

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE**  
**Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University**  
**International Relations Faculty**  
**International Relations and Regional Studies Department**

**SYLLABUS**  
**of the normative academic component**  
Political Geography Of Countries And Regions

**Training of bachelors**  
**Specialty 291 International Relations, Public Communications and**  
**Regional Studies**  
**Educational-professional programme International Relations**

**Syllabus of the academic component "POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF COUNTRIES AND REGIONS", Education Level Bachelor, Field of Knowledge 29 International Relations, Specialty 291 International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies, Educational and Professional Programme International Relations.**

**Developer: Galina Kopachinska, PhD (candidate of geographical sciences), associate professor**

**Approved**

**by the Guarantor of Education and Professional Programme:**



assoc. prof. Yevheniia Voznyuk

**The syllabus of the academic component was approved at the meeting of the International Relations and Regional Studies Department**

protocol No. 1 dated August 31, 2023

Head of Department:



Prof. Natalia Kotsan

## I. Description of the academic component

Indicator Name	Field of knowledge, educational and professional programme / education and research program, education level	Characteristics of academic component
Full-time education	029 «International relations» specialty 291 «International relations, public communications and regional studies» educational-professional program «International relations» education level «bachelors»	<b>normative</b>
<b>Number of hours / credits</b> 150/5		<b>Year of preparation 1</b>
		<b>Semester</b> 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>ISRT:</b> is not		<b>Lectures:</b> 30 h.
		<b>Practical (seminars):</b> 32 h.
		<b>Independent work:</b> 78 h.
	<b>Consultations:</b> 10 h.	
	<b>Form of control:</b> exam	
<b>Language of study</b>		<i>English</i>

## II. Information about the university teacher

S&N Kopachinska Galina

Scientific degree PhD (candidate of geographical sciences)

The academic title is associate professor

The position is associate professor

Contact information (kopachinska.galina@vnu.edu.ua).

Days of classes ([ПС-Розклад v.3.8.2](#)).

## III. Description of the academic component

### 1. Abstract of the course

The political geography of countries and regions is a socio-geographical discipline; the main object of the study of political geography is the elementary and integral territorial-political systems in their interaction with each other and with geographical space.

Among the many areas of political and geographical research, the most significant are: the stages of formation and the current state of the political map of the world; political and geographical position, formation of the state territory, capital and administrative-territorial division of individual countries; the study of political boundaries in terms of their genesis, opportunities for cross-border cooperation, cross-border links, territorial disputes and claims; study of the territorial features of the elections and the main representative bodies of state power and local self-governance in different countries and regions of the world; analysis of the influence of various geographic factors on the strategic positions of states in the world space; comprehensive political and geographical assessment of individual countries and regions of the world.

In this context, the subject "Political geography of countries and regions", which is studied by students of the faculty of international relations, acts as one of the important

disciplines in studying the territorial (geospatial) organization of society and the study of geographical patterns of the formation and development of the political sphere of its life.

## 2. Purpose and tasks of the academic component.

The aim of course is the study of political geography as the elementary and integral territorial-political systems in their interaction with each other and with geographical space.

The task of course is the study of: features of political geography as an important academic discipline and the history of its development; the essence of the concepts "state territory", "capital" and "administrative-territorial division"; political borders and features of their functioning; stages of formation and the current state of the political map of the world; elections and their territorial features; the concept of "electoral system" and the concept of "party", the peculiarities of its functioning; analysis of the influence of various geographical factors on the strategic positions of states in the world; comprehensive political and geographical assessment of individual countries and regions of the world.

## 3. Learning outcomes (competencies).

	<b>Integral</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Special (Professional)</b>
<b>Competences</b>	The ability to solve complex specialized tasks and practical problems in the area of international relations, public communications and regional studies, states foreign policy activities, international interactions between states, international organizations and non-state actors, characterized by the complexity and uncertainty of conditions and involves the application of social sciences theories and special scientific methods in researching international relations issues.	GC3 The ability to learn and master modern knowledge.	SC2 The ability to analyze international processes in various contexts, including political, security, legal, economic, social, cultural and informational ones.
		GC4 Knowledge and understanding of the subject area and understanding of professional activity.	SC9 The ability to apply knowledge of the characteristics of the development of countries and regions features and regularities of global processes and the place of individual states in them to solve complex specialized tasks and problems.
		GC7 The ability to apply knowledge in practical situations.	
		GC8 The ability to abstract thinking, analysis and synthesis.	
		GC10 The ability to communicate the national language both orally and in writing form.	
		GC12 The ability to search, process and analyze information from various sources.	

