
International Crises and Crisis Diplomacy

POLI 4040

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Jonathan C. Nickens
Office: 320 Stubbs Halls
Email: jnicke8@lsu.edu
Office Hours: M 11:30a-12:30p,
or by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Louisiana State University
Fall 2022
Section 002
109 Coates Hall
Tu 6:00p-8:50p

Course Overview

Course Description

This course examines the escalation of disagreements between states, including those resolved amicably short of war, as well as those that erupt into conflict. Analysis of topics will provide focus to how the international community attempts to prevent violence in a pre-war setting, along with how they attempt to reduce violence once war begins. This course also includes sections on conflict resolution and how the international community engages with these war-torn states to maintain peacekeeping forces in order to prevent further conflict. Attention is also given to how outside states assist in re-building these areas.

This course combines theory-based reasoning and concepts with analysis of historical situations and current events. Detailed case studies are used to illustrate the lessons learned from specific situations, as well as practical forms of diplomacy used by international actors. Discussion of current events allows for the identification of active global hotspots where war is actively on-going or where it could potentially break-out, so that lessons learned can be applied to the current global context.

LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

Course Objectives

- 1| Obtain an advanced understanding of diplomacy and foreign policy strategies
- 2| Improve your general understanding of international relations and governance
- 3| Become equipped with the theoretical knowledge necessary to explain the complex workings of interactions between state in the contemporary global system
- 4| Enhance your analytical skills and your ability to think critically

Required Reading

There are required readings for this course. It is the student's responsibility to access and review the appropriate materials for the assigned class period.

1) There is not a textbook for this course. Instead, students will read book chapters and case file readings assigned by the instructor. These readings are listed in the Lecture Topics section of this syllabus. All readings will be uploaded to the course Moodle site in .pdf format for download. If the documents are

unavailable or cannot be accessed for any reason, inform the instructor so that technical issues can be corrected/modified.

2) Students will also be required to read select news articles provided by the instructor for in-class quizzes. See ‘Graded Items’ → ‘Quizzes’ below for more information.

Graded Items

Composition of Course Grade

Scores for each graded item will be based on a range of 0-100, and weighted according to the table below.

Graded Item	Percentage of Grade (Weight)
Attendance	20%
Participation (in-class)	5%
Quizzes (2 x 7.5%)	15%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

Attendance

According to LSU policy, students are expected to attend all classes. Therefore, student roll and attendance will be taken for class meetings, at the discretion of the instructor. Tracking student attendance is in conjunction with a University-wide effort to bolster student attendance, as research has shown that students who attend class regularly have improved performance scores. Attendance scores are based on 100 total points.

Each student is allowed one unexcused absence before it affects their attendance score. After one unexcused absence, your attendance score drops 20 points for each unexcused absence thereafter, through the fifth absence. On the sixth absence, a student’s attendance score will convert to a zero. See table below:

Unexcused Absences	Attendance Score	Unexcused Absences	Attendance Score
1 or less	100	4	40
2	80	5	20
3	60	6 or more	0
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Participation (in-class)

Student participation in class discussions helps to facilitate learning and is a required component of this course. Forms of participation include making in-class comments related to lectures and assigned readings, as well as asking appropriate questions that contribute to the discussion. Students are expected to participate on occasional basis. I don’t expect you to contribute to every class discussion, but I expect you to do so periodically.

Quizzes (2)

Students will take two in-class quizzes on dates noted by the instructor in the Course Calendar. Content for quizzes will be taken from select news articles provided to you by the instructor. These articles will be posted on Moodle in a labeled quiz folder one week prior to the quiz date. Quizzes be multiple-choice and you will need a small scantron and a pencil.

Exams (2)

Content for exams are taken from in-class lectures, as well as from assigned textbook chapters, other chapter readings & case file readings. Note that news articles are not required reading material for exams.

