



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

August 23, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: World Geography Connects 1500 A.D. to the Present – An Interactive Online Geography Course Beginning October 21, 2013**

World Geography Connects 1500 A.D. to the Present, an interactive online course for Virginia teachers, will be taught this fall. This course supports the Standards of Learning for teaching World History and Geography: 1500 A.D. to the Present. The course is free for Virginia teachers who wish to earn up to 45 license renewal points, or it may be taken for three graduate credits through Old Dominion University.

The course will be offered on the Internet at <http://geoconnects1500topresent.pwnet.org>.

Registration may be completed online at this Web site. Teachers may register from Monday, September 2, 2013 through Friday, October 4, 2013, and the course starts October 21, 2013. The course ends December 2, 2013.

The goals of the course are as follows:

- connect the events of world history to their geographical foundations;
- connect the events of world history to the contemporary world in which we live;
- connect the events of world history to events in Virginia and the United States; and
- provide lesson plans, resources, and links for classroom teachers.

The course consists of five components, each of which is expected to take approximately three hours. Each component includes learning and practice activities, letters from the instructor, resource links, a discussion board, and quizzes. Teachers will find many ideas, resources, and links that will assist them in the classroom. The course includes the following five topics:

- landscapes of the modern world;
- old world, new world, one world;
- political geography of the Twentieth Century;
- trade, technology, and the quality of life; and
- the Indian subcontinent.

Dr. Don Zeigler, a professor of geography at Old Dominion University since 1980, will teach the course. He works regularly with Virginia teachers to improve their instruction to meet the Standards of Learning. Please contact him at [dzeigler@odu.edu](mailto:dzeigler@odu.edu) or at (757) 368-4113 for information about earning graduate credit. Although the course content is the same for everyone, teachers enrolled in World Geography Connects 1500 A.D. to the Present for credit will be required to complete a lesson or unit plan.

For more information, please contact Betsy Barton, history and social science specialist, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by e-mail at [Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-3454.

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