

## **POLI 2057: Introduction to International Politics**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:50am Fall 2016

212 Coates

### **Instructor**

Daniel C. Tirone

204 Stubbs Hall

Email: [dtiron1@lsu.edu](mailto:dtiron1@lsu.edu)

Phone: (225) 578-2531

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30pm, or by appointment

**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,

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

This course will also require students to enroll with the course page on the Top Hat interactive teaching platform (<https://tophat.com>). The course join code is 689807.

In addition to the selections from the textbook above, additional supplementary readings will be made available on Moodle or in Middleton 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 may be utilized in class and subject to unannounced quizzes. A list of suggested sources is provided on the course Moodle page.

**Course Requirements:** The structure of the class will be a mix of lecture as well as group discussion. To help facilitate the class discussion, it is imperative that students come prepared to each class having read that week's material and having familiarized themselves with current events. In addition to

**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:

- x Students are allowed 5 absences without penalty. The attendance grade will be calculated as  $[(\text{Number of classes attended})/(\text{Number of classes in which attendance was taken}-5)]*100$ . This means that the maximum possible attendance grade is  $100+[(5/\text{Number of classes in which attendance was taken})*100]$
- x Reaction papers of 2 to 3 pages (double spaced) will be assigned throughout the course asking the student to respond to a reading or concept discussed in class
- x Missed quizzes may not be made-up; however, the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
- x Missed exams may not be made up without appropriate documentation of a valid excuse for absence as defined by LSU Policy Statement 22.
- x Fifty percent of the quiz, reaction papers, group project, midterm and final exam grades will be earned by completing the assignment, with the remaining fifty percent assigned based on evaluation of the assignment's content.
- x The calculated final percentage will be rounded up to the nearest integer for assignment of the course letter grade.
- x 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 grading 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](http://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 or 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 Moodlepage).

**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. If a 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 project with group work and a follow up report that is independently written. When in doubt, e-mail 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 a 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 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.

**Course Outline & Reading Schedule****Week 1: August 23 & 25**

Course Introduction

The Evolution of the International System: IR, Chapter 1, pages 26-38**Week 2: August 30 & September 1**The Elements of International Relations: IR, Chapter 1, pages 3-23Rationality & Game Theoretic Approaches: IR, Chapter 2, pages 75-79**Week 3: September 6 & 8**Power Politics: IR, Chapter 2, pages 43-75Supplementary Reading: Rice, Condoleeza. 2008. "Rethinking the National Interest".  
Foreign Affairs87(4): 2-26.**Week 4: September 13 & 15**Alternatives to Power Politics: IR, Chapter 3, pages 85-110Supplementary Reading: Rubin, James P. 2008. "Building a New Atlantic Alliance".  
Foreign Affairs87(4): 99-110.**Week 5: September 20 & 22**Foreign Policy and Domestic Decision Making: IR, Chapter 4International Conflict: IR, Chapter 5**Week 6: September 27 & 29**International Conflict (continued)

Film, "Cold War 2.0"

Military Force and Terrorism: IR, Chapter 6**Week 7: October 4****\*\*\*No Class October 6 – Fall Break\*\*\***Military Force and Terrorism (continued)**Week 8: October 11 & 13 - Mid-semester examination period**

October 11: Midterm Exam Review

October 13: Midterm Exam

**Week 9: October 18 & 20 -**International Organization: IR, Chapter 7The North-South Gap: IR, Chapter 12**Week 10: October 25 & 27**International Development: IR, Chapter 13**Week 11: November 1 & 3**International Trade: IR, Chapter 8

**Week 12: November 8 & 10**

Global Finance and Business: IR, Chapter 9

**Week 13: November 15 & 17**

November 15: International Integration: IR, Chapter 10

Supplementary Reading: The Economist 2008. "Commons Sense". August 2: 76.

November 17: Group Presentations

**Week 14: November 22**

**\*\*\*No Class November 24 – Thanksgiving\*\*\***

Film, "Life and Debt"

**Week 15: November 29 & December 1**

Group Presentations

**Week 16: Final Exam Week, No Class**

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

Monday, December 5 beginning at 10:00am

### **Guidelines for Group Project on Global Affairs**

Working in a group of 4-5 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 policy makers 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 keep a focus on the theoretical and policy materials discussed in class. An in-class discussion of the issue will follow the presentation.





