

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**  
**GEOG 3811 – Political Geography – 2019**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**

***Instructor***

Dr. W. Wilson, Department of Geography, RC 2003

Office Hours: one hour before and after each lecture.

Tel: (807) 343-8274

***Introduction***

Welcome to GEOG 3811 – Political Geography. This class will expose you to the various spatial elements of political life and ecology on our planet both in the past and now. We will look at both theory and practice in this class, and try and gain an understanding of why political theory has held such sway in the world. Finally, we will look at the roots and current political geography of the Middle East and North Africa.

***Aim***

By the end of this course, successful students should understand:

- 1) The varied vocabulary and concepts of political geography
- 2) How different political philosophies see and understand the world
- 3) The location of many of these political systems on the earth
- 4) The use of a variety of technologies to study how people live their political lives.

Successful students will also gain technical skills in:

- 1) Writing;
- 2) Research;
- 3) Cartography;
- 4) Various political gaming systems.

Successful students will emerge from this class with an unbearable need to participate in politics. You should also develop a set of skills and a mind-set to allow you to conduct your political conversations in a knowledgeable and polite fashion..

***Learning Methods***

- Lectures RB 3026 – Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 – 11:30
- Study groups
- Independent work (much rewarded)

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***Readings and materials***

The required textbooks and readings are:

Required

1. **Robbins, Paul (2018). *Political Ecology 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* Wiley-Blackwell.**
2. **Stewart, Donna (2018). *The Middle East Today 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.* Routledge.**
3. An atlas from at least 1950 at least as good as Philip's (2008). *Oxford New Concise World Atlas Second Edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. That is: hard bound and detailed. Used is fine.
4. Access to a daily international newspaper and articles you will be able to acquire through the library.
5. Either the *Chicago Manual of Style* or *APA Publishing Manual*.

Recommended

6. As many books on politics as you want to read;
7. It is expected that at various times during the term you will find readings on your own which will contain information that you can contribute to class discussions and assignments. You may want to become particularly familiar with the academic geographical journals.

***Workload and Expectations of Excellence***

Map and diagram mid term	– 50%	March
Project	– 50%	End of class
Extra credit news reports	– 15%	throughout