

Political Science 2057
Introduction to International Politics
Fall 2011

Classroom: 123 Allen Hall
Class Time: T Th 2:30 – 4p
Office Hours: W 10:00a – 12p, or by appt.

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Course Overview

International politics is a broad and diverse subfield, encompassing varied approaches and concentrations. In this course, you will be introduced to some of the most fundamental concepts within the study of international politics, and hopefully come to understand how these concepts relate to world events past, present and future. We begin with some core principles and an introduction to how scholars have approached this area of study. We will then cover the major theoretical approaches within this field, each of which will also be explored in terms of real-world, practical application. The ultimate goal of this course is to provide you with the necessary tools to interpret world events and trends in a well-informed and analytical manner.

The second primary dimension of the class deals with current issues, practices and problems in today's international setting. In order to accomplish this you are required to read daily editions of The Washington Post online. This is a free service and can be found at <http://www.washingtonpost.com>. Pay particular attention to international and global happenings such as events in Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, China, India, Africa, the Middle East, global debt issues, and others as they emerge. Note that you must read the paper before class each day. We will spend a portion of class time each week discussing current international topics and how those topics fit into the theories we have studied and discussed in class. In addition to reading the Washington Post, you can get supplemental international news from the following sources (but remember that the Washington Post is required):

1. Listen to National public Radio (NPR) news programs (particularly "All Things Considered" in the late afternoon and "Morning Edition" in the morning). NPR can be found on the FM dial at 89.3 (or www.npr.org) and is an excellent source of interesting and in-depth international news.
2. Read the international news stories in major magazines such as Time; the Economist, Foreign Affairs, Newsweek, or the Council on Foreign Relations Daily News Brief,
3. Watch national news on television and pay particular attention to the international news stories.

General Education Learning Objectives

This course can be used to satisfy a General Education requirement. According to the *LSU General Catalog*, General Education courses are not hurdles to be overcome; rather they are means by which students learn to think, describe, interpret, and analyze the world. The primary aim is to educate, rather than train, and instill a desire for lifelong learning. POLI 2057 is designed to address the following General Education goals: develop factual knowledge of the subject matter; develop an understanding of the levels of association ranging from friends and family to civilizations of global significance; and develop an understanding of diversity of culture across time and space, as well as universal social characteristics and global networks.

This course addresses the following General Education Learning Objectives. Students will:

- Demonstrate understanding of the levels of association, from friends and family, to economy and polity, and to civilizations of global significance in the social sciences.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how people relate to each other and to the world around them, ranging from their relations to the physical environment to their relations to the divine.
- Demonstrate ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and use appropriate reference and technology sources in an ethical manner for study of the social sciences.

Required Textbook

Lamy, Steven L., John Baylis, Steven Smith and Patricia Owens. *Introduction to Global Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Important Dates

Portion of Grade

1. Weekly Participation.....	10%
2. Political Notebook *Participation, collection (Sept. 27, Nov. 29).....	10%
3. Reflection Articles (Sept. 8, 22, Oct. 6, 20, Nov. 3, 17, Dec. 1).....	20%
4. Midterm Exam (Oct. 6).....	30%
5. Final Exam (Dec. 8).....	30%

*Grades will be posted when available to your PAWS account using Moodle.

Course Requirements

Grades will be determined on the basis of the student's performance on the following:

- Participation (20%) – Over the course of the semester, you are required to participate both in and outside of class. In addition to in-class participation you will be required to keep an inexpensive notebook. Your weekly assignments will include keeping a notebook with highlighted terms and definitions from each chapter along with the chapter review questions and answers. You are required to have this notebook with you at each class. It will be checked periodically and collected twice during the semester (**September 27** and **November 29**).
- Reflection Articles (20%) — You will be required to submit a bi-weekly reflection paper on a current international affairs article. Your submission must include a (single) title page and a two hundred word double-spaced reflection about the article. The article must be properly cited at the top of the reflection page in accordance to your MLA or Chicago style handbook. You may choose from a range of online sources (CNN, NYTimes, Enduring America, Al-Jazeera, Foreign Affairs, or the Council on Foreign Relations). Examples of broad international topics you may wish to consider: the Arab Spring, Global Security, Poverty/Hunger, Development, Genocide, etc. Your seven articles will assist in the development of your world worldview development. **No credit will be given for late submissions.**
- Midterm Exam (30%) – The midterm exam will be held in class. It will include questions on all topics covered up to the week before the exam is administered. The midterm will be comprised of multiple choice questions, definitions from the readings, and essay questions. You will have options in terms of which definitions and essay questions you choose to answer.

