

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

COURSE: GEO 230, section 001A, meets 7:30 to 10 pm, Wednesday, Bisdorf Room 275, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus

INSTRUCTOR: David B. Miller, Editorial and Cartographic Consultant to National Geographic, HarperCollins, Phaidon, and other map publishers.

TEXTBOOK: *No textbook*; class will use online media and maps, such as **Global Trends 2025** http://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Newsroom/Reports%20and%20Pubs/2025_Global_Trends_Final_Report.pdf

CONTACT: email damiller@nvcc.edu; <http://blogs.nvcc.edu/damiller>

OFFICE HOURS: before/after class or by appointment

DATE	MAIN LECTURE TOPIC & RESOURCES
Aug 26	<i>Welcome & Intro to Political Geography</i> : Read to page 5, including Executive Summary, in <i>Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World</i> (link above and on Blackboard).
Sept 2	<i>Globalizing Economy (Chapter 1)</i> : Quiz on Aug 26 lecture/reading assignments. Read Chapter 1, pages 6-17, in <i>Global Trends 2025</i> for next class.
Sept 9	<i>World Demographics (Chapter 2)</i> : Quiz on Sept 2 lecture/reading assignments. Read Chapter 2, pages 18-26, in <i>Global Trends 2025</i> for next class.
Sept 10	Last day to drop with tuition refund
Sept 11	Parking enforcement starts; Students need parking tags for "B" lots & parking garage
Sept 16	<i>New World Players: China & India (Chapter 3)</i> : Quiz on Sept 9 lecture/reading assignments. Read Chapter 3, pages 28-39, in <i>Global Trends 2025</i> for next class.
Sept 23	<i>Scarcity in the Midst of Plenty (Chapter 4)</i> : Quiz on Sept 16 lecture/reading assignments. Read Chapter 4, pages 40-59, in <i>Global Trends 2025</i> for next class.
Sept 30	<i>Growing Potential for World Conflict (Chapter 5)</i> : Quiz on Sept 23 lecture/reading assignments. Read Chapter 5, pages 61-79, in <i>Global Trends 2025</i> for next class.
Oct 7	<i>An International System Challenged (Chapter 6)</i> : Quiz on Sept 30 lecture/reading assignments. Read Chapter 6, pages 80-91, in <i>Global Trends 2025</i> for next class.
Oct 14	<i>Power-Sharing in a Multipolar World (Chapter 7)</i> : Quiz on Oct 7 lecture/ reading assignments. Read Chapter 7, pages 93-99, in <i>Global Trends 2025</i> for next class.
Oct 21	<i>Geopolitics in the United States and Virginia</i> —gerrymandering and elections for the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates on November 3. Guest speaker Senator Adam Ebbin. Map exercise on the Presidential election of 1800 .
Oct 28	<i>Regional Geopolitics—Europe</i> : Online map exercise on European Union. Review video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OePOK6nzcaY , includes geospatial information on Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan.
Nov 3	Last day to withdraw without grade penalty
Nov 4	<i>Regional Geopolitics—Africa</i> : Exercise on Ethiopia-Eritrea boundary due next class. Discuss Political Power Country Report due November 18.
Nov 11	<i>Regional Geopolitics—Middle East & North Africa (MENA)</i> : Arab Spring, Israel & Iran . Map exercise on the geography of nuclear explosions .

- Nov 18 **Regional Geopolitics—Russia: A Resurgent Great Power?** *Exercise on the [1962 Cuban Missile Crisis](#) and discussion of [Crimea](#).*
- Nov 25 **Thanksgiving Holiday-No Class**
- Dec 2 **Regional Geopolitics—East & South Asia: [China as a superpower](#)?**
- Dec 9 **The Historical Geography of Past Geopolitical Powers**
- Dec 16 **Final Exam (multiple choice & short answer)**

IN POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY the basic question is where. Where are governments, political history, political economics, and voting patterns similar; and where are they different. Then we can ask how and why they are similar or different.

Past political geographies and geopolitical strategies will be discussed as a way of predicting economic prosperity, election results, and international relations.

By the end of the semester, students should have a good understanding of political geography. Students should have a better knowledge of countries, political regions, governments, and the changing geography of the world.

COURSE GRADE will be determined based on a total of about 240 points:

Final exam worth 40 points

Quizzes (multiple choice and a few short answer) each worth 10-15 points—about 100 points

Class projects/participation worth about 100 points

POLICY FOR MAKEUP QUIZZES OR TESTS

It is important that you let me know ahead of time when you will not be able to make class on a quiz or test night. Makeup exams will be taken at the Test Center, Room 156, Bisdorf. The hours of the Test Center vary so call 703/845-6336 to find out when it is open. Makeup exams should be taken **within one week of the given date** or points may be deducted from the final grade. Please make special arrangements with me if there is a problem taking a makeup exam within a week.

The final grade will be based on the following scale:

A = 90 - 100%; B = 80 - 89%; C = 70 - 79%; D = 60 -69%; F = 59% and below



Russia 19th century



Russia 21st century

