

POLI 2057: Introduction to International Politics

Required Text: Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse *International Relations*, 10th edition (Full)

This course will also require students to work with the course page on the Top Hat interactive teaching platform (<https://tophat.com>). The course join code is 139439.

Grading Policy: The grading breakdown is as follows:

Graded Elements

Attendance: 20%
 Quizzes: 15%
 Reaction Papers 5%
 Group Project on Global Affairs: 10%
 Mid-term Exam: 25%
 Final Exam: 25%

Letter Grades and Percentages

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 59 or below
A: 93-96	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

Additional Notes on Grading:

- Students are allowed 3 absences without penalty and the attendance grade will be calculated as $[(\text{Number of classes attended}) / (\text{Number of classes in which attendance was taken} - 3)] * 100$. Absences after the third may be forgiven with written evidence that the absences comply with LSU Policy Statement 22: <https://goo.gl/ttg4zT>. Written documentation for the first three absences is not necessary as they are automatically forgiven.
- Reaction papers of 2 to 3 pages (double spaced) will be assigned throughout the course asking the student to respond to reading or concepts discussed in class.
- Missed quizzes may not be made-up; however, the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
- Missed exams may not be made up without appropriate documentation of a valid excuse for absence as defined by LSU Policy Statement 22.
- Thirty-five percent of the quiz, reaction papers, group project, midterm and final exam grades will be earned by completing assignment, with the remaining sixty-five percent assigned based on evaluation of the assignment's content.
- The calculated final percentage will be rounded up to the nearest integer for assignment of the course letter grade.
- 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 course instructor prior to scheduling a meeting to discuss the issue. Only original 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.

General Statement on Academic Integrity:

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment, failing the class, and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Plagiarism and Citation Method:

As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively. If you have questions regarding what is appropriate, please consult with the library's tutorials on avoiding plagiarism and proper citation formats (links are provided on the course Moodle page).

Group work and unauthorized assistance:

All work must be completed without assistance unless explicit permission for group or partner work is given by the faculty member. This is critical so that the professor can assess your performance on each assignment. At group/partner project is assigned, the student may still have individual work to complete. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. You might have a prof with group work and a follow up report that is independently written. When in doubt, email the faculty member or ask during a class session. Seeking clarification is your responsibility as a student. Assuming group/partner work is okay without permission constitutes violation of the LSU Code of Student Conduct.

Students requiring special accommodation: Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Resource Center. Documented disability accommodations are provided through the Disability Resource Center. For more information, contact the Disability Resource Center at (504) 388-2222 or www.lsu.edu/drc.

Course Outline & Reading Schedule

Week 1: January 11

Course Introduction

Week 2: January 16 & 18

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

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

Week 3: January 23 & 25

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

Power Politics; Chapter 2, pages 43-75

Week 4: January 30 & February 1

Power Politics: (continued)

Supplementary Reading: Rice, Condoleezza. "Rethinking the National Interest".

Foreign Affairs 87(4): 2-26.

Week 5: February 6 & 8

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

Supplementary Reading: Biden, Joseph R. Jr. 2016. "Building on Success".

Affairs 95(5): 46-57.

Week 6: February 15 – No Class 2/13, Mardi Gras Break

Foreign Policy and Domestic Decision Making; Chapter 4

Week 7: February 20 & 22

International Conflict; Chapter 5

Week 8: February 27 & March 1

Film, "Cold War 2.0"

Supplementary Reading: Voeten, Erik. "Putin and Obama clash over international relations theory."

Week 12: March 27 & 29, No classes, Spring Break

Week 13: April 3 & 5

Global Finance and Business, Chapter 9

April 5: Video, "Life & Debt"

Week 14: April 10 & 12

Global Finance and Business: (continued)

International Integration, Chapter 10

Week 15: April 17 & 19

April 17: Unscheduled day for remaining course material

April 19: Group Presentations

Week 16: April 24 & 26

Group Presentations

Week 17: Final Exam Week, No Class

Final exam will be administered based on the schedule set forth by the registrar

Friday, May 4 beginning at 3:00pm

Guidelines for Group Project on Global Affairs

Working in a groups of 3-5 students, each class 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 focus on the theoretical and policy materials

Option B: Multimedia Project

If this option is chosen, the group must submit a multimedia based project of no longer than 8 minutes for presentation in class. Each minute in excess of 8 will result in a half-letter grade deduction from the final project grade. The projects must be uploaded to Moodle by 10pm on the night preceding the in-class screening.

The project must focus on the key issues/questions detailed above, as with option A. The group has a wide variety of options to choose from when it comes to the type of media they choose to utilize, but it must cover the necessary material and require no input or action on behalf of the audience. Narrated PowerPoint presentations are not a permissible submission type. The project submission must be entirely self-contained, meaning that it includes all necessary elements such as transcript and visuals. The overall concept is that the audience participation will be limited to beginning the presentation, and a student