Geography of International Conflicts
GEOG 110
M/W/F
11-11:50am
Lecture: 66 Library
Office Hours: by appointment
Prof: Brian Jordan Jefferson
Email: bjjeffer@illinois.edu
Office: 233 CAB
Phone: 217.244.9074

Teaching Assistants
Donald Hutchinson
F 11-11:50am 137C Davenport
W 12-12:50 • 1-1:50pm 137C Davenport
Office: 137A Davenport
Office hours: W 2:30-4:00 • R 1-2:30
E: dhtchns2@illinois.edu
Ryan J. Stock
F 12-12:50pm 137D Davenport
Office: 137A Davenport
Office hours: M 2-2:50 • T 10-10:50 • Tr 10-10:50
E: rjstock2@illinois.edu

Description
This course explores planetary conflicts in a time when global connectivity and fragmentation are both rapidly intensifying. We examine the fluid and shifting power relations between governments, social groups, and other networks in a world characterized by a precarious economic system, social unrest, and ecological uncertainty. At each turn, we will use human geography – the study of how groups create, modify, and use physical and symbolic space – to explore how international conflicts arise, and how they can be better managed.

Course Objectives
The objectives of this course are threefold. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
• Express basic competence of major present day international conflicts pertaining to economics, social struggle, and the environment in discussion and writing.
• Demonstrate how political and human geography helps shed light on the origins, continuance, and resolutions of these conflicts.
• Demonstrate these capabilities through examination and discussion.

Course Structure
This course involves two lectures and one discussion section per week. The lectures will give broad outlines of the key themes in the assigned texts to supplement student’s reading and discussions.

During weekly discussion sections, students will engage closely with assigned texts through group work and dialogue. Each section of the textbook will be coupled with real-world events and discussion questions to test students’ grasp of the material.

Attendance
Attendance is crucial for your learning experience. This module is designed to be interactive, and class discussions are vital for developing our ideas. You will be allowed 3 absences – in both lecture and discussion sections combined. Thereafter, each unexcused absence will result in the deduction of attendance points.

If you are more than five minutes late to class, the TA will count you as absent for the day. In order to get participation points for class, you must actively participate in activities and in class discussions. Solely coming to class without required class materials will not gain you attendance points. Additionally, no cellphone use is allowed in class. Please put them on silent. Cellphone use will result in loss of attendance and/or participation points.

If you have a legitimate reason for missing class you may obtain a letter from the Emergency Dean. Absences cannot be cleared after the final class meeting.
Assignments

Discussion participation Discussion section consists of group work and ensuing conversation with the whole class. Each student is responsible for presenting her/his group’s response to discussion questions to the class one time during the semester.

One-page essays Students will be asked to hand in one-page essays at the end of each of the textbook’s six parts. The essays consist of students using concepts from the textbook to analyze a current event. Articles must be from the ‘World’ or ‘Politics’ sections of New York Times or The Wall Street Journal. Essay assignments are not meant to be summaries of the article. Rather they are intended to have students use political geography concepts to shed light on how the event is being reported.

The model essay will have one paragraph summarizing the article; one paragraph summarizing a political geography theory; and one or two paragraphs using the theory to illustrate how the journalist is covering the event. A grading rubric is available on Compass. Plagiarism will first lead to a zero for the assignment; students caught a second time will fail the course. Late assignments will not be accepted (unless student obtains a letter from the Emergency Dean).

Due dates: 9/11, 9/28, 10/16, 10/30, 12/9

Midterm/Final The midterm and final will synergize readings, lectures, and discussions to test students’ overall grasp on course materials. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer. Though the final will not be cumulative, it will require knowledge of concepts from the midterm.

Dates: 10/21, TBA

Required Materials

  *Available at the Illini Union Bookstore and Undergraduate Library

• i-Clicker: i-Clickers will be used for attendance and activities during lecture. They can be purchased at the Illini Union Bookstore or Amazon.com, and are registered at https://compass2g.illinois.edu.

