Introduction to International Politics
POLI 2057

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or by appointment

Louisiana State University
Spring 2018
Section 003
131 Allen Hall
MWF 1:30-2:20pm

Course Overview

Course Description
This course provides a university-level introduction to international politics by addressing the general premise of interactions between states, as well as broad themes and concepts related to international relations such as conflict between states, foreign policy and diplomatic communication. This course covers the traditional main tenets of the sub-field, including realism, liberalism and balance of power arrangements, but also delves into additional topics, such as political psychology and the role of international bodies. While international politics covers a wide-ranging area of research, this course is designed to provide the student with a firm grasp and understanding of the fundamental issues, while also highlighting some of the emerging areas of current research, methods, and modes of thinking. Whereas thematic topics of discourse will be utilized for primary instruction, detailed discussion of individual countries and case studies will serve to supplement student learning.

LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences
LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

Required Reading

1) The textbook listed below is required for this course. It can be found at university and area bookstores. The textbook is also available online for purchase at various online bookstores and websites. You can purchase a used copy or rent the textbook, if possible. Students my use the 5th or 6th Edition at their own discretion, but it should be noted that I have not compared the editions for similarities/differences, meaning that content and page numbers may have changed. If older editions are used, the student is responsible for these discrepancies.

> Mingst, K.A. and Arreguin-Toft, I.M. (2016). **Essentials of International Relations**. W.W. Norton. 7th Edition, (ISBN: 978-0393283402)

2) Some topics and class meetings for this course will require additional readings or notes from various academic sources selected by the instructor. These materials are listed by date on the Topics and Readings Schedule, and will be uploaded to the course Moodle site in .pdf format for download. It is the student's responsibility to access and review the appropriate materials for the

assigned class period. If the documents are unavailable or cannot be accessed for any reason, inform the instructor so that technical issues can be corrected/modified.

3) Students will also be required to keep up-to-date with current events and news (via selected news articles), as it pertains to topics in international politics and political events/activities in countries around the world. News articles will be selected by the instructor and posted to the course Moodle site throughout the semester for review by students. These news articles qualify as assigned reading, as content from the articles will form the basis for quiz material. Students may wish to supplement this material with reading additional news articles on their own, in order to become more familiar with topics in international politics. Recommended traditional media sources for optional supplemental reading include The New York Times, The Washington Post, BBC World News, The Times of London, and The Economist, among others.

Graded Requirements Description

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory in this course, and student roll will be taken for every class meeting. This policy is in conjunction with a University-wide effort to bolster student attendance, as research has shown that students who attend class regularly have improved performance scores. Each student is allowed three unexcused absences before it affects their attendance score. Each unexcused absence beyond the third unexcused absence results in a 1% lowering of their Attendance score.

Participation (in-class)
Student participation during class discussion helps to facilitate learning and is a required component. This includes comments related to lecture and reading content, as well as appropriate questions that contribute to the discussion. Students are expected to contribute to class discussion on an occasional basis.

Participation Summaries (4 summary assignments)
Participation and textbook readings are key to student learning and success in this course. Participation scores for this course will be determined by four (4) readings-based summaries that are to be turned-in to class on the dates noted below. These participation assignments are designed to keep students on-track with their textbook readings. Each summary is to be approximately two-pages double spaced, and will cover chapters assigned by your instructor. Hard-copies (printed out on paper) of the summaries are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date. You must print them out and hand them in during class!

Quizzes (4)
Students will take four in-class quizzes on the dates noted by instructor. As noted above, material for quizzes will be based on content from news articles provided by the instructor, as it relates to international politics and relevant subject matter. Quizzes will be multiple-choice. Missed quizzes cannot be made-up and will result in a score of zero. You will need a small scantron for quizzes.

Exams (2)
-Midterm Exam
This exam is cumulative in the respect that it will test for content covered from the beginning of the course. The format for this exam will be multiple choice. The Midterm Exam will be administered in-class on **March 7, 2018**. You will need a small scantron and a pencil for this exam.

-Final Exam

This exam is not cumulative, and will therefore test for content covered after the Midterm Exam. The format for this exam will be multiple choice. The Final Exam will be administered on **May 5, 2018 (Saturday) at 10:00am – 12:00 Noon**. The location for the Final Exam will be the normal classroom. You will need a small scantron and a pencil for this exam. This exam date/time is set by the University and cannot be moved, modified, or made-up. You must attend this testing session, and you cannot take the Final Exam early or at any different time.

