

Louisiana State University, Dept. of Political Science
POLI 2057, Stubbs 116, Summer 2014
M-F 12:10-1:10

Introduction to International Relations

“History is the memory of states.”-**Henry Kissinger, 56th United States Secretary of State**

“Just because you do not take an interest in politics does not mean politics will not take an interest in you.”-**Attributed to Pericles, Greek Tragedian (495-429 BCE)**

Required Texts

Moral Man and Immoral Society, Reinhold Niebuhr

The Post-American World 2.0, Fareed Zakaria

Five to Rule Them All, David Bosco

Course Overview

This course will provide students with an introduction into international relations at both the theoretical and practical levels. We will first cover three of the most prominent and most important perspectives in the study of international relations and will then address a variety of broad questions and specific examples in the field by reading, discussing, and thinking about four books.

Course Objectives

After completing the course students should be able to think and write about, as well as discuss, international relations at a basic scholarly level.

Additionally, students will be prepared to take and excel in international relations courses later in their academic careers at LSU. Most importantly, and if all goes well, students will substantially improve their critical thinking, writing, and communication skills. These skills are not only important in all academic areas, but are important tools for any educated person to possess throughout adult life.

University Statement on Social Science General Education Elective Courses

As a social science general education elective this course is designed to acquaint you with various view of human nature, as well as how human beings organize themselves into political societies, real and imagined. You will be expected to achieve an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference. All general education courses are designed to enhance 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.

Course Expectations

My expectations are high, but simple. I expect that students will attend class and be in their seats and prepared by 12:30 each class day. I expect that students will be attentive to whoever is speaking at a given time and will display respect for everyone in the classroom. I expect that students who have questions about the materials covered in class or in the readings will ask questions in class and/or in office hours. Finally, I expect that students will engage the material in a serious manner and perform to the best of their abilities on all assignments and in class discussion. I understand that each of you has academic, extra-curricular, and personal commitments outside of this class and I will keep this in mind throughout the semester. I do though ask that when you are in this class that you give it your full attention. If you work hard you should have little trouble making a good grade. My hope is that everyone will succeed-this is not a weed out class or a course designed to allow only a certain percentage of students to earn As or Bs. That being said, students will receive the grade that they earn at the end of the semester, so if there are issues make sure you work to resolve them as soon as they arise.

Students with Disabilities

Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments is asked to speak with the Disability Services Office and the instructor as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Disability Services is located in Johnston Hall, room 115. They can also be reached at (225) 578-5919 and disability.lsu.edu.

Plagiarism and Unauthorized Group Work

Plagiarism in all forms is explicitly prohibited on all assignments. Additionally, all work should be your individual work. If you have a question about what constitutes a violation of either of these rules please contact me to be sure. Having questions about what is and is not allowed is perfectly acceptable, but ignorance of the policy is not an acceptable excuse after a violation has occurred. The full LSU student code of conduct can be found at www.lsu.edu/saa. Each student is responsible for knowing this code and following it. Any student suspected of an academic violation will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability for potential disciplinary action. The University takes academic integrity seriously and as such even first time penalties for an act of academic dishonesty can be harsh.

Moodle

Moodle, the university's online course management tool, will be used throughout the course in several ways. You will submit your journal assignments via Moodle and I will post your grades as the semester progresses on Moodle. Additionally, there will be several links to web pages of interest to the study of international relations.

Grading Scale

Attendance/Participation:	10%
Quizzes:	20%
Journal entries:	10%
Midterm:	25%
Final Exam:	35%
Extra Credit:	5%

A= 90-100%

B= 80-89 %

C= 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= Below 60%

Assignments

Attendance and Participation: The grade you earn for A and P will be determined both by how often you attend class and how often and how well you participate when in class. I understand that a wide variety of issues can come up in the course of a semester that can force you to miss a class here and there. Students who do not attend at least 75% of classes will not receive credit for this portion of the final grade, barring a validly excused prolonged absence. If there is a serious issue that will force you to miss class over a long period of time please discuss the matter with me during office hours.

Quizzes and Journal Entries: There will be 10 multiple choice quizzes and 5 required journal entries throughout the course of the semester. The quizzes will be short and meant to test for basic reading knowledge and understanding of the material covered in class. The journal entries will be posted online and will be approximately 100 words. The question to be addressed in each journal entry will be posted on Moodle by the end of the class before it is due. Content, writing style, grammar, and spelling all matter for these. There will be no makeup quizzes or journal assignments, except in the case of an excused absence.

Midterm: The format for the midterm will be discussed closer to the test date. Please do not miss this test. If a true emergency comes up on the day of the test please contact me via email **before** the time of the test and explain the situation to me. While I will not punish someone for having the misfortune of experiencing a true and verifiable emergency on the day of the test any makeup midterms will have to be a different test from the original exam. A make up exam will only be given to students with an excused absence on the day of the exam.

Final Exam: The final exam will occur on **July 31 from 7pm-9pm in our regular classroom.** The date and time of the exam is set by the University and therefore cannot be altered. The format will be discussed later in the semester.

