

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

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:50am Spring 2016  
203 Tureaud Hall

### **Instructor**

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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 cu

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) will count towards the class participation grade.
2. Many of the issues and approaches utilized in international relations are subject to debate. Students are therefore encouraged to question the material in a thoughtful and respectful manner. No student will be penalized for presenting an argument which questions the material presented; all perspectives are welcome, although they are also fair game for class discussion and debate.
3. In order to facilitate class discussion and preserve an environment in which all students are encouraged to participate, please keep your class contributions directed at the material and arguments presented and not at fellow class members. Comments of a personal nature directed against fellow students will not be tolerated.

**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

**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 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 with grR. .0015's tu

**Week 4: February 2 & 4**  
Power Politics (continued)

**Week 15: April 19 & 21**

April 19: Flex day for remaining material from preceding weeks

April 21: Group Presentations

**Week 16: April 26 & 28**

April 26: Group Presentations

April 28: Final Exam Review Session

**Week 17: Final Exam Week, No Class**

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

Friday, May 6 from 10am to 12 noon

### **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 discussi





**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 minute in excess of 8 will result in a half-letter grade deduction from the final project grade. The projects must be uploaded to Moodle by 10pm on the night preceding the in-class screening.

The project must focus on the key issues and questions detailed above, as with option A. The group has a wide variety of options to choose from when it comes to the type of media they choose to utilize, but it must cover the necessary material and require no input or action on behalf of the audience. The project submission must also be entirely self-contained, meaning that it includes all necessary elements such as narration and visuals. The overall concept is that the audience participation will be limited to beginning the presentation, and a student accessing the presentation file from home will have the same experience as those students viewing it when it was screened in class. For example, a video which is done in the manner of a “60 Minutes” style segment on the group’s chosen issue would be appropriate, but a website which is created by the group is not. All projects will be posted online for other students to reference, in addition to being shown in class. Projects will be assessed on the accuracy of the information, creativity of concept, and technical execution in accordance with a rubric which will be distributed in class. 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.

If you have a question about the appropriateness of a particular project I encourage you to clear it with me prior to beginning. The project will constitute 15% of each group member’s final course grade. There are a number of resources online regarding what materials, software and equipment are available to students at LSU as well as technical guides on how to use them. Two such resources I would suggest groups considering this option consult are:

Lynda.com: <http://grok.lsu.edu/categories.aspx?parentcategoryid=1604>

Gear 2 Geaux: LSU Overview:  
<http://grok.lsu.edu/categories.aspx?parentcategoryid=2558>