

POLI 2057: Introduction to International Politics

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:50am Fall 2018

214 Coates

Instructor

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 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

Required Text: Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations*, 10th 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 093553.

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 two exams and an unspecified number of quizzes, each individual will participate in a group project on global affairs. The details of this project are provided below.

A few notes on participation:

1. All students are expected to participate in class discussions. Students uncomfortable speaking in front of the class are encouraged to come to office hours to discuss the material. Participation in office hours as well as the Course Forum (on Moodle)

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

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 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 *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. If a group/partner project is assigned, the student may still have

Course Outline & Reading Schedule**Week 1: August 21 & 23**

Course Introduction

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

Week 2: August 28 – No Class August 30

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

Week 3: September 4 & 6

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

Power Politics: IR, Chapter 2, pages 43-75

Week 4: September 11 & 13

Power Politics: (continued)

Supplementary Reading: Rice, Condoleeza. 2008. "Rethinking the National Interest".
Foreign Affairs 87(4): 2-26.

Alternatives to Power Politics: IR, Chapter 3, pages 85-110

Week 10: October 23 & 25

International Organization: *IR*, Chapter 7

The North-South Gap: *IR*, Chapter 12

International Development: *IR*, Chapter 13

Week 11: October 30 & November 1

International Trade: *IR*, Chapter 8

Week 12: November 6 & 8

Global Finance and Business: *IR*, Chapter 9

Week 13: November 13 & 15

November 13: International Integration, *IR*, Chapter 10

November 15: Group Presentations

Week 14: November 20 – No class November 22 due to Thanksgiving

Video, “Life & Debt”

Week 15: November 27 & 29

Group Presentations

Week 16: Final Exam Week, No Class

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

Friday, December 7 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 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. Questions which would be useful to consider would include:

What is the issue of contention/interest and who are the actors involved?

What is the history of the issue/actors?

What are the suggested potential resolutions or outcomes for the issue?

Does the United States have a position relating to the issue? If so, what is that position?

How does this issue relate to the materials we have studied in class? (i.e. theories, problems, etc)

All groups are encouraged to discuss the topic they are considering addressing with the course instructor prior to beginning work.

As a collaborative endeavor, the joint effort of the group is what will be evaluated and each participating student (as determined by the students who are named as contributors on the final submission) will receive the grade assigned to that group for all graded elements.

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 use of original material. Papers which engage in plagiarism will be given an "F" and students reported to the university.

All presentations utilizing Powerpoint or other computer related files must be submitted via the appropriate Moodle link by 10pm on the day preceding the presentation. All papers must be also be submitted via Moodle in .pdf format for posting to the course website and for possible utilization of plagiarism detection software, such as Turnitin.

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