Learning outcomes	LO04	To know the principles, mechanisms and processes of ensuring the states' foreign policy, the interaction between foreign and domestic policies, the definition and implementation of the national interests of states on the international arena, the process of forming and implementing foreign policy decisions.
	LO06	To know the nature and character of interactions of individual countries and regions at the global, regional and local levels.
	LO09	To research the problems of international relations, regional development, foreign policy, international communications using modern political, economic and legal theories and concepts, scientific methods and interdisciplinary approaches, present the results of research.

#### 4. The structure of the academic component.

Names of content modules and topics	Total	Lect.	Lab.	Independent student's work	Cons.	Form of control/ Grades
<b>Content module 1. Theoretical basis of the study of political geography</b>						
Topic 1. Political geography as a young scientific discipline	19	4	4	10	1	DS/4
Topic 2. State as the main object of political geography study	21	6	4	10	1	DS/4
Topic 3. The political geography of the World Ocean	17	4	4	8	1	DS/4
Topic 4. Political map of the world and periods of its formation	25	6	6	12	1	DS/4 DB/2
<b>Total by module 1</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Content module 2. Elements of political geography and phenomena that affect them</b>						
Topic 5. Ethnic and political aspects of political geography	17	2	4	10	1	DS/4 DB/2
Topic 6. Socio-economic aspects of political geography	11	2	2	6	1	DS/4
Topic 7. Geography of political parties and political movements	15	2	4	8	1	DS/4
Topic 8. Electoral geography	13	2	2	8	1	DS/4
Topic 9. Geopolitics as an important component of political geography	12	2	2	6	2	DS/4
<b>Types of final works</b>						<b>Grades</b>
Modular control work						60
<b>Total by module 2</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Total hours for the course/Grades</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

Control methods\*: DS – discussion, DB – debates, T – tests, TR – training, SP/C – solving problems/cases, ISRT/IWS – individual scientific research task/individual work of the student,

WSG – work in small groups, MCR/ TP - modular control work/ module test paper/test paper, Ab – abstract, analytical note, analytical essay, analysis of the work.

### 5. Tasks for independent work

Number of order	Topic	Number of hours
1	<b>Task #1:</b> to analyze and highlight the common and distinctive features of the development of political geography during different historical periods.	10
2	<b>Task #2:</b> to carry out a brief review on the topic: "State as the main object of studying the political geography".	18
3	<b>Task #3:</b> to find the necessary literature, to work out and to draw up a reference abstract on the topic: "The political map of the world and the periods of its formation".	12
4	<b>Task #4:</b> to make a comparative description of the peculiarities, problems and perspectives of solving the present socio-political conflicts.	16
5	<b>Task #5:</b> to conduct a brief abstract on the subject: "Geography of elections and political parties".	16
6	<b>Task # 6:</b> to select the necessary literature, develop and compile a reference synopsis on the topic: "History of the development of geopolitics as a science"	6
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>78</b>

### IV. Evaluation policy

During seminars, evaluation is made in accordance to student's ability to analyze and transfer the acquired knowledge, re-reading the information from the paper is prohibited. All references to used materials and resources must be made in accordance to true resources, and each student is personally responsible for academic integrity. Missed lectures can't be re-passed, seminars can be re-passed only if there is objective evidence of the student's absence. Deadline for the representation of missed seminars is until the day of exam passing. Re-passing of the exam is hold in accordance with the approved schedule of the exam session.

The maximum number of absences without true reasons - 2.

The discipline consists of two content modules and its study doesn't foresee the implementation of the ISRT. In this case, the final score on the 100-point scale consists of the total number of points for:

1. current evaluation of relevant topics (maximum 40 points);
2. modular control work (maximum 60 points).

After mastering content module 1 and content module 2, modular control works is written, which is evaluated at a maximum of 60 grades. The total amount, including current and modular control, is 100 grades.

If the current semester evaluation is not less than 75 points, by the agreement of the student, it can be scored up as a final evaluation of the discipline. Otherwise, or by the wish to improve the rating the student passes the exam orally. Herewith, the grades got by the results of modular control works are canceled.

### V. Final control

The form of the final semester control from the discipline is exam, which is passed orally. Exam ticket includes 3 questions (1 theoretical and 2 practical).

If the current semester evaluation is not less than 75 grades, by the agreement of the

student, it can be scored up as a final evaluation of the discipline. Otherwise, or by the wish to improve the rating the student passes the exam orally. Herewith, the grades got by the results of modular control works are canceled.

Exam evaluation is defined in grades (0 to 60) by the results of the examination tasks. In this case the final semester evaluation is determined as the sum of the current semester and examination estimation in grades, by accordance to the rating scale. Assessment and mastering of the course are presented according to the rating scale.

