

Course description

Political Geography

1. Course name, ECTS, quarter / semester, contact hours

Political Geography, 4 ECTS, 3 quarter, 32 contact hours

2. Author of the course

Andrey Starodubtsev, Candidate of Political Sciences, associate professor, Department of Political Science, the academic director of the “Political Science” undergraduate program

3. Outline

The course is aimed at developing students’ knowledge and skills to analyze the influence of spatial and territorial factors on results of political processes in the post-Soviet states. As results of participating in the course, students will know the territorial structure of contemporary states, and the specifics of political processes at the local, regional, national, and global levels. They will be able to “read” geographic maps and even create own ones. Finally, they will have an expertise in territorial politics and the governance of space in Russia and other countries of the post-Soviet area.

4. Structure and content

	Themes	Lectures (hours)	Seminars (hours)
1.	What does Political Geography Mean?	2	0
2.	What do We Know of Russia, Post-Soviet Space, and the World?	0	2
3.	Geographical Analysis of Contemporary States	2	2
4.	The Unrecognized States in the Post-Soviet Area	0	4
5.	Political Geography of Russia	4	0
6.	What are (not) the Federal Districts in Russia	0	4
7.	Electoral Geography	2	2
8.	Political Maps Lab	0	4
9.	Geography and Public Policy	2	2

5. Prerequisites: none

6. Assessment:

Coursework (50%): a group project – presentation and 2000-word essay

Examination (50%): 2 hours test