

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLI 2057, Section 3
Fall 2018

Course location: Allen 019
Course time: MWF, 8:30-9:20

Course instructor: Michael Toje
Contact: mtoje1@lsu.edu

Office: Howe-Russell 153B
Hours: MW, 1:30 pm – 3:20 pm
or by appointment

Course Description & Objectives

Never before has the world been more interconnected than at the threshold of the 21st century: political decisions made in other countries affect us almost as much as decisions made in our own country. This class aims to draw a deeper understanding of the historical, cultural, and political contexts that shape international politics, namely to concepts, ideas, and theories in the field of IR, and their application and practice in the real world. LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference. The class consists of two parts: the first part explores theoretical, abstract approaches within the field, as well as the identity and nature of political actors on the world stage. The second part comprises studies of the strategies, outcomes and occurrences within international relations, with special attention to how the aforementioned political actors shape – and are shaped by – these phenomena.

Required Textbook:

Blanton, Shannon L., and Charles W. Kegley. 2017. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, 2016-17 edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

ISBN: 978-1305504875

Textbooks are available at the Bookstore, as well as through online book dealers. Try to find the most up-to-date version you can find, if you do decide to buy secone7(.)JTETBta.3141 363. .40BTcone7(.)h4(te

Final Grades

A+	100-97	B+	89.9-87	C+	79.9-77	D+	69.9-67	F	< 60
A	96.9-93	B	86.9-83	C	76.9-73	D	66.9-63		
A-	92.9-90	B-	82.9-80	C-	72.9-70	D-	62.9-60		

Assignment Policy

The instructor reserves the right to change the listed assignments. Students will receive a revised syllabus if the listing of course assignments changes.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is the responsibility of the student, and each

Course Schedule

PART 1

Week 1: Aug 20-24
Chapter 1

Intro to International Relations and the Science of Politics

- x State, nation, actor
- x Power
- x Primer on terms

The science of politics

- x Empiricism and bias
- x Hypothesis testing
- x Levels of analysis

Week 2: Aug 27-31
Chapter 2

Theories/Paradigms

- x Realism
- x Liberalism
- x Constructivism
- x Other theories (Marxism and feminism)

(This week ~~is~~ final day for adding or dropping courses)

Week 3: Sep 5-7
Chapter 3

Decision-making in IR

- x Rational choice theory
- x Nature of leadership
- x Bureaucracies
- x Constraints, foreign and domestic

(no class Monday ~~is~~ enjoy Labor Day!)

Week 4: Sep 10-14
Chapter 4

Great Power Competition

- x Hegemony and global leadership
- x World Wars
- x Cold War
- x Competition in the 21st century

Week 5: Sep 17-21
Chapter 5

Global South

- x Colonialism and independence
- x Sources of underdevelopment
- x x

PART 2

Week 8: Oct 8-12
Chapter 7

- War...
- x Causes
 - x Interstate
 - x Intrastate
 - x Extrastate

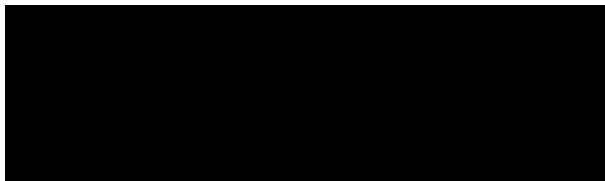
Week 9: Oct 15-19
Chapter 8

- ...The Continuation of Politics by Other Means?
- x Military capabilities, public capacities
 - x Diplomacy, gunboat and otherwise
 - x Alliances and balance of power
 - x ABC/NBC and MAD

Week 10: Oct 22-26
Chapter 9

- Quest for Peace
- x Disarmament and arms controls
 - x International organizations and collective security
 - x International law
 - x The spread of norms and institutions

Week 11: Oct 29-Nov 2
Chapter 10



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