Fall 2020

Introduction to International Politics

POLI 2057 Section1
MWF 1:30-2:20 pm

Last Update: August 19, 2020

Instructor: Cana Kim
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Office Location: 325 Stubbs

Zoom Meeting ID: 210-375-0969
Zoom Link: https://lsu.zoom.us/j/2103750969
Office Hours: via Zoom / by appointment

Course Description

This course aims to provide 1) contextual knowledge, 2) scientific understanding, and 3) conflicting perspectives on world politics at the introductory level. First, diverse international events will be understood not as fragmented facts but under historical, political, or theoretical context to help students think holistically. Second, given that IR is a subfield of political "science," students will learn how to approach numerous international issues in a scientific way. Finally, students will be exposed to various international theories and sub-strands, which suggest different perspectives to understand the complicated world we are witnessing. By the end of the semester, students are expected to critically analyze world affairs using academic tools, namely IR concepts and theories, and develop their own opinions on international agendas with logic and reasoning.

General Education

As a part of general education courses for social science undergraduates, this course has been designed with the expected learning outcomes in mind:

1. An LSU graduate will demonstrate effective communication of complex knowledge and ideas through written, oral, visual, and technological media.

2. An LSU graduate will demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity which supports sophisticated discourse.

3. An LSU graduate will be able to conduct research-based inquiry, including articulation of complex disciplinary and interdisciplinary problems, effective evaluation and analysis of primary and secondary sources, and integration of relevant information into original disclosure.

4. An LSU graduate will be able to employ scientific and mathematical methods and technology in the resolution of laboratory and real-world problems.

5. An LSU graduate will demonstrate an understanding of the factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, psychological, cultural, and linguistic forces.

6. An LSU graduate will have the knowledge, skills, and disposition, which attest to a commitment and ability to recognize and to participate in processes that improve the civic life of communities.

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 Textbook

Blanton, Shannon L., and Charles W. Kegley. 2017. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, Seventeenth edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

(ISBN: 978-0357141885)

Grading Policy

The grade consists of five main elements; Attendance, Group Presentations, Reaction Papers, Midterm Exam, and Final Exam.

Attendance	15 %	
Group Presentation (1)	10 %	(before Mid-term)
Reaction Paper (1)	10 %	Sep. 09
Midterm Exam	20%	Oct. 12
Group Presentation (2)	10 %	(after Mid-term)
Reaction Paper (2)	10 %	Oct. 21
Final Exam	25 %	Dec. 12

- Attendance

The instructor will call attendance **at the very end of each class**. Students will lose 1pt out of 15pt for each absence from their fourth one. In other words, after three unexcused absences, they will get 1 point off from the final grade since attendance takes 15% of the entire grade. If there are inevitable situations such as illness, accident, or serious family emergency, it is strongly recommended 1) to contact the instructor prior to class time and 2) to submit official documentation. The instructor will determine the validity of a student's reason(s) for absences and only accept justifiable excuses.

- Group Presentation (World Issue Activity)

Each student will participate in **group presentations twice** during the semester; one before midterm and the other after midterm. By engaging in two times of group presentation, students will learn how to conduct research and how to present their findings in an effective way with 4-5 classmates. All the presentations aim to exemplify what are covered in lecture so that all students have clearer understandings of the topics.

The group presentation sessions are scheduled as below, each of which have two groups covering different topics. Each group is expected to present for about **15 minutes** by using ppt file, which should be emailed to me by 6pm on the day before presentation. Students can be as creative as they please, but it should be based on sufficient research. All students will sign-up for their presentation topics during the first Zoom class on Aug 24th. All the presentations will be evaluated according to the rubric that will be posted on Moodle.

To prepare presentations, students are recommended to have their own Zoom meetings with their group members.

