

POLI 2057: Introduction to International Politics  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:50am Spring 2017  
104 Audubon

Instructor

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

Course Description:

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

This course will also require students to deal with the course page on the Top Hat interactive teaching platform (<https://tophat.com>). The course join code is 272039.

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

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. The attendance grade will be calculated as  $[(\text{Number of classes attended})/(\text{Number of classes in which attendance was taken}-3)]*100$ . This means that the maximum possible attendance grade is  $100+[(3/\text{Number of classes})]$

#### 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, 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. When 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 prof with group work and a follow up report that is independently written. When in doubt, email 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: January 12 – No Class

Week 2: January 17 & 19

Course Introduction

The Evolution of the International System<sup>IR</sup>; Chapter 1, pages 26-38

Week 3: January 24 & 26

The Elements of International Relations<sup>IR</sup>; Chapter 1, pages 3-23

Rationality & Game Theoretic Approaches<sup>IR</sup>; Chapter 2, pages 75-79

Week 4: January 31 & February 2

Power Politics<sup>IR</sup>, Chapter 2, pages 43-75

Supplementary Reading: Rice, Condoleezza 2002 "Rethinking the National Interest".

*Foreign Affairs* 87(4): 2-26.

Week 5: February 7 & 9

Alternatives to Power Politics<sup>IR</sup>, Chapter 3, pages 85-110

Supplementary Reading: Rubin, James P. 2000 "Building a New Atlantic Alliance".

*Foreign Affairs* 87(4): 99-110.

Week 6: February 14 & 16

Foreign Policy and Domestic Decision Making:

Week 12: March 28 & 30

International Trade (continued)

Global Finance and Business, Chapter 9

Week 13: April 4 & 6

April 4: Global Finance and Business (continued)

April 6: Video, "Life & Debt"

Week 14: April 11 & 13 – No Class – Spring Break

Week 15: April 18 & 20

April 18: International Integration, Chapter 10

April 20: Group Presentations

Week 16: April 25 & 27

Group Presentations

Week 17: Final Exam Week, No Class

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

Wednesday, May 3 beginning at 3:00pm

### Guidelines for Group Project on Global Affairs

Working in a group of 4-5 students, each 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 policymakers 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 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

### 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