

POLI 2057: Introduction to International Politics
Section 02, Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-11:50/ Stubbs 220
Fall 2015

Instructor: Leah Voisin

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00

Course Description:

This course is designed as an introduction to the study of international politics. Understanding the interaction of actors in the international system assists students in both the academic as well as the non-academic spheres. In the academic sphere, students can expect the information learned in this course to be useful as a basis for understanding the field of international relations as well as a compliment to other areas of study (such as modern history, culture, religion and even in some ways the physical sciences). This fits well into the course's role as general education.¹ In the non-academic sphere, students can use the information learned in this class to become a more informed and participatory citizen.

The substance of this course covers a wide range as it is introductory in nature. The basics of international relations theory, as well as specific topics such as conflict, cooperation, economics, terrorism, and others (see syllabus breakdown below), will be reviewed on a basic level, but students may throughout the semester have opportunity to explore certain topics further, specifically through the projects assigned and discussions. Students should also be prepared to incorporate current political events into discussion and should remain informed throughout the semester concerning news developments.

Textbook and Required Reading:

Shiraev, Eric B. and Vladislav M. Zubok. *International Relations*. New York: Oxford UP.

The textbook will not be the only source of information in this class. Required outside reading will supplement the text and lectures. Students will often have access to these readings through myLSU, but when the readings are not on myLSU, students should use the libraries databases to locate them. Again, supplemental readings are required.

Course Requirements:

Grades are based on the following breakdown:

¹ General education courses are designed to develop skills associated with thinking, description, interpretation, and analysis of the world at large as well as promote a general ambition in extend learning into a lifelong endeavor. Specifically, social science general education fosters "an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference" (LSU catalog). For more information concerning general education courses please refer to the LSU catalog.

Participation.....	8%
Quizzes/Journals.....	12%
Midterm Exam.....	30%
Group Project.....	20%
Final Exam.....	30%

Participation: Students will be expected to participate in class discussions, either voluntarily or when they are asked to participate. Comments should be thoughtful, reflect an understanding of the assigned readings and course material, and be respectful of the others in the class. Participation, of course, requires presence. Thus, students should attend class regularly and be prepared to comment of assignments. Knowledge of current events will assist students in participation. Students should concentrate on international news. It may be useful for final projects to bring questions and comments about these events.

Quizzes/Journals: Over the course of the semester, several oral quizzes will be administered to test the comprehension of required readings and will generally be given at the conclusion of the different thematic topics. **Students must be present in class to take the quiz, and no make-up quizzes will be given. Quizzes may be given at any point during the class period.** Journals may be assigned in lieu of quizzes. If a journal is assigned it should be written within a single page typed (Times New Roman, 12 pt., double spaced, 1 in. margins) answering the question given in class. The questions should be answered thoroughly for full credit. **Students should print and turn in journal assignments during the next class period. Do not email journals.**

Midterm and Final Exams: The midterm and final exams will be given during the times indicated in the schedule below. The material covered in the exams will include material from class lectures, discussions, and readings assignments. The format of each exam will be discussed the week before the exam is given. **Make-up midterm exams will only be given with instructor approval. These exams must be taken immediately after the excused exam is missed.** The format and the questions will be changed in the make-up exams. **No make-ups will be given for the final unless authorized by the dean.** Otherwise, missed exams will be counted as a zero toward the final grade.

Group Project: The group project will consist of a paper and presentation concerning a detailed analysis of a current international situation. Each group, which will be randomly assigned, will have most of the semester to compile the information and present it in both ways. The details of the assignment will be further explained in a separate handout. **Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per each day late** (per day, not class period). **Late presentations will be allowed only with instructor permission; otherwise, the presentation portion of the grade will be a zero.** Each group member will have the opportunity to comment on the working of the group.

Bonus Assignment: Each student will be allowed to complete a single bonus assignment. Each will be a paper written on a question related to a chosen book or film. Bonus options will be listed in a separate handout.

Grading Scale:²

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 0-59
A: 90-100	B: 80-89	C: 70-79	D: 60-69	
A-: 93-90	B-: 83-80	C-: 73-70	D-: 63-60	

Attendance: As is discussed in the description of the course requirements, attendance is important for the following reasons: attendance is necessary for participations, quizzes will not be given as make-ups, and it is not the responsibility of the instructor to give a lecture twice (students must get notes they miss from fellow students). **Quizzes may be given at the beginning of class, and if a quiz is missed because of tardiness, the student must consider this a missed quiz.**

Office Hours: Office hours are generally the only times that I will be available on campus. I may be able to accommodate requests to meet at other times if I am contacted in advance. Please note that if a student makes an appointment outside of office hours, the student will be expected to keep it or contact me ahead of time. I am generally available by email, but note that if you email me, give me reasonable time to respond.