Group Presentation (1)	1	W4 (Sep. 18)	G1	History of the Berlin Wall
			G2	U.S. Strategy during/after the Cold War
	2	W5 (Sep. 23)	G1	A Daily Life in Global North vs. South
			G2	FDI: Success vs. Failure (Case Study)
	3	W6 (Sep. 28)	G1	Hitler vs. Stalin
			G2	Mao Zedong vs. Hirohito
	4	W6 (Oct. 02)	G1	Two-Level Game of FTA (Case Study)
			G2	U.S. Bureaucratic Politics (Case Study)
Group Presentation (2)	5	W11 (Nov. 06)	G1	Alliance Politics in East Asia
			G2	Collective Security in West Europe
	6	W13 (Nov. 16)	G1	Terrorism in the Middle East
			G2	Worldwide Terrorism Trend Report
	7	W13 (Nov. 20)	G1	Human Right and North Korean Defectors
			G2	Worldwide Human Right Violation
	8	W15 (Nov. 30)	G1	U.S. Climate Change Report
			G2	Worldwide Climate Change Report

- Reaction Paper

Students are expected to write **two reaction papers** during the semester. Each paper should be 3 pages in length (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font) and submitted on time. Late submission will not be accepted.

1) Book Response (due by Sep. 09 at noon)

Drezner, Daniel. 2011. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

After reading the entire book, students should choose one chapter that is most interesting to you. Summarize the chapter, and then provide several reasons why the chapter is more exciting and persuasive to you than other chapters (40%). Then, with the theory covered in the chapter, analyze one of the world political issues of your interest (60%).

2) Film Analysis (due by Oct. 21 at noon)

After watching "13 days" in week 8, write a brief summary of the movie (10%). Then, provide review/reflection on the film by considering how it relates to one of the class topics (40%). Then, specify what would be your choice if you were the president of the United States in the most impressive scene (50%).

- Exams

1) Midterm Exam (Oct. 12 from 1:30-2:20 pm)
   - Questions will be T/F and multiple-choice format covering W1-7.
   - Since it is a virtual in-class exam, students will be on Zoom and follow the instructor's direction to do Moodle Quizzes during the regular class time.

2) Final Exam (due by Dec. 12 at 9:30 am)
   - Answers to two essay questions should be uploaded on Moodle by the deadline.

- Extra Credit

There could be several chances to get extra credit outlined below. The instructor will give detailed directions for each of the opportunities.
- by reporting home activity results (W14)
- by participating in research survey (TBA)

Final Grades

A+	100-97	B+	89.9-87	C+	79.9-77	D+	69.9-67	F	59.9 and below
A	96.9-93	B	86.9-83	C	76.9-73	D	66.9-63		
A-	92.9-90	B-	82.9-80	C-	72.9-70	D-	62.9-60		

Student Obligations

- Class Preparation
  - It is students' responsibility to participate in virtual class meetings having read the textbook material assigned to each lecture and to be ready to present and discuss in the group presentation sessions.
  - Please avoid submitting late work. Students will lose 1 point per day for late work.

- Plagiarism, Cheating, and other Misbehaviors
  - Please make sure not to plagiarize any academic property when preparing group presentations. A separate word document of citation or reference list is required when submitting your ppt file.
  - Under no circumstances will cheating be tolerated.
  - Any cheating or plagiarism will be immediately reported to the dean of students.

Students with Special Needs Policy

Students who have special needs to conduct their work in this class because of temporary or permanent disability can be assisted by the Office of Disability Services. It is strongly recommended to contact the office and let the instructor know as early as possible so that proper accommodations may be arranged. The Office of Disability Services is located in 115 Johnston Hall and may be reached at 225- 578- 5919.

Online Course Information

- Zoom Class Meetings
  - Students can join the online live class during the **regular class time** (MWF from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm) via Zoom. They should download either an exe file on their computer (laptop/desktop) or the Zoom application on their portable device (tablet/smartphone) before the first use.
  - After setting the Zoom app, students can either manually enter the meeting ID (213 375 0969) on the app or use the following link: https://lsu.zoom.us/j/2103750969
  - Students must join the meeting with their full name and be present on Zoom until the class ends.
  - During lecture sessions, students are required to JOIN Audio to hear the instructor and USE video. Students may MUTE microphone.
  - When asking a question, answering the instructor's question, or presenting, students should make sure they UNMUTE their microphone.
  - Students are recommended to use their laptop/desktop instead of tablet/phone on the presentation day. Presenters must SHARE SCREEN so that other students can see their PowerPoint files. After presenting, please STOP SHARE for the next presenter.

- Email Etiquettes
  - 1-Day Principle: Both students and the instructor may reply within 24 hours when they communicate by email.
  - When composing an email, use [POLI2057] head in your title.