### **EXAM QUESTIONS**

1. Political geography as a young scientific discipline
2. Theoretical and practical issues studied by political geography
3. History of the development of political geography
4. Features of the development of political geography at the current stage.
5. Geopolitics as an important component of political geography.
6. The essence of the concept of critical geopolitics.
7. Famous geopolitics and their contribution to the development of science.
8. Leading Ukrainian geopolitics and their basic research.
9. Political-geographic features of the study of the concept of "state"
10. Political-geographic essence of the state. Peculiarities of approaches to its definition.
11. The difference between the concepts of state, country, people, and nation.
12. Historical aspects of the formation of the concept of the state.
13. Meaning and functions of the state in the modern world.
14. State territory, features of its formation and use.
15. Composition of the state territory.
16. Size, structure and morphology of the state territory.
17. Types of states. Systematization of countries of the world.
18. The essence of the concept of territory.
19. Dependent territories and features of their classification.
20. The place of the state in the modern globalized world.
21. Political-geographical and geopolitical location of the country.
22. Complex political and geographical characteristics of a separate country of the world or region, its components.
23. Public administration: the essence of the concept and its form.
24. Forms of government.
25. Classification of the countries of the world according to the form of government and the form of the state system.
26. Administrative-territorial division of the countries of the world and features of its application in different countries of the world.
27. Administrative-territorial division of Ukraine.
28. The essence of the concept and classification of the state border.
29. Peculiarities of formation and functioning of state borders.
30. The maritime border of the state and features of its formation.
31. Concept of internal waters, territorial waters, continental shelf, exclusive maritime economic zone.
32. States of the world with defined and disputed sea and land borders. Interstate conflicts regarding the determination of the line of their maritime borders.

33. Peculiarities of resolving the disputed issue of the formation of the Ukrainian-Romanian and Ukrainian-Russian maritime borders.
34. The world ocean and its political and geographical significance.
35. The problem of pollution of the World Ocean and the prerequisites for its occurrence.
36. The political map of the world.
37. The main stages and periods of the formation of the political map of the world.
38. Theoretical foundations of studying the concepts of colony and colonization.
39. Historical stages of colonization and its influence on the formation of the political map of the world.
40. Decolonization processes and their influence on the formation of the political map of the world.
41. Peculiarities of the formation of the political map of the world in the XX- early XXI century.
42. Modern political map of the world: its structure and latest changes.
43. Dependent territories on the modern political map of the world.
44. Unrecognized or partially recognized states of the world.
45. Political-geographic significance of unresolved territorial issues and claims in the modern world.
46. The political-geographical essence of the Antractide issue.
47. Modern colonization processes.
48. Political and geographical significance of the Russian-Georgian war.
49. Systemic crisis in Ukraine: prerequisites for its occurrence, the issue of Crimea and its status, the war in the East of the country.
50. The war in Ukraine and its political and geographical significance.
51. Ethno-demographic aspects of the political-geographic research of the countries of the world.
52. The political-geographic essence of the study of the population of the state.
53. Demographic policy of the state.
54. Demographic indicators and their meaning.
55. Modern demographic problems of humanity.
56. State-building significance of citizenship.
57. Population migration: the essence of the concept, prerequisites and factors, types of migration and its consequences.
58. Concept of national idea.
59. The political and geographical significance of modern nationalism and ethnic conflicts.
60. Diversity of cultures of the modern world.
61. Cultural conflicts.
62. The concept of diaspora and their activities in the modern world.
63. Ideological movements of modern times.
64. The political and geographical significance of irredentism.
65. Territorial claims on a national basis.
66. Religious wars as a destabilizing factor in the modern world.
67. Refugees and the geography of their distribution in the modern world.
68. The essence of the concept of separatism.
69. Historical and modern wars for national self-determination.
70. The essence of the concept of economic policy of the state and its meaning.



71. Peculiarities of determining the economic and market potential of the countries of the world.
72. The main macro- and micro- indicators of the socio-economic development of the countries of the world.
73. The most economically developed countries in the world.
74. Classification of countries by level of socio-economic development.
75. Integration processes: political, military, economic integration of countries.
76. Leading political, economic, military organizations.
77. Political-geographic significance of political, military, economic unions, pacts, blocs in the modern world.
78. Modern globalization processes.
79. Geography of political parties and socio-political movements.
80. Political-geographic essence of the concept of a political party, movement, front and block
81. Typology of political parties.
82. Geography of party systems.
83. Political-geographic significance of political parties and their activities in the modern world.
84. Political parties and public-political organizations of Ukraine.
85. Geography of elections and electoral systems of the countries of the world.
86. Electoral geography as an important component of political geography.
87. Theoretical foundations of the study of the concept "elections".
88. Voting rights of foreigners in different countries of the world.
89. Electoral systems of the countries of the world and the geography of their distribution.
90. Parliamentary systems of the countries of the world.
91. The history of the formation of the parliamentary systems of the world countries.
92. Peculiarities of elections to the parliaments of different countries of the world.
93. Complex political and geographical characteristics of a separate country of the world.
94. Features of the complex political-geographic characteristics of a separate country of the world or region and its components.
95. Peculiarities of studying the political-geographical and geopolitical location of the country or region.
96. Geopolitics as an important component of political geography.
97. History of the development of geopolitics.
98. Basic laws of geopolitics.
99. Paradigms of geopolitics and their significance
100. Classics of geopolitics and their main works.

