

POLI 2057: Introduction to International Politics
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:50am Fall 2014
105 Tureaud Hall

Instructor

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm, or by appointment

Course Description: This course is an introductory course in international relations, a subfield of political science. No previous coursework or background in international

In addition to the selections from the textbook above, additional supplementary readings will be made available on Moodle or in Middleton library. As this course is also focused on current events in international politics, students are expected to remain abreast of the state of current international affairs through the utilization of newspapers, periodicals, and other sources of international news. This information may be utilized in class and subject to unannounced quizzes. A list of suggested sources is provided on the course Moodle page.

Course Requirements: The structure of the class will be a mix of lecture as well as group discussion. To help facilitate these discussions, it is imperative that students come prepared to each class having read the week's material and having familiarized themselves with current events. In addition to two exams and an unspecified number of quizzes, each individual will participate in a group project on global affairs. The details of this project are provided below.

A few notes on participation:

1. All students are expected to participate in class discussions. Students uncomfortable speaking in front of the class are encouraged to come to office hours to discuss the material. Participation in office hours as

For the course grade, the calculated final percentage will be rounded up to the nearest integer. Missed quizzes may not be made up, however, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Missed exams may not be made up without appropriate documentation of a medical emergency. If you feel that an error has been made in the grading of your assignment, a written submission specifying the contested question(s) and/or issue(s) as well as the detailed reason why you feel an error has been made, including supporting documentation, should be given to the instructor prior to scheduling a meeting to discuss the issue. Only grading issues pertaining to the substance or format of an argument or factual error on the part of the instructor will be considered eligible for review.

Students requiring special accommodation: Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and the instructor, early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, (225) 578-5919.

Course Outline & Reading Schedule

Week 1: August 26 & 28

Course Introduction

The Evolution of the International System IR, Chapter 1, pages 26-38

Week 2: September 2 & 4

The Elements of International Relations IR; Chapter 1, pages 3-23

Rationality & Game Theoretic Approaches IR; Chapter 2, pages 75-79

Week 3: September 9 & 11

Power Politics IR, Chapter 2, pages 43-75

Supplementary Reading: Rice, Condoleezza. 2002. "Rethinking the National Interest".
Foreign Affairs 87(4): 2-26.

Week 4: September 16 & 18

Alternatives to Power Politics IR, Chapter 3, pages 85-110

Supplementary Reading: Rubin, James P. 2000. "Building a New Atlantic Alliance".
Foreign Affairs 87(4): 99-110.

Week 5: September 23 & 25

Foreign Policy and Domestic Decision Making IR, Chapter 4

International Conflict IR, Chapter 5

Week 6: September 30

No Class October 2 Due to Fall Holiday

International Conflict (continued)

Week 7: October 7

No Class October 9

Military Force and Terrorism IR, Chapter 6

Supplementary Reading: Ross, Michael L. 2008. "Blood Barrels". Foreign Affairs
87(3): 2-9.

Week 8: October 14 & 16 - Mid-

Week 9: October 21 & 23
International OrganizationR, Chapter 7

Guidelines for Group Project on Global Affairs

Working in a group of 4-5 students, each member will participate in a group project relating to current events in a specific geographic region (detailed below). The project should focus on a topical international issue involving at least two countries, with one or more of the countries being located in the group's specified region. The regions are as follows:

Global Regions

Africa

Central America

Central Asia

Eastern Europe

Japan/Pacific

Middle East

Russia & China

South America

South-East Asia

Western Europe

Think of the project as a briefing to policymakers who must make a decision regarding potential courses of action; provide all the information that you think would be necessary to make an informed decision, and also keep a focus on the theoretical and policy

Option A: Group Paper and Accompanying In-Class Presentation

If this option is chosen, the group must submit a type-written 10-12 page paper (double spaced with 1" margins) that discusses the material presented to the class by the class session in which they are scheduled to present. These papers will be uploaded to the course website on Courseweb and the materials from the presentations and papers may be used on the Final Exam.

The presentations should be approximately 8 minutes in length and utilize any necessary visual aids (including Powerpoint). Presentations which exceed 8 minutes will be stopped at the 9 minute mark and a half-letter grade will be deducted from the final presentation grade.

The presentations and papers will jointly constitute 15% of each student's final course grade (7.5% for the paper, and 7.5% for the presentation). The presentation grade will evaluate issues such as preparation, clarity and thoroughness, while the paper will assess the substance of the argument, use of primary and secondary sources, and the technical execution of the paper. All cited material must be properly attributed to the original source; a half-letter grade deduction may be made for each instance of an unattributed quotation or use of original material. Papers which engage in plagiarism will be given an "F" and students reported to the university.

All presentations utilizing Powerpoint or other computer related files must be emailed to the instructor by 10pm on the day preceding the presentation. All papers must be submitted to the instructor in .pdf format for posting to the course website and for possible utilization of plagiarism detection software, such as Turnitin.

