

**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Dept. of Political Science**  
**POLI 2057**  
**Introduction to International Relations**

**Fall 2011**

**MWF: 8:40AM-9:30AM**

**203 Turead**

**Office Hours:** MW 10:45 AM – 1PM or by appointment

**Office:** 239 Stubbs

**Instructor:** Masse Ndiaye [maas njaay]

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**Course Overview:**

This course introduces students to the study of politics at the international stage. It surveys the different approaches used to examine the history as well as the structure of global politics. We will broadly explore the main causes and consequences of conflicts and cooperation. We will also examine the behaviors of nation- states and non-state actors on the international stage.

We will achieve the goals of this course by relying on a two-pronged approach. Firstly, we will learn the theoretical, conceptual, and historical tools used by analysts of international politics to make sense of our world. Secondly, we will apply these lenses to major historical changes as well as contemporary events germane to this course to better understand relations among nations. Particular major contemporary issues include, but are not limited to, conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the emergence



## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK OF 8/22/2011: SOME BASIC CONCEPTS**

Syllabus Presentation

Continuity and change in international relations.

*Optional Readings:* Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War

### **WEEK OF 8/29/2011: MAJOR SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT**

Lecture Two: Traditional International Relations Theories: Realism, Idealism, and Interdependence.

Dynamic of International relations: Introduction and Ch. 1.

Optional Reading: Jervis, Robert. 1978. Cooperation under the security dilemma.

*World Politics.* 30 (2): 167-214.

**Labor Day Holiday: 9/05/2011**

### **WEEK OF 9/07/2011: POST-WAR WORLD ORDERS ( WW I &II)**

Dynamic of International Relations, Ch. 2

Optional Reading:

Optional Reading

**10/03/2011**

**WEEK OF 10/10/2011: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Dynamics of International Relations, ch. 10 &11

Optional Reading:

**WEEK OF 11/14/2011: DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN POST 9/11  
WORLD**

Zakaria, Fareed. *The Rise of Illiberal Democracy*  
Articles on the Libya and Egypt : TBD

*November 18. Class cancelled; professor at the ASA Conference.*

**WEEK OF 11/21/2011 CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES AND  
CHALLENGES**

Dynamics of International Relations, ch. 13.  
Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The tragedy of the commons. *Science*. 162 (3859): 1243-1248.  
Final Short paper due 11/25/2011

**WEEK OF 11/28/2011 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY**

Nye, Ch. 9.  
Zakaria, Fareed. 2008. The rise of the rest. *Newsweek*.  
Final Exam Review  
Course Evaluations

**12/05/2011  
FINAL EXAM**