

POLI 2057: Introduction to International Politics

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:50am Fall 2017

214 Coates

Instructor

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Office Hours: Thursdays 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 to the study of international relations.

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 absence complies 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 a reading or concept 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 the 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 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

Week 11: October 31 & November 2

International Trade: *IR*, Chapter 8

Week 12: November 7 & 9

Global Finance and Business: *IR*, Chapter 9

Week 13: November 14 & 16

November 14: International Integration: *IR*, Chapter 10

November 16: Group Presentations

Week 14: November 21 – No Class 11/23, Thanksgiving

November 21: Video, “Life & Debt”

Week 15: November 28 & 30

April 20: Group Presentations

Week 16: Final Exam Week, No Class

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

Middle East

Option A: Group Paper and Accompanying In-Class Presentation

If this option is chosen, the group must submit a type-written 10-12 page paper (double spaced with 1" margins) that discusses the material presented to the class by the class session in which they are scheduled to present. These papers will be uploaded to the course website on *Courseweb*, and the materials from the presentations and papers may be used on the Final Exam

The presentations should be approximately 8 minutes in length and utilize any necessary visual aids (including Powerpoint). Presentations which exceed 8 minutes will be stopped at the 9 minute mark and a half-letter grade will be deducted from the final presentation grade.

The presentations and papers will jointly constitute 10% of each student's final course grade (5% for the paper, and 5% for the presentation). The presentation grade will evaluate issues such as preparation, clarity, and thoroughness, while the paper will assess the substance of the argument, use of primary and secondary sources, and the technical execution of the paper. All cited material must be properly attributed to the original source; a half-letter grade deduction may be taken for each instance of an unattributed quotation or

