
Introduction to International Politics

POLI 2057

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jonathan Nickens
Office: 320 Stubbs Halls
Email: jnicke8@lsu.edu
Office Hours: M 12:30-1:30
or by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Louisiana State University
Fall 2019
Section 004
35 Allen Hall
MWF 1:30-2:20pm

Course Overview

Course Description

This course provides a university-level introduction to international politics by examining interactions between states, reasons behind conflict, foreign policy and diplomatic communication. In addition, this course covers the traditional main tenets and theories of the sub-field, including realism, liberalism and balance of power arrangements. Other topics to be reviewed include political psychology and the role of international bodies. While international politics covers a wide-ranging area of research & study, this course is designed to provide the student with a firm grasp and understanding of the core issues of the sub-field, while also highlighting some of the emerging areas of current research, methods, and modes of thinking. Course instruction involves discussion of broad themes and topics, while also highlighting detailed information pertaining to case studies and individual interactions between states.

LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

Required Reading

1) The textbook listed below is required for this course. It can be found at university and area bookstores. The textbook is also available online for purchase at various online bookstores and websites.

Mingst, K.A. and Arreguin-Toft, I.M. (2016). **Essentials of International Relations**. W.W. Norton. 7th Edition, (ISBN: 978-

class discussion via general comments and questions on an occasional basis. I don't expect you to contribute to every class discussion, but I expect you to do so periodically.

Quizzes (4)

Students will take four in-class quizzes on dates noted by the instructor. Content for quizzes will be taken from news articles posted on Moodle. Quizzes will consist of ten multiple-choice questions each. You will need a small scantron for quizzes.

Exams (3)

Content for exams are taken from in-class lectures and assigned readings (textbook chapters & other readings). The format for exams will be multiple choice. The exams are non-cumulative (see more below).

-Exam #1-

This exam will test for content covered during the first third of the course. The format for this exam will be multiple choice. Exam #1 will be administered in-class on **September 27, 2019**. You will need a small scantron for this exam.

-Exam #2-

This exam will test for content covered during the middle third of the course. The format for this exam will be multiple choice. Exam #1 will be administered in-class on **November 1, 2019**. You will need a small scantron for this exam.

-Final Exam-

This exam will test for content covered during the final third of the course. This exam is not cumulative. The format for this exam will be multiple choice. The Final Exam will be administered on **Saturday, December 14, 2019 from 7:30am-9:30am**. The location for the Final Exam will be the normal classroom. You will need a small scantron for this exam.

*Note: The Final Exam date and time is set by the University and cannot be moved, modified, or made-up, unless qualifying circumstances are met and approved by the HSS Dean's Office.

Grade Calculation

A graded item is an exam, quiz, attendance, etc. Each graded item is based on a 100 point total (0-100). Your score for each graded item is the number of points received. Final grades for students will be calculated by multiplying their score for each graded item times (x) the weighted percentage for each graded item. The weighted graded items are then added together and a final grade given based on 100 point totals.

SAMPLE FOR FINAL GRADE

| Graded Item | % of Grade (Weight) | Score (Example) | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Attendance | 15% | 90 | 13.5 |
| Participation (in-class) | 5% | 100 | 5 |
| Quizzes (4 x 7.5%) | 30% | 85 | 25.5 |
| Midterm Exam | 25% | 95 | 23.75 |

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|------------|-----|----|-------|
| Final Exam | 25% | 83 | 20.75 |
|------------|-----|----|-------|

FINAL GRADE

Course Policies & Expectations

Note on Participation and Preparation

Students are expected to come to class on-time, prepared and ready to engage in material

citation style. 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.

Technology Use

Laptop use in class is for note-taking, research purposes and academic-centered use. This privilege is contingently permitted, but may be rescinded at any time. It is an obvious concern that laptop use is a distraction to students during lectures, and I encourage you to keep electronic use to a minimum. Sustained abuse of laptop privileges may result in punitive adjustments to a student's participation grade when it becomes apparent to the instructor that technology is being used for purposes other than academic learning. Cell phone use is not allowed and should be avoided. Likewise, use of other technological devices is prohibited, unless approved by the instructor. Students may not record lectures or class discussions using any type of electronic device. Concerns related to this or any policy listed above should be discussed with the instructor, as amicable modifications will be based on genuine needs of the student, as it relates to learning in a university environment.

Communication and Conduct

All communication with the instructor and all written work should be prepared using formal, standard language. In other words, do not use "texting" language or other abbreviated jargon to communicate your thoughts and ideas for this class.

Additionally, all students are required to conduct themselves appropriately at all times and in a professional, courteous manner. This means it is necessary for you to treat others with respect and courtesy. Talking while the instructor or another student is talking will not be tolerated.

Conduct that is disruptive and/or not respectful of an academic environment will also not be tolerated. Severe violation of these guidelines will be reported to the LSU Office for the Dean of Students.

General Statements

If in doubt about any policy, requirement, or content-related matter, please contact the instructor. Also, it would greatly benefit students to read and become familiar with the LSU General Catalog. This catalog contains the official policies and regulations of the University. I am more than willing to provide additional information or explanation to questions related to course content posed by students. Questions or concerns may be addressed in-class, through email, in-person during office hours, or by appointment. I will respond to emails within a timely manner, but allow up to 24 hours for responses. I am also available to meet before/after class to discuss questions or concerns.

LSU provides each student with a University-affiliated email (ex. jsmith4@lsu.edu) which you should have already activated and currently use. If you have not activated your University email account, you should do so immediately, as all course communication will be sent to this email address.

Check your email, check the course Moodle page, and check the Course Calendar (see below) on a regular basis. Be proactive!

Integrated Learning

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is

| | | |
|--------|------------|------------|
| Oct 7 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 9 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 11 | Lecture | Quiz #2 |
| | | |
| Oct 14 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 16 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 18 | *No Class* | Fall Break |
| | | |
| Oct 21 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 23 | Lecture | - |

| | | |
|--------|------------|----------------------|
| Nov 25 | Lecture | - |
| Nov 27 | *No Class* | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| Nov 29 | *No Class* | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| | | |

Dec 2