

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLI 2057, Section 4
Fall 2018

Course location: Tureaud 127
Course time: MWF, 12:30-1:20

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

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. 2018.

urrent Events – Students will write four articles (2-3 pages each) throughout the semester that will critically analyze the events that transpire around us every day. Students must be able to apply the theories, paradigms, and concepts introduced in class in their articles due at the beginning of class at any point in the semester. Each article is worth 5%, for a total of 20% of your total grade.

- Climate Interactive – Students will negotiate their own version of the Paris Agreement. The exercise will comprise an in-class simulation held on the last week of the end of the semester and a 6-page synopsis, and counts for 25% of the final grade. Further details will follow in class.
- Midterm exam – One in-class exam will be given during the course, covering the concepts, ideas and theories covered in the first eight weeks of class. The midterm exam will be worth 20%

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

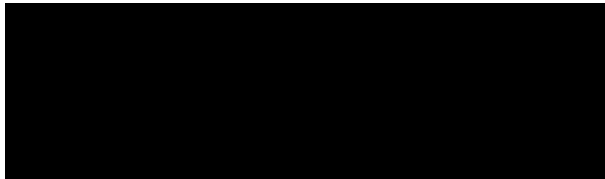
Week 9: Oct 15-19
Chapter 8

- ...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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