

POLI 2057: Introduction to International Politics

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 - 4:20pm Fall 2021

253 Himes Hall

Instructor

- Kwadwo Poku-Agyemang
- Office: 311 Stubbs Hall
- Email: kpokua1@lsu.edu
- Office Hours: Online via Zoom Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment. Zoom Meeting ID and password will be posted to the course Moodle site.

Course Description: This course is an introductory lecture in international relations, a subfield of political science. No previous coursework or background in international relations or political science is required. The general purpose of the course is twofold: the first is to provide students with the current theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches utilized in the study of international relations, including the approaches used in more specific areas such as conflict and international political economy. The second goal of the course is to expand students' knowledge of international affairs and institutions, including historical and contemporary issues of significance. These two purposes are not mutually exclusive, and as such there will be a large degree of interplay between them, including the use of the theoretical frameworks presented to contextualize and interpret current events. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to apply the theories and models utilized in the study of international relations to contemporary current events for the purposes of increasing the student's understanding of the relevant actors, their goals and actions, and the factors which inhibit or facilitate cooperation or conflict.

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 designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of *Social/Behavioral Sciences* and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of *Global Learning*.

Required Text: Jon C. Pevehouse and Joshua S. Goldstein, *International Relations* 12e, ISBN 9780135176610 (Pearson Revel).

In addition to the selections from the textbook above, additional readings will be made available on *Moodle* or in the 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

keep our campus community safe, helps protect those among us who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, and is our path back to more normal operations and the full college experience that our students deserve.

Daily Symptom Checker: You are required to respond to a daily symptom check request sent via email or text message each morning. Completing the symptom checker will take approximately one to two minutes. Once you have provided information about your symptoms, you will be given

- Thirty-five percent of the reaction papers, group project, midterm and final paper grades will be earned by

Services and the instructor, as 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.

Week 10: October 26 & 28

- Foreign Policy and Domestic Decision Making: *IR*, Chapter 4
- International Organization: *IR*, Chapter 7

Week 11: November 2 & 4

- The North-South Gap: *IR*, Chapter 12
- International Development: *IR*, Chapter 13

Week 12: November 9 & 11

- International Trade: *IR*, Chapter 8

Week 13: November 16 & 18

- Global Finance and Business: *IR*, Chapter 9

Week 14: November 23

- Global Finance and Business (continued)
- Unscheduled day for remaining course material

Week 15: November 30 & December 2

- Group Presentations

Final Exam Review Session on Zoom

- (link available in Moodle)

Week 16: Final Exam Week, No Class

- Final exam – December 8 (12:30pm – 2:30pm)