Changes to the Syllabus: I reserve the right to change the syllabus anytime during the semester. This includes the assignment schedule as well as any requirements or policies.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are not tolerated in this course or this institution. Those students found to be in violation of the LSU Student Code of Conduct will be reported. The student's grade will reflect his or her guilt. Ignorance of the policy is not an excuse for non-compliance. Those students unaware of the university's policy on plagiarism should consult the LSU Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes working as a group when such work is not authorized. Please remember that an earned C or D is better for your reputation and your mental well-being than the process and consequences of plagiarism.

Cell Phones and Other Electronics: Cell phones must be turned on silent or off. Personal computers, tablets, or any other electronic devices should be used to take notes or to participate in class discussions. Class time is not a time to catch up on social networking. Those that are distracted by their own electronics or those around them may be asked to turn in written notes for a quiz grade, summarize concepts for the class, or possibly leave the class.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities working with the Office of Disability Services will be accommodated to the best of my abilities. Please inform me of any needs within the first weeks of class.

² The university is using a new plus/minus grading system. The difference between these distinctions now have quality point consequences. The further details in quality point differences will be discussed on the first day of class.

Course Schedule:

Date	General Topic	Reading Assignment and Other Activities
Aug. 25	Introduction to Course	Review Syllabus Discuss Expectations Introductory Lecture
Aug. 27	Introduction to International Relations	*Chapter 1
Sept. 1	Levels of Analysis	*Chapter 1 ***Singer, J. David. 1961. "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations." <i>World Politics</i> . 14(1):77-92. Note: Final Day to Drop without "W"
Sept. 3	Historical Context of Contemporary IR	Lecture Notes
Sept. 8	Theory: Realism and Liberalism	*Chapter 2 **Thucydides "The Melian Dialogues" from <i>The History of the Peloponnesian Wars</i> **Morgenthau, Hans J. 1948/1960. <i>Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace</i> . New York: Knopf. EXCERPT
Sept. 10	Theory: Realism and Liberalism	*Chapter 3 **Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points ***Doyle, Michael W. 1997. "Liberalism and World Politics." <i>American Political Science Review</i> . 18(4): 1151-1169.
Sept. 15	Theory: Alternative Approaches	*Chapter 4 ***Synder, Jack. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories." <i>Foreign Policy</i> . (Nov/Dec): 53-62. ***Wendt, Alexander. 1995. "Constructing International Politics." <i>International Security</i> . 20(1): 71-81.
Sept. 17	Theory: Alternative Approaches	*Chapter 4 ***Tickner, J. Ann. 1999. "Searching for Princess?" <i>Harvard International Review</i> . 21(4): 44-48. ***Keohane, Robert O. 1998. "Beyond Dichotomy: Conversations Between International Relations and Feminist Theory." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> . 42(1): 193-198.
Sept. 22	International Security	*Chapter 5
Sept.24	International Law/IGOs and NGOs	*Chapter 6
Sept. 29	Identity and Political Culture	*Chapter 11
Oct. 1	Conflict: International	**Clausewitz, Carl von. 1976. <i>On War</i> . Vom Kriege, Trans. Princeton: Princeton UP. EXCERPT ***Waltz, Kenneth N. 1988. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." <i>The Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i> . 18(4):615-628.

Oct. 6	Review and Group Work	Midterm Review and Group Work
Oct. 8	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam
Oct. 13	Conflict: International	*** Gartzke, Erik. 1998. "Kant We All Just Get Along? Opportunity, Willingness, and the Origins of the Democratic Peace." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> . 42(1):1-27.
Oct. 15	Conflict: International	*** Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> . 72(3): 22-49.
Oct. 20	Conflict: Civil	Lecture Notes
Oct. 22	Conflict: Civil	***James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 97(1): 75-90.
Oct. 27	Terrorism	*Chapter 8 **Juergensmeyer, Mark. 2003. <i>Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence</i> . Berkeley, CA: U of C Press. EXCERPT
Oct. 29	No Class – Fall Holiday	No Class – Fall Holiday
Nov. 3	Terrorism	*** Pape, Robert. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." <i>American Political Science Review</i> . 97(3): 343-363.
Nov. 5	International Political Economy	*Chapter 7 Note: Nov. 6 is the last day to drop classes
Nov. 10	International Political Economy	***Will be assigned later in the semester
Nov. 12	Transnational Issues	*Chapter 9
Nov. 17	Transnational Issues	*Chapter 10
Nov. 19	Class Presentations	Class Presentations
Nov. 24	Class Presentations	Class Presentations
Nov. 26	No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday	Happy Thanksgiving
Dec. 1	Class Wrap Up	*Chapter 12
Dec. 3	Bonus Assignments Discussion	Bonus Assignments Due Discussion of Assignments
Dec. 7	Final Exam	Final Exam: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

*From Textbook

**Readings available on Moodle

***Locate readings through library resources