Grading system

Lecture attendance: 5%
Discussion attendance: 5%
Discussion participation: 5%
Midterm: 25%
Final Exam: 30%
One-page essays: 6% each (x5)

100 - 94% A
93-90% A-
89-87% B+
86-84% B
83-80% B-
79-77% C+
76-74% C
73-70% C-
69-67% D+
66-64% D
63-below: F
Course Schedule
WEEK ONE Introduction
• M 8/24
Introduction to course

• W 8/26
Lecture: Key Concepts in Human Geography

• Discussion: Introduction to discussion session

WEEK TWO Statecraft (part I)
• M 8/31
Lecture: Chapter 1 Nation-state

• W 9/2
Lecture: Chapter 2 Sovereignty

• W/F Discussion
South Africa case study

WEEK THREE Statecraft cont'd
• M 9/7
Lecture: Chapter 3 Governance

• W 9/9
Lecture: Chapter 4 Democracy

• W/F Discussion
Kosovo and Serbia case study
One-page essay on Statecraft due Friday (9/11)

WEEK FOUR Modes of Power (part II)
• M 9/11
Lecture: Chapter 5 Hegemony

• W 9/16
Lecture: Chapter 6 Territory

• W/F Discussion
US case study

WEEK FIVE Modes of Power cont'd
• M 9/21
Lecture: Chapter 7 Geopolitics

• W 9/23
Lecture: Chapter 8 Superpower

• W/F Discussion
Bosnia and Herzegovina case study
One-page essay on Power due Friday (9/28)

WEEK SIX Modernity (part III)
• M 9/28
Lecture: Chapter 9 Colonialism/imperialism
• W 9/30
Lecture: Chapter 10 Political Economy

• W/F Discussion
British Columbia and American Empire case study

WEEK SEVEN Modernity cont’d
• M 10/5
Lecture: Chapter 11 Ideology

• W 10/7
Lecture: Chapter 12 Socialism

• W/F Discussion
Turkey and Post-socialist case studies

WEEK EIGHT Modernity cont’d
• M 10/12
Lecture: Chapter 13 Neoliberalism

• W 10/14
Lecture: Chapter 14 Globalization

• W/F Discussion
Bolivia and Mexico case studies
One-page essay on Modernity due Friday (10/16)

WEEK NINE MIDTERM
• M 10/19
Lecture Review for Midterm

• W 10/21
Lecture Midterm Exam

• W/F Discussion: Discuss Midterm

WEEK TEN Bounding Space (part IV)
• M 10/26
Lecture: Chapter 16 Scale

• W 10/28
Lecture: Chapter 17 Border, Chapter 18 Regionalism
One-page essay on Bounding Space due Friday (10/30)

• W/F Discussion
Florida and Arizona case studies

WEEK ELEVEN Violence (part V)
• M 11/2
Lecture: Chapter 19 Conflict

• W 11/4
Lecture: Chapter 20 Post-Conflict

• W/F Discussion
New York and Narmada Valley case studies

**WEEK TWELVE** Violence cont’d
- **M 11/9**
  Lecture: Chapter 21 Terrorism

- **W 11/11**
  Lecture: Chapter 22 Anti-statism

- **W/F Discussion**
  Russia, Chechnya case study

Discussion
**One-page essay on Violence due Friday (11/13)**

**WEEK THIRTEEN** Identity (part VI)
- **M 11/16**
  Lecture: Chapter 23 Nationalism

- **W 11/18**
  Lecture: Chapter 24 Citizenship

- **W/F Discussion**
  Afghanistan and Britain case study

**WEEK FOURTEEN**
- **M 11/23 HOLIDAY**

- **W 11/25 HOLIDAY**

**WEEK FIFTEEN** Identity cont’d
- **M 11/30**
  Lecture: Chapter 25 Postcolonialism

- **W 12/2**
  Lecture: Chapter 27 Gender

- **W/F Discussion**
  Review for Final

**WEEK SIXTEEN** Identity cont’d, Final Review
- **M 12/7**
  Lecture: Chapter 28 The Other

- **W 12/9**
  **One-page essay on Identity due Wednesday**
  Review for Final Exam

- Final Exam: TBA