

POLI 2057 Introduction to International Politics

Course Syllabus
Spring 2021

Instructor: Joe Clare
Office Location: 206 Stubbs Hall
Office Phone: 578-2551
E-mail: jclare@lsu.edu

Classroom: On-line
Class Hours: On-line
Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Course Description

This course will introduce students to various facets of the relations between nations. It is designed to familiarize students with basic concepts and theories of international relations, including topics about war and peace, domestic influences on foreign policy, international organizations, international trade and finance, environmental problems, etc. The course is not a discussion of current or past events, but, rather, a survey of scientific propositions and theoretical debates that help us to analytically understand both history and contemporary issues in world politics.

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of *Social/Behavioral Sciences* and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of *Global Learning*.

Required Readings

There is only one required textbook for the course:

David Kinsella, Bruce Russett, and Harvey Starr (2013) *World Politics: The Menu for Choice, 10th Edition*. Publisher: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (Identified as *World Politics* in the course reading schedule).

Print copies are available for purchase or rental at the University Bookstore and at the publisher's website [here](#). The publisher is also offering digital versions for rental. I would advise

students to compare prices before making the final purchase. Whichever venue and format is chosen, each student must completely read the entire textbook for the course. The readings should be completed before the first class for which they are assigned.

Course Requirements

The final grade in this course will be based on three main components: (1) four online exams, (2) a cumulative final exam, and (3) four online reviews & self-assessments.

Summary of the grade components:

- 60% Four online exams (15% each)
- 30% Cumulative Final Exam
- 10% Four online reviews & self-assessments (2.5% each)

1. *Four online examinations* (60% total; 15% each)

The exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and concept ID questions. Each exam will be worth a total of 15% of the student's final grade. Questions will be based on the student's comprehension of both the assigned reading materials and the class lectures for the particular segment of the course (see the schedule below).

2. *Cumulative Final Exam* (30% total):

The final exam, scheduled on Tuesday, April 27, will be CUMULATIVE, covering the assigned reading materials and the class lectures for the entire course. It will be a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and concept ID questions

3. *Four online reviews & self-assessments* (10%; 2.5% each):

There will be four assigned class dates, scheduled prior to each of the four exams (see the schedule below), when students will be answering questions from the review materials. Individual scored answers must be submitted on Moodle for a grade credit. However, the individual scores would not count toward the final grade. If a student fails to complete the self-assessment on the scheduled review date, there will not be any credit given.

The breakdown for final grades is as follows:

97-100% (A+);	93-96.9% (A);	90-92.9% (A-);
87-89.9% (B+);	83-86.9% (B);	80-82.9% (B-);
77-79.9% (C+);	73-76.9% (C);	70-72.9% (C-);
67-69.9% (D+);	63-66.9% (D);	60-62.9% (D-);
< 60% (F)		

Summary of important dates:

- February 2 (T) - Review & self-assessment for Exam 1
- February 4 (TH) - Exam 1
- March 2 (T) - Review & self-assessment for Exam 2
- March 4 (TH) - Exam 2
- March 18 (TH) - Review & self-assessment for Exam 3
- March 23 (T) - Exam 3

April 15 (TH) - Review & self-assessment for Exam 4
April 20 (T) - Exam 4
April 27 (T)- Cumulative FINAL EXAM

Project Deadline Extensions and Make-Up Exams

Deadline extensions and make-up exams will not be granted except in properly documented situations of serious illness or major family emergency. The request needs to be made in a timely manner and not later than the second day after the missed deadline or exam. Otherwise, the extension/make-up will not be granted. This course does not qualify for granting an Incomplete Grade; therefore, there is NO Incomplete Grade in this course.

Electronic Communication

Please adhere to the following courtesy policy for this course when e-mailing me: (1) use only your LSU e-mail address; (2) do address me properly in the message and sign it with your full name; (3) keep your message brief. To protect the privacy of each student, please note that I do not provide any grade or similar personal information through e-mail or by phone, regardless of who is requesting it.

Plagiarism Statement

“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 (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructors, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or attempts to commit such an act. Students should be familiar with the definition of academic misconduct and the Code of Student Conduct: <http://saa.lsu.edu/code-student-conduct>. If a student is found to have committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and penalized appropriately.

Copyright Statement

Unless otherwise noted, the handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, lectures, PowerPoint presentations, slides, web pages, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Students with Disabilities Policy

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. For additional information, check the Office of Disability Services Faculty

Handbook.

Equal Opportunity Statement

LSU's PS 1 assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran's status in admission to, participation in, and treatment or employment in the programs and activities that the University operates. *This policy statement applies equally to the teaching and learning environment within all university recognized courses, curriculum and co-curriculum programs.*

Practical Advice on Reading and Taking Notes

For your own benefit and not just for this course, I strongly encourage you to read about research, repeatedly showing that taking notes with a laptop or tablet and having an instructor posting lecture notes do NOT benefit a student's cognitive and learning process. By contrast, "students who used longhand remembered more and had a deeper understanding of the material." "A Learning Secret: Don't Take Notes with a Laptop" (*The Scientific American*)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>

Also, while there is an obvious financial advantage to have the readings available in electronic form as it saves you money, it is strongly advisable to have them printed and read them in the print version. I encourage students to discuss the course materials with me outside the classroom as well (see the office hours), but I will require you to bring print copies of all readings with you on these occasions. This is why (and do print this article before reading it):

"The Reading Brain in the Digital Age: The Science of Paper versus Screens" (*The Scientific American*)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/reading-paper-screens/>

SCHEDULE

January 12

Course Overview

January 14

World Politics: Analytical Framework

World Politics, Ch. 1

January 19-21

Major Theories in International Relations

World Politics, Ch. 2

January 26

Global Actors: States, IGOs, and Other Players

World Politics, Ch. 3

January 28

Power and Influence

World Politics, Ch. 4

February 2

REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #1

EXAM #1

Thursday, February 4

February 9

Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy

World Politics, Ch. 5

February 11 & 18

Decision-Making Process in Foreign Policy

World Politics, Ch. 6

NOTE: NO LECTURE ON FEBRUARY 16: MARDI GRAS BREAK

February 23-25

Conflict: Patterns and Causes

World Politics, Ch. 7

March 2

REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #2

EXAM #2

Thursday, March 4

March 9-11

Security Dilemma, Deterrence, and Arms Control

World Politics, Ch. 8

March 16

Just War Tradition and Human Rights

World Politics, Ch. 9

March 18

REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #3

EXAM #3

Tuesday, March 23

NOTE: NO LECTURE ON MARCH 25: MARCH BREAK

March 30 – April 1

International Organizations

World Politics, Ch. 10

April 6-8

International Political Economy: Trade and Monetary Relations

World Politics, Ch. 11

April 13

Global Underdevelopment

World Politics, Ch. 13

April 15

REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #4

EXAM #4

Tuesday, April 20

April 22

Documentary TBA

CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM

Tuesday, April 27