Spring 2019

Introduction to International Politics

POLI 2057 Section 3
MWF 12:30-1:20pm
284 Lockett

Instructor: Cana Kim
Contact: ckim15@lsu.edu
Office Location: 325 Stubbs
Office Hour: Th 1-3pm / F 2-3pm

Course Description

This course aims to provide 1) contextual knowledge, 2) scientific understanding, and 3) conflicting perspectives on international politics at the introductory level. First, diverse international events will be understood not as separate or 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, all of which suggest different perspectives to understand the most complicated world we have ever witnessed. By the end of the semester, students are expected to critically analyze world affairs using academic tools, namely IR concepts and theories, and to 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.

Required Textbook

Blanton, Shannon L., and Charles W. Kegley. 2017. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation,* 2016-17 edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

ISBN: 978-1305504875

Grading Policy

The grade consists of three main elements; Attendance, Group Presentations, and Exams.

Attendance	15 %	
Group Presentation (1)	15 %	(before Mid-term)
Mid-term Exam	25 %	Mar. 08
Group Presentation (2)	15 %	(after Mid-term)
Final Exam	30 %	May. 01

- Attendance
  As scheduled three times a week, we will meet more than 40 times during the whole semester. The instructor will call attendance in **20 random lectures** at the very end of each class. Students will earn 5pts for each attendance, for a total of 100 pts. If there are inevitable situations to miss class 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.

- Group Presentation (World Issue Activity)
  Each student will participate in **group presentations twice** during the semester; one before mid-term and the other after mid-term. The purpose of having group presentations is twofold: the first is to exemplify what is covered in lecture so that all students have clearer understandings of the topics. The second goal is providing opportunities to conduct research and present it in an effective way with 2-3 other classmates. The group presentation sessions are scheduled as below, each of which will have two groups presenting different topics. Each group will 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. Sign-up sheets will be distributed during the first class on Jan 9th. All the presentations will be evaluated according to the rubric that will be posted on Moodle.

Group Presentation (1)	W4 (Feb.01)	G1	History of the Berlin War
		G2	U.S. Strategy during/after the Cold War
	W5 (Feb.08)	G1	A Daily Life in Global North vs. South
		G2	FDI: Success vs. Failure (Case Study)
	W6 (Feb.15)	G1	Hitler vs. Stalin
		G2	Mao Zedong vs. Toyotomi Hideyoshi
	W7 (Feb.22)	G1	Two-Level Game of FTA (Case Study)
		G2	U.S. Bureaucratic Politics (Case Study)
Group Presentation (2)	W11 (Mar22)	G1	Alliance Politics in East Asia
		G2	Collective Security in West Europe
	W12 (Mar29)	G1	ICJ: Pros and Cons
		G2	Civil War in the 21st Century (Case Study)
	W13 (Apr.03)	G1	Terrorism in the Middle East (Case Study)
		G2	Worldwide Terrorism Trend Report
	W16 (Apr.24)	G1	Human Right and North Korean Defectors
		G2	Human Right Violation in the 21st Century (Case Study)

- In-Class Exam
  - Midterm Exam: **multiple choice** (covering concepts and theories from W1-W8)
  - Final Exam: **multiple choice** (covering concepts and theories from W10-W16) and **2 essay questions** (comprehensive)

- Extra Credit
  There will be several chances to get extra credit outlined below. The instructor will give detailed directions for each of the opportunities.
  - by participating in movie discussion (W8)
  - by reporting home activity (W14)
  - by participating in/referring friends to a research project (group discussion) conducted by the instructor

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		

Classroom Etiquette

- Class Participation
  - Students are expected to pay attention not only to the instructor but also to other students presenting during the group presentation sessions. Any question, comment, concern (to presenters and the instructor) is 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 class. If students intentionally miss half of a lecture or more, it is better not to expect to get the attendance score for that day.

- Electronic Devices
  - Laptops are allowed in class only to take notes.
  - If students obviously on their phones or texting during class, the instructor may ask them to put it away or leave the class. This is strictly applied to the eight times of group presentation sessions as well.
  - Please make sure that your cellphones and other devices are turned off or are silenced so they do not distract you and the whole class.

Student Obligations

- Class Preparation
  - It is students' responsibility to come to class 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 2 points per hour for the late work.

- Plagiarism, Cheating, and other Misbehaviors
  - Please make it 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.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1: Discovering World Politics

Jan. 09	W	Course Introduction & Syllabus
Jan. 11	F	Jargons in IR

Week 2: IR Theories (1)

Jan. 14	M	IR as Science
Jan. 16	W	Realism
Jan. 18	F	Liberalism

Week 3: IR Theories (2)

Jan. 21	M	No Class (Martin Luther King Day Holiday)
Jan. 23	W	Constructivism
Jan. 25	F	Critiques: Feminism and Marxism

Week 4: Great Powers in the World

Jan. 28	M	Hegemony and World Wars
Jan. 30	W	Cold War and Post-Cold War Era
Feb. 01	F	World Issue Activity 1

Week 5: World Periphery or Marginalized World

Feb. 04	M	Global South
Feb. 06	W	Non-State Actors
Feb. 08	F	World Issue Activity 2

Week 6: Foreign Policy Making (1)

Feb. 11	M	Rational Actor Model
Feb. 13	W	National Leaders in Decision Making
Feb. 15	F	World Issue Activity 3

Week 7: Foreign Policy Making (2)

Feb. 18	M	Domestic Constraints
Feb. 20	W	International Constraints
Feb. 22	F	World Issue Activity 4

Week 8: In-Class Movie & Discussion: “13 Days”

Feb. 25 & 27	M&W	Movie “13 Days”
Mar. 1	F	Discussion

Week 9: Mid-Term Exam

Mar. 04	M	No Class (Mardi Gras Holiday)
Mar. 06	W	Mid-Term Review
Mar. 08	F	Mid-Term Exam

Week 10: War and Peace (1)

Mar. 11	M	Causes of Armed Conflict; Three Levels of Analysis
Mar. 13	W	Power
Mar. 15	F	Alliance Politics

Week 11: War and Peace (2)

Mar. 18	M	Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence
Mar. 20	W	Collective Security
Mar. 22	F	World Issue Activity 5

Week 12: War and Peace (3)

Mar. 25	M	International Law and Norms
Mar. 27	W	Civil War
Mar. 29	F	World Issue Activity 6

Week 13: Political Violence

Apr. 01	M	Terrorism
Apr. 03	W	World Issue Activity 7
Apr. 05	F	No Class (MPSA Conference)

Week 14: International Political Economy

Apr. 08	M	Home Activity – Refugee Simulation
Apr. 10	W	International Finance
Apr. 12	F	International Trade

Week 15: Spring Break, No Class

Week 16: Globalization

Apr. 22	M	Human Right
Apr. 24	W	Culture and Environment
Apr. 26	F	World Issue Activity 8

Week 17: Final Exam, No Class

Apr. 29	M	Final Exam Review
May. 01	W	Final Exam

Important Dates

Jan 17	(Thu)	Final date for dropping courses without receiving a grade of “W”
Jan 18	(Fri)	Final date for adding courses for credit and making section changes
Mar 22	(Fri)	Final date for dropping courses