Grading Policies and Exam/Quiz Schedule

Missed Exams and Make-ups

Allowance for the excusing of missed class and make-ups of missed exams will be in accordance with University policy, which outlines valid reasons for such occurrences. Valid reasons include, but are not limited to, serious illness, death in the immediate family, religious observances, and scheduled trips for academic purposes. Proper documentation is required for any excused absence or missed examination period. If possible, let the instructor know before missing class. If you miss an exam, contact the instructor immediately so that the situation can be evaluated and arrangements made, if applicable. If you have documentation that notes your excused absence, either present it to me before/after class, or email me a scanned version of the document. Note that the Final Exam schedule is set by the University and cannot be amended, meaning that make-ups are not allowed for this exam. For complete information on the University's attendance and exam make-up policy, see the Regulations section of the LSU Catalog.

General Grading Policy

Grades are based on the academic performance of the student, as it pertains to assigned coursework and examinations, and in accordance to the grading scale, weighting, and policies listed in this syllabus. All grades and/or grading categories are based on 100 points and are weighted according to the chart below. Any questions or concerns about graded work are welcome, and should be directed toward the instructor in-person during office hours or by appointment.

Composition of Course Grade

Activity	Percentage of Grade
Attendance	10%
Participation (in-class)	5%
Participation Summaries (4 x 5%)	20%
Quizzes (4 x 5%)	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

Grading Scale
Grading for this course will be consistent with the plus/minus grading scale adopted by the University, and as outlined in the LSU General Catalog.

Letter grade	Score				
A+	100-97	A	96-94	A-	93-90
B+	89-87	B	86-84	B-	83-80
C+	79-77	C	76-74	C-	73-70
D+	69-67	D	66-64	D-	63-60
F	<60				

Course Policies

Note on Participation and Preparation
This course is structured to facilitate student learning through lecture, discussion and at-home assigned reading. Students are expected to come to class on-time, prepared and ready to engage in material comprehension, as well as ready to participate in classroom discussions concerning the week's topics. This means that assigned readings should be completed before each class meeting. Furthermore, exams will consist of material taken from lectures, assigned readings, and any supplemental materials presented in class. Therefore, it is imperative that class is attended on a regular and consistent basis.

Special Accommodations
LSU is committed to providing adequate accommodations to all students with documented and approved disabilities. As per University policy, special accommodations approved by LSU Disability Services will be incorporated into individual student learning, and will remain confidential. Eligible students should contact Disability Services (115 Johnson Hall, 225-578-5919), so that proper documentation can be processed. Eligible students should also notify the instructor as soon as possible.

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
It is the student's responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of others and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. For this course, it is recommended that

you use the APSA citation style. 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.

Technology Use

Laptop use in class for note-taking and research purposes is contingently permitted. Cell phone use is not allowed and should be avoided. Continued abuse of technology privileges may result in punitive adjustments to a student's participation grade. Likewise, use of other technological devices is prohibited, unless approved by the instructor. Students may not record lectures or class discussions using any type of electronic device. Concerns related to this or any policy listed above should be discussed with the instructor, as amicable modifications will be based on genuine needs of the student, as it relates to learning in a university environment.

Communication and Conduct

All communication with the instructor, participation summaries, and other written work should be prepared using formal, standard language. In other words, do not use "texting" language or other abbreviated jargon to communicate your thoughts and ideas for this class. Additionally, all students are required to conduct themselves appropriately at all times, and in a professional manner. This means it is necessary for you to treat others with respect and courtesy. Any behavior not in accordance with these guidelines will not be tolerated, and will be reported to the LSU Office for the Dean of Students.

General Statements

If in doubt about any policy, requirement, or content-related matter, please contact the instructor. Also, it would greatly benefit students to read and become familiar with the LSU General Catalog. This catalog contains the official policies and regulations of the University. I am more than willing to provide additional information or explanation to questions related to course content posed by students. Questions or concerns may be addressed in-class, through email, in-person during office hours, or by appointment. I will respond to emails within a timely manner, but allow up to 24 hours for responses. I am also available to meet before/after class to discuss questions or concerns.