Possible Extra Credit: This summer marks the 20th World Cup tournament, an international soccer tournament that occurs every four years and is the world's largest sporting event. Sports and international politics mix more often than we sometimes think. If the intersection of sports and politics interests you, or if you would like to earn extra credit points you may watch

one of two movies, each of which details a specific instance of how sports and international politics relate in the real world. The first movie is *Once Brothers*, a 2010 film about the Yugoslavian national basketball team during that country's civil war. The second film is *The Two Escobars*, a 2010 film about Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar and his cousin, Colombian soccer star and World Cup participant, Andres Escobar. Each film explores not only how sports and international politics can effect one another, but also how this intersection impacts the real lives of real people. In order to receive extra credit for watching one of these films students will need to turn in a critical essay where the film is summarized, critiqued, and where the film's story is analyzed from a perspective that seeks to understand how the film relates to this course. A one page paper is eligible for one point of extra credit, a two page paper may receive up to two points extra credit, and so on. A maximum of five points may be received if a student writes a five page paper. Papers will be graded for content, style, spelling, coherence, and originality of thought-just as any academic paper. This means that turning in a five page paper does not ensure the student will receive five points of extra credit, but rather that it is possible to receive five points of extra credit for an excellent five page paper. The deadline for turning in an extra credit paper is July 28th, during class time. Please turn in a hard copy.

Course Calendar

June 9: Introduction to the course

*“International politics, like all politics, is a struggle for power.”-
Hans Morgenthau, American scholar of international relations
(1904-1980)*

*“What the world has seen in the 20th century is a benevolent
America that uses its strength for good around the world.”-Ari
Fleischer, Press Secretary, Administration of George W. Bush*

“The world learn to work together—or finally it will not work at all.”-Dwight Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States

Major Perspectives in International Relations

June 10: Realism, readings-

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/worldwarone/hq/causes1_01.shtml

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pol116/realism.htm>

June 11: Liberalism, readings-

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/preamble.shtml>

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/ghwbushiraqinvasion.htm>

June 12: *The Individual, The most basic element of IR*, reading- Niebuhr Ch. 1 (**Quiz #1**)*

June 13: *The Individual, cont.*, reading-Niebuhr Ch. 2

June 16: *The Individual, cont.*, reading-Niebuhr Ch. 3

June 17: *The beginnings of international politics*, reading- Niebuhr Ch. 4 (**Quiz #2**)

June 18: *Moral sensibilities of elites and common citizens*, reading- Niebuhr Ch.5-6

June 19: *Revolution*, reading- Niebuhr Ch. 7 (**Journal #1 due**)

June 20: *Violence and values in politics*, reading- Niebuhr Ch. 8-9 (**Quiz #3**)

June 23: *Personal and communal ethical capabilities and limitations*, reading-Niebuhr Ch. 10

June 24: *The 21st Century: The end of history or a new era?* Reading- Zakaria- preface and Ch.1

June 25: *The World as Golden Corral: A global buffet of riches* reading- Zakaria- Ch. 2 (**Quiz #4**)

June 26: *Out of mind, no longer out of sight*, reading- Zakaria-Ch.3

June 27: *China: An heir to America's power?*, reading- Zakaria- Ch. 4

June 30: *India: The world's biggest democracy-Is this as awesome as it sounds?*, (**Quiz #5**) reading- Zakaria- Ch. 5

July 1: *How much power and influence does America still have in the world?*, reading- Zakaria Ch. 6 (**Journal #2 due**)

July 2: *The present and future of U.S. foreign policy-How and why?*, reading- Zakaria Ch.7

July 3: **MIDTERM EXAM**

“Mexico doesn't deserve what has happened to us. A democratic change is urgent, a change that will permit us to stop being a loser

country.”-*Vicente Fox, Former President of Mexico*

Special Topics in IR: Readings for this section on Moodle

July 7: Arab/Israeli conflict

July 8: Israeli/Arab conflict

July 9: Brazil (**Quiz #6**)

July 10: China and the Century of Humiliation

July 11: European Union (**Quiz #7**)

July 14: Iran

July 15: Mexico (**Journal #3 due**)

The U.N. Security Council-Liberalism at its apex?

“No one wants the United Nations to suffer the fate of the League of Nations, which collapsed because it lacked real leverage. This is possible if influential countries bypass the United Nations and take military action without Security Council authorization.” - Vladimir Putin, President of Russia and, according to many in the west, the world’s biggest living supervillain (New York Times Op-Ed, Sept. 2013)

July 16: *Genesis of the U.N. Security Council*, reading-Bosco intro and Ch.1

July 17: *The early years*, reading- Bosco Ch. 2 (**Quiz #8**)

July 18: *Global views of the Security Council*, reading-Bosco Ch.3

July 21: *The Security Council and the end of the cold war*, reading-Bosco Ch.4 (**Quiz #9**)

July 22: *The Security Council and the end of the cold war*, reading-Bosco Ch. 5

July 23: *The Security Council at “The End of History”*, reading- Bosco Ch.6 (**Journal #4**)

July 24: *The Post 9-11 Security Council*, reading- Bosco Ch.7 and Conclusion (**Quiz #10**)

July 25: *End of course debrief: What does all of this mean for you as a citizen, student, and educated person?*

July 28: *Final exam review session (Journal #5)*

July 31: **Final Exam 7pm-9pm**

Instructor: Mr. John Kitch

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Office Hours: **M-Th. 2:00-3:00pm and by appointment**