

GEOG 3600 – Political Geography. The world is a big, complex, dynamic, yet it is possible to have a reasonable understanding of what is happening around us and why. What is power and how it translates to geopolitics? Who is responsible for events like conflicts and war? How do the ideologies of powerful governments, individual, groups, institutions, think tanks determine global geopolitical events? How does geography play a role in electoral politics and gerrymandering? Why is territory/space/geography important in politics? This course will inform you, and conceptually equip you to answer these questions, and help develop a deeper understanding of local and global, politics, economics, and society. In the first half of the course you will be familiarized with theories on geopolitics, socio-historical context of their emergence, ideas, which produced world orders, and defined the topography of power over centuries. Once you are equipped with the national and international geopolitical context of the past, this course will guide you into the present. The lectures will be interspersed with documentaries, discussions, activities, and assignments to help you better internalize the class materials.

This course will provide you with conceptual tools, which will enable you to not only understand, analyze, and explain international affairs/geopolitical phenomena for academic purposes, but also to enable you to use these concepts in 'real' life so that you develop critical skills to comprehend and articulate your reality more comprehensively. You are encouraged to think critically, which means to delve really deep beneath appearances, superficiality, and manifestations to understand the mechanisms, the nuts and bolts, systemic imperatives guiding events and phenomena.