## **VI. Rating scale**

**A scale for evaluating the knowledge of education seekers on educational components, where the form of control is exam**

<b>Scores</b>	<b>Linguistic Grade</b>	<b>ECTS Grading Scale</b>	
		<b>Grade</b>	<b>Definition</b>
90-100	Excellent	A	outstanding

			performance
82-89	Very good	B	above the average standard
75-81	Good	C	generally sound work
67-74	Satisfactory	D	not bad
60-66	Sufficiently	E	performance meets the minimum criteria
1-59	Fail	Fx	needed to retake

## VII. Recommended Literature and Internet Resources

1. Вегеш М., Палінчак М., Петрінко В. *Геополітика в поняттях і термінах: підручник для студентів та аспірантів спеціальні " Політологія".* Ужгород: Видавничий дім "Гельветика", 2020. 786 с.
2. Дністрянський М. С. *Загострення геополітичних взаємин у період постмодерну та становище України : монографія.* Львів : ЛНУ імені Івана Франка, 2021. 154 с.
3. Закономірності функціонування глобальної економіки. URL: [http : // www.helpiks.org/4-19769.html](http://www.helpiks.org/4-19769.html). (дата звернення: 04.07.2022)
4. Мирослав Дністрянський, Галина Копачинська, Наталія Дністрянська Проблеми неврегульованості політичного статусу територій як чинник поглиблення суперечностей у міжнародних відносинах. *Наукові записки Тернопільського національного педагогічного університету імені Володимира Гнатюка. Серія: географія.* Том 51, № 2 (2021). С: 74-81 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25128/2519-4577.21.2> URL: <http://nzg.tnpu.edu.ua/issue/view/14796>
5. Незалежний аналітичний центр геополітичних досліджень «Борисфен Інтел» URL: <https://bintel.org.ua/> (дата звернення: 04.07.2022)
6. Jeremy Black. *Why geopolitics matters.* URL: <https://www.fpri.org/article/2020/01/why-geopolitics-matters/> (дата звернення: 04.09.2022)
7. Geopolitics: Definition, Foundations & Example URL: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/geopolitics-definition-foundations-example.html> (дата звернення: 04.09.2022)
8. Kopachinska G. Geopolitical view of Ukraine: History of development and specifics of its current transformation. *Quaestiones Geographicae* 40(4), Bogucki Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Poznań, 2021 pp. 47–62. 4 tables. DOI: 10.2478/quageo-2021-0037 URL: <https://sciendo.com/issue/QUAGEO/40/4> (БД Scopus+WoS)
9. Myroslav Dnistrianskyi, Galina Kopachinska, Nataliia Dnistrianska. Modern conflicts regarding the political status of territories: typological differences, features of spread and prospects for resolution. *Bulletin of Geography. Socio-economic Series.* No. 57 (2022). P: 113-123 Doi: <http://doi.org/10.12775/bgss-2022-0026> URL: <https://apcz.umk.pl/BGSS/article/view/34379/32895> (БД Scopus+WoS)
10. Natalia Kotsan, Galina Kopachinska, Yevheniia Vozniuk, Roman Kotsan Basic models of protection and functioning of the Ukrainian border in modern geopolitical realities: a view from Ukraine. *European Spatial Research and Policy* Vol. 29, Number 1 (2022) P: 79-96. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18778/1231-1952.29.1.04> URL: <https://czasopisma.uni.lodz.pl/esrap/article/view/9908> (БД Scopus+WoS)
11. Political geography URL: <https://www.studysmarter.us/explanations/human-geography/political-geography/> (date of application: 29.06.2022)
12. Political geography : defining nation-states URL: <https://slcc.pressbooks.pub/humangeography/part/political-geography/> (date of application: 29.06.2022)
13. Roman Kotsan, Natalia Kotsan, Galina Kopachinska, Yevheniia Vozniuk Transformation of Ukrainian-Polish border regions: experience of Ukraine *Forum*

*Geographic* Vol. 21, Issue 1. 2022 P: 92-101. DOI: 10.5775/fg.2022.071.i URL:  
<http://forumgeografic.ro/> (БД Scopus)

14. Sara H Smith (2020) Political Geography: A Critical Introduction URL:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336241806\\_Political\\_Geography\\_A\\_Critical\\_I](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336241806_Political_Geography_A_Critical_Introduction)  
ntroduction (date of application: 29.06.2022)