

Spring 2020
Introduction to International Politics

POLI 2057 Section 1

MWF 1:30-2:20pm

284 Lockett

Instructor: Cana Kim
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Office Location: 325 Stubbs
Office Hours: M 3-5pm / by appointment

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 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 four main elements; Attendance, Group Presentations, Reaction Papers, and Exams.

Attendance	15 %	
Group Presentation (1)	15 %	(before Mid-term)
Reaction Paper (1)	5 %	Feb. 03
Mid-term Exam	20 %	Mar. 06
Group Presentation (2)	15 %	(after Mid-term)
Reaction Paper (2)	5 %	Mar. 16
Final Exam	25 %	May. 08

- Attendance
As scheduled three times a week, we meet more than 35 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 have two groups presenting 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. Sign-up sheets will be distributed during the first class on Jan 13th. All the presentations will be evaluated according to the rubric that will be posted on Moodle.

Group Presentation (1)	1	W5 (Feb.10)	G1	History of the Berlin Wall
			G2	U.S. Strategy during/after the Cold War
	2	W5 (Feb.14)	G1	A Daily Life in Global North vs. South
			G2	FDI: Success vs. Failure (Case Study)
	3	W6 (Feb.19)	G1	Hitler vs. Stalin
			G2	Mao Zedong vs. Hirohito
	4	W7 (Feb.26)	G1	Two-Level Game of FTA (Case Study)
			G2	U.S. Bureaucratic Politics (Case Study)
Group Presentation (2)	5	W12 (Mar.30)	G1	Alliance Politics in East Asia
			G2	Collective Security in West Europe
	6	W13 (Apr.10)	G1	Terrorism in the Middle East (Case Study)
			G2	Worldwide Terrorism Trend Report
	7	W15 (Apr.22)	G1	Human Right and North Korean Defectors
			G2	Worldwide Human Right Violation
	8	W16 (Apr.27)	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 2-3 pages in length (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font) and submitted in class as a hard copy. A late submission will not be accepted.

- 1) Book Response (due by Feb. 03)

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

You should choose one of the explanations (chapters) that seems most persuasive to you and then provide several reasons for your choice (40%). Then, with the theory or explanation of your choice, you need to analyze one of the world political issues of your interest with the theory of your choice (60%).

- 2) Film Analysis (due by Mar. 16)

After watching “13 days” in week 9, you need to write a brief summary (10%) and provide review/reflection on the movie. You can consider how the movie relates to one of the class topics and informs your understanding of the topic (40%). Then, you need to specify what would be your choice if you were the president of the United States in the most impressive scene (50%).

- In-Class Exam
 - Midterm Exam: **T/F** and **multiple choice** (covering concepts and theories from W1-7)
 - Final Exam: **T/F**, **multiple choice** (covering concepts and theories from W10-16) and **2 essay questions** (comprehensive)
- 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 (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		

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 – Ch.1

Jan. 13	M	Course Introduction & Syllabus
Jan. 15	W	Jargons in IR
Jan. 17	F	IR as Science

Week 2: IR Theories (1) – Ch.2

Jan. 20	M	No Class (Martin Luther King Day Holiday)
Jan. 22	W	Realism
Jan. 24	F	Liberalism

Week 3: IR Theories (2) – Ch.2

Jan. 27	M	Liberalism (continued) / Constructivism
Jan. 29	W	Constructivism (continued)
Jan. 31	F	The Three Structural Theories

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

Feb. 03	M	Critiques: Feminism and Marxism (Reaction Paper 1 Due)
Feb. 05	W	Hegemony and World Wars
Feb. 07	F	Cold-War and Post-Cold War Era

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

Feb. 10	M	World Issue Activity 1
Feb. 12	W	Global South
Feb. 14	F	World Issue Activity 2

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

Feb. 17	M	National Leaders in Decision Making
Feb. 19	W	World Issue Activity 3
Feb. 21	F	Domestic / International Constraints

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

Feb. 24	M	No Class (Mardi Gras Holiday)
Feb. 26	W	World Issue Activity 4
Feb. 28	F	Rational Actor Model

Week 8: Mid-Term Exam

Mar. 02	M	Mid-Term Review
Mar. 04	W	Mid-Term Exam
Mar. 06	F	Mid-Term Revisiting

Week 9: In-Class Movie & Discussion: “13 Days” Movie “13 Days”

Week 10: War and Peace – Ch.7 – 9

Mar. 16	M	Causes of Armed Conflict & Power (Reaction Paper 2 Due)
Mar. 18	W	Roads to Peace (1)
Mar. 20	F	Roads to Peace (2)

Week 11: Spring Break, No Class

Week 12: Nonstate Actors – Ch. 6

Mar. 30	M	World Issue Activity 5
Apr. 01	W	Nonstate Actors (1)
Apr. 03	F	Nonstate Actors (2)

Week 13: Political Violence – Ch.7 & Ch.8

Apr. 06	M	Weapons & Strategies
Apr. 08	W	Political Violence
Apr. 10	F	World Issue Activity 6

Week 14: International Political Economy – Ch.10 – 11

Apr. 13	M	Home Activity – Refugee Simulation
Apr. 15	W	International Political Economy (1)
Apr. 17	F	International Political Economy (2)

Week 15: Globalization (1) – Ch.12 – 14

Apr. 20	M	Human Right
Apr. 22	W	World Issue Activity 8
Apr. 24	F	Global Challenges

Week 16: Globalization (2) – Ch.12 – 14

Apr. 27	M	World Issue Activity 9
Apr. 29	W	Final Exam Review

Week 17: Final Exam, No Class

May. 08	Fri	Final Exam (10:00am - Noon)
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Important Dates

Jan 22	(Wed)	Final date for dropping courses without receiving a grade of “W”
Jan 23	(Thu)	Final date for adding courses for credit and making section changes
Apr 06	(Fri)	Final date for dropping courses