. Heartland, Lenaland, and Rimland.
7. Integration types. Integration Theories.
8. Preferential Trade Areas. Free Trade Zones. Customs Unions.
9. Common Markets. Economic Unions. Currency Unions.
10. Military Alliances. Incorporating Unions. Confederal Unions.
11. Integration Systems. Mesoregionalism. Transregionalism.
12. Statism. Emergence of Statehood. Evolution of Statehood.
13. City-States.
14. Empires.
15. Nation-States. State-Building.
16. Pan-National States. Multinational States. Divided States. Stateless Nations.
17. Sovereign States. Territory and Sovereignty.
18. Stateness. Failed States. Governments in Exile.
19. States with Limited Recognition. Unrecognized States. Insurgent States.
20. Proto-States. Quasi-States.
21. Political and Geographical Position. Geopolitical Code.
22. Size of State. Shape of State. Neighboring States. Landlocked States. Island States.
23. Enclaves and Exclaves. Corridors.
24. Land Space.
25. Maritime Space.
26. Airspace. Subsurface Space.
27. Contiguous Zone. Exclusive Economic Zone. Continental Shelf. Enclosed Seas.
28. Territorial Leases. Occupied Territories. Extraterritoriality.
29. Geopolitical Field. Types of Territorial Changes.

30. Cession, Secession, Irredenta, and Annexation. Marine Accretion, Regression, and Transgression.
31. Territorial Adjudication, Retorsion, and Reprisal. Acquisition and Exchange. Disintegration and Partition.
32. High Seas. International Seabed Area.
33. International Airspace. Outer Space and Celestial Bodies.
34. Arctic. Antarctica.
35. International Straits. International Maritime Canals. International Rivers and Lakes.
36. Buffer Zones. Transitional Administrations. Free Territories. Terra Nullius.
37. Expansion and Succession. Discovery Doctrine. Metropolises. External Colonization. Internal Colonization.
38. Colonialism. Imperialism.
39. Decolonization. Neocolonialism. Postcolonialism.
40. Missions and Reductions. Trading Posts. Plantations. Chartered Companies.
41. Crown Dependencies. Mandates. Trust Territories. Non-Self-Governing Territories.
42. Unincorporated Unorganized Territories. Incorporated Unorganized Territories. Unincorporated Organized Territories. Incorporated Organized Territories.
43. Suzerainty. Dominions. Princely States. Bantustans and Reservations. Condominiums. Limitrophe States.
44. Tributary and Vassal States. Puppet States. Associated States. Protectorates and Satellite States. Spheres of Influence.
45. Capitals. Multicapital States. Quasicapitals. Capital Relocation.
46. Hypertrophy and Hypotrophy of Capitals. Classification of Capitals. World Capitals.
47. Cleavages.
48. Limology. Boundary Delimitation and Demarcation.
49. Limes, Limitrophes, and Frontiers. Demarcation Lines.
50. Electoral Geography.
51. Administrative Division. Administrative Divisions and Autonomies.
52. Unitary States.
53. Federations.
54. Federal Territories. Directly Administered Cities. Capital Territories.
55. Sovereign Regions. Monarchical Regions. Regions with Multiple Subordination. Extraterritorial Regions. Supraregional Associations.
56. Subregional Entities. Subregional Autonomies and Federations. Municipalities.
57. Communes. Urban Regimes. Territories with Special Status.
58. Territoriality and Spatiality. Absolute and Relative Space.
59. Heterotopias and Spatial Inversion. Spatial Experience and Commemorative Places. Place-Based Policy and Place Branding.
60. Spatial Myths and Co-Spatiality. Territorial and Spatial Identity.