- Office Hours
  - **By Appointment Only:** Students can email the instructor to schedule an online meeting.
  - **Via Zoom Meeting Only**: To prevent the potential risk of the COVID19 spread, only remote meetings are available during this semester. Once a student schedules a meeting, he/she can have it on the scheduled day and time by using the same Zoom link or the Zoom meeting ID used for our regular class.
  - Office Meeting is available only in inevitable needs. Students should set a meeting schedule by email with the instructor. When visiting the office, students should wear a mask and keep it on during the entire offline meeting.

- Class Participation
  - Students are expected to pay attention to the instructor and other students presenting during the group presentation sessions. Any questions, comments, concerns are welcome only if asked in a polite and respectful manner.
  - Students should attend the full class even if the instructor call the attendance at the end of each meeting. If students intentionally miss half of a lecture or more, it is better not to expect to get the attendance score for that day.

- Online Accessibility
  Students who have difficulty participating in the online course, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1: Discovering World Politics – Ch.1

Aug. 24	M	Course Introduction
Aug. 26	W	Jargons in IR
Aug. 28	F	IR as Science

Week 2: IR Theories (1) – Ch.2

Aug. 31	M	Realism
Sep. 02	W	Liberalism
Sep. 04	F	Constructivism

Week 3: IR Theories (2) – Ch.2

Sep. 07	M	No Class (Labor Day Holiday)
Sep. 09	W	Critiques: Feminism and Marxism / Reaction Paper (1) Due
Sep. 11	F	Theory Discussion

Week 4: Great Powers in the World – Ch.4

Sep. 14	M	Hegemony and World Wars
Sep. 16	W	Cold-War and Post-Cold War Era
Sep. 18	F	**World Issue Activity 1**

Week 5: World Periphery or Marginalized World – Ch.5

Sep. 21	M	Global South
Sep. 23	W	**World Issue Activity 2**
Sep. 25	F	National Leaders in Decision Making

Week 6: Foreign Policy Making (1) – Ch.3

Sep. 28	M	**World Issue Activity 3**
Sep. 30	W	Domestic / International Constraints
Oct. 02	F	**World Issue Activity 4**

Week 7: Foreign Policy Making (2) – Ch.3

Oct. 05	M	Rational Actor Model
Oct. 07	W	Midterm Review
Oct. 09	F	No Class (Fall Holiday)

Week 8: Midterm and In-Class Movie

Oct. 12	M	Midterm Exam
Oct. 14	W	Midterm Revisiting / Movie “13 Days”
Oct. 16	F	Movie “13 Days”

Week 9: International Political Economy – Ch.10-11

Oct. 19	M	Movie "13 Days" / Discussion
Oct. 21	W	International Finance / Reaction Paper (2) Due
Oct. 23	F	International Trade

Week 10: War and Peace (1) – Ch.7-8

Oct. 26	M	Conflict and Power
Oct. 28	W	Causes of Armed Conflict
Oct. 30	F	Weapons and Strategies

Week 11: War and Peace (2) – Ch.9

Nov. 02	M	Roads to Peace (1)
Nov. 04	W	Roads to Peace (2)
Nov. 06	F	**World Issue Activity 5**

Week 12: Nonstate Actors – Ch. 6

Nov. 09	M	Nonstate Actors (1)
Nov. 11	W	Nonstate Actors (2)
Nov. 13	F	Political Violence

Week 13: Human Right – Ch.12-13

Nov. 16	M	**World Issue Activity 6**
Nov. 18	W	Human Right
Nov. 20	F	**World Issue Activity 7**

Week 14: Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 23	M	Home Activity – Refugee Simulation
Nov. 25	W	No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Nov. 27	F	No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Week 15: Global Challenges (2) – Ch.14

Nov. 30		**World Issue Activity 8**
Dec. 02		Global Challenges
Dec. 04		Final Exam Review

Week 16: Final Exam, No Class

Dec. 12	Sat	Final Exam Due

Important Dates

Sep. 01	Tue	Final date for dropping courses without receiving a grade of "W"
Sep. 02	Wed	Final date for adding courses for credit and making section changes
Nov. 06	Fri	Final date for dropping courses