- Final Exam (30%) – The Final exam will be structured much like the midterm. NOTE: The final exam will not be cumulative; only topics covered after the midterm will be included

Policies

- Please be sure to arrive on time to class.
- All assignments are due on the due dates. There are no exceptions. Please visit the LSU student handbook regarding missed classes.
- If you have any questions/concerns about assignments, grades, presentations, etc., please see me during my scheduled office hours or make an appointment.
- **Statement on Academic Integrity/Academic Misconduct:** I expect that all work you turn in will be your own. Plagiarism (representing someone else's work as your own) **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**. Be sure to cite any source from which you take material, including websites. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask.
- All LSU students are expected to have read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct. According to university policy, "Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student..." (Sec 5.1, C of the LSU Code of Student Conduct). For further information, please consult the LSU Code of Student Conduct at <http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs>.
- **Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a Coordinator in the Office of Disability Services so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your Accommodation Letters, please meet with someone in that office to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.
- **It is your responsibility to get in touch with me if you have any questions. If an event arises that you think will impact your success in this course, please get in contact with me as soon as possible. It is much easier for me to work with you during the semester than after the final grades have been submitted.**

Reading Assignments

August 23, 25	First Week – No Readings
August 30	<u>Introduction to Global Politics</u> Lamy et al., Ch. 1
September 1	<u>The History of Global Politics</u> Lamy et al., Ch. 2—pp. 24-36
September 6	<u>The History of Global Politics (cont.)</u> Lamy et al., Ch. 2—pp.36-58 In-class film on the <i>Cold War</i> —TBA
September 8	<u>Realism and Liberalism</u> Lamy et al., Ch. 3 –pp.62-75

Morgenthau's *Six Principles of Political Realism*
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/morg6.htm>

(First submission due)

- September 13 Realism and Liberalism (cont.)
Lamy et al., Ch. 3—pp.75-90
- September 15 Alternative Theories
Lamy et al., Ch. 4
- September 20 State and Foreign Policy
Lamy et al., Ch. 5—pp.116-135
- September 22 States and Foreign Policy (cont.)
Lamy et al., Ch. 5—pp.135-154

(Second Submission Due)

- September 27 Global and Regional Government
Lamy et al., Ch. 6—pp.158-175

(First Journal Collection)

- September 29 Global and Regional Government (cont.)
Lamy et al., Ch. 6—pp.176-90

October 4 No Readings Due—Midterm Review

October 6 **Midterm Exam—In Class**

(Third Submission Due)

- October 11 Transnational Actors
Lamy et al., Ch. 7
- October 13 Fall Break—No Class
- October 18 International Security and Military Power
Lamy et al., Ch. 8—pp.222-243
- October 20 International Security and Military Power (cont.)
Lamy et al., Ch. 8—pp. 244-257

(Fourth Submission Due)

- October 25 Terrorism and Globalization
Lamy et al., Ch. 9 pp.258-268
- In-class film on *Global Terrorism* – TBA
- October 27 Terrorism and Globalization (cont.)
Lamy et al., Ch. 9—pp.269-280

Mark Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God* (Berkeley: UCP, 2006) pp. 3-10. Available on Moodle

Jonathan Fox and Shmuel Sandler, "Religion and Legitimacy" in *Bringing Religion into International Relations* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) pp 35-61. Available on Moodle

November 1 Human Rights and Human Security
Lamy et al., Ch. 10--pp. 284-297

November 3 Human Rights and Human Security (cont.)
Lamy et al., Ch.10—pp.297—312

In-class Film on the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

(Fifth Submission Due)

November 8 International Political Economy
Lamy et al., Ch. 11

November 10 Global Trade and Finance
Lamy et al., Ch. 12—pp.341-355

November 15 Global Trade and Finance (cont.)
Lamy et al., Ch. 12—pp.355-366

In-class film, TBA

November 17 Poverty, Development and Hunger
Lamy et al., Ch. 13—pp 369-386

(Sixth Submission Due)

November 22 Poverty, Development and Hunger (cont.)
Lamy et al., Ch. 13—pp. 387--393

November 24 Thanksgiving—No Class

November 29 Environmental Issues
Lamy et al., Ch. 14—pp 397-410

(Second Journal Collection)

December 1 Environmental Issues (cont.)
Lamy et al., Ch. 14—pp.410-422

(Seventh Submission Due)

December 5 **No Readings—Final Exam Review**

December 8 **Final Exam**