LSU provides each student with a University-affiliated email (ex. jsmith4@lsu.edu) which you should have already activated and currently use. If you have not activated your University email account, you should do so immediately, as all course communication will be sent to this email address.

The instructor reserves the right to amend any of the policies, requirements, or statements pertaining to this course/syllabus. The Topics & Readings Schedule is listed as an appendix at the back of this syllabus. This schedule outlines the dates of class meetings, as well as corresponding topics of discussion and assigned readings. Students should note that this schedule is tentative, and has been designed to be modified, (if needed) as the course progresses, and as the instructor sees fit. Other considerations for schedule modification include unexpected events such as emergencies, abrupt cancellation of class, etc. Any changes to the course schedule will be stated in class, with as much advance notice as reasonably possible.

Have a great semester and Geaux Tigers.

Topics and Assigned Reading Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings / Notes
Jan 10 (W)	Course Introduction	Syllabus
Jan 12	International Relations: An Introduction	-No Reading-
Jan 15	**No Class** Martin Luther King Day	-No Reading-
Jan 17	Historical Context of International Relations	Textbook, Chapter 2 (partial)
Jan 19	Historical Context of International Relations	Textbook, Chapter 2 (partial)
Jan 22	IR Theories	Textbook, Chapter 3
Jan 24	IR Theories	Textbook, Chapter 3
Jan 26	IR Theories	Textbook, Chapter 3 **Quiz #1**
Jan 29	The International System	Textbook, Chapter 4
Jan 31	The Role of the State	Textbook, Chapter 5
Feb 2	The Role of the State	Textbook, Chapter 5 **Participation Summary #1 Due**
Feb 5	Conflict: War and Strife	Textbook, Chapter 8
Feb 7	Conflict: War and Strife	Textbook, Chapter 8
Feb 9	Conflict: War and Strife	Textbook, Chapter 8
Feb 12	**No Class** Mardi Gras	-No Reading-
Feb 14	Case Study: Cuban Missile Crisis	TBD
Feb 16	Case Study: Cuban Missile Crisis	TBD **Quiz #2**

Feb 19	The Role of the Individual; Political Psychology	Textbook, Chapter 6
Feb 21	The Role of the Individual; Political Psychology	Textbook, Chapter 6
Feb 23	The Role of the Individual; Political Psychology	Textbook, Chapter 6 **Participation Summary #2 Due**
Feb 26	International Organizations & Law	Textbook, Chapter 7
Feb 28	International Organizations & Law	Textbook, Chapter 7
Mar 2	International Organizations & Law	Textbook, Chapter 7
Mar 5	Catch-up/ Review	-No Reading-
Mar 7	Midterm	**Midterm**
Mar 9	Advanced Modes of Diplomacy	James 2016 (Sage Handbook)
Mar 12	Advanced Modes of Diplomacy	James 2016 (Sage Handbook)
Mar 14	Advanced Foreign Policy Initiatives	Breuning Ch. 4 & Ch. 5
Mar 16	Advanced Foreign Policy Initiatives	Breuning Ch. 4 & Ch. 5 **Quiz #3**
Mar 19	Civil Conflict & Foreign Intervention	DeRouen 2015
Mar 21	Civil Conflict & Foreign Intervention	DeRouen 2015
Mar 23	Case Study: US-USSR in late Cold War	**TBD** **Participation Summary #3 Due**
Mar 26	**No Class** Spring Break	-
Mar 28	**No Class** Spring Break	-
Mar 30	**No Class** Spring Break	-
Apr 2	Security and International Terrorism	Haas and Hird 2013

Apr 4	Security and International Terrorism	Haas and Hird 2013
Apr 6	Security and International Terrorism	Haas and Hird 2013
Apr 9	International Political Economy	Textbook, Chapter 9
Apr 11	International Political Economy	Textbook, Chapter 9
Apr 13	International Political Economy	Textbook, Chapter 9 **Quiz #4**
Apr 16	Human Rights	Textbook, Chapter 10
Apr 18	Human Rights	Textbook, Chapter 10
Apr 20	Human Rights	Textbook, Chapter 10 **Participation Summary #4 Due**
Apr 23	Transnational Issues & Globalism	Textbook, Chapter 11
Apr 25	Case Study: The Iraq War 1991	TBD
Apr 27	Catch-up/Review	-No Reading-
May 5 (Sat)	Final Exam Period 10:00am - Noon	**FINAL EXAM**