-Midterm Exam-

This exam will test for content covered from the beginning of the course through the lecture immediately preceding the Midterm Exam. The format for this exam will be multiple choice and short answer essay. The Midterm Exam will be administered in-class on **October 11, 2022**. You will need a small scantron and a bluebook for this exam.

-Final Exam-

This exam will test for content covered after the Midterm Exam. While this exam is not cumulative, you will still need a fundamental grasp of the concepts and ideas discussed in the first half of the semester to be effective on this exam. The format for this exam will be multiple choice and short answer essay. The Final Exam will be administered on **Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 8:00pm**. The location for the Final Exam will be the normal classroom. You will need a small scantron and a bluebook for this exam.

Grade Calculation

A graded item is an exam, quiz, attendance, etc. Each graded item is based on a point total (0-100). Your score for each graded item is the number of points received. Final grades for students will be calculated by multiplying their score for each graded item times (x) the weighted percentage for each graded item. The weighted graded items are then added together and a final grade given based on 100 point totals.

Grading Policies

Absences, Missed Exams and Make-ups

Allowance for excused absences and the make-ups of missed exams & quizzes will be in accordance with University policy, which outlines valid reasons for such occurrences (LSU Policy Statement 22). Valid reasons for an absence include, but are not limited to, serious illness, death in the family, religious observances, and scheduled trips for academic purposes. Proper documentation is required for any excused absence, missed quiz, or missed examination. If you have documentation that notes your excused absence, you are required to email me a scanned version or photo of the document.

You must let the instructor know in advance of missing a quiz or exam. Only in rare and extreme circumstances will an after-the-fact excuse be accepted. In any case, do not delay in contacting me to provide documentation and to make arrangements for missed assignments. If you wait in excess of 48 hours after the scheduled class/exam/quiz, you will not be able to make-up the missed assignment or receive credit. This also applies the excusing of class absences for attendance purposes, as you must provide the documentation within a reasonable amount of time. Students who wait until near the end of

the semester to provide documentation for absences will not be credited. In cases where make-ups are allowed, you will be given an alternate make-up exam or quiz that is different from the in-class examination.

Students should note that the Final Exam schedule is set by the University and cannot be amended or changed by the instructor, meaning that make-ups are not allowed for this exam. Approval for changes to the Final Exam schedule can only be made by the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

If you miss a class lecture, feel free to obtain notes from a classmate on an occasional basis, as it is the student's responsibility to procure any missed material. You can then ask me specific questions concerning the material for clarification. But I cannot provide you with lecture notes or presentation slides. And I do not post my lecture notes or presentation slides online.

General Grading Policy

Grades are based on the academic performance of the student, as it pertains to assigned coursework and examinations, and in accordance to the grading scale, weighting, and policies listed in this syllabus. Once all coursework is complete, final grades are assigned according to scores reflected on the course assignments listed in this syllabus. Any questions or concerns about graded work are welcome, and should be directed toward the instructor in-person during office hours or by appointment, or via email.

Typically, I do not give the option for an extra credit assignment during the course. However, if there is any type of extra credit assignments for students, an announcement will be made in class or via a class-wide email. Do not ask me at the end of the semester to give out extra points, allow for last-minute extra credit assignments, or allow make-ups for long-past quizzes, exams and attendance/participation marks.

Grading Scale

Grading for this course will be consistent with the plus/minus grading scale adopted by the University, and as outlined in the LSU General Catalog.

Letter grade	Score				
A+	100-97.00	A	96.99-94.00	A-	93.99-90.00
B+	89.99-87.00	B	86.99-84.00	B-	83.99-80.00
C+	79.99-77.00	C	76.99-74.00	C-	73.99-70.00
D+	69.99-67.00	D	66.99-64.00	D-	63.99-60.00
F	<60				

Course Policies & Expectations

Note on Participation and Preparation

Students are expected to come to class on-time, prepared, and ready to engage with the material, as well as ready to participate in classroom discussions concerning the week's topics. This means that students should be familiar with the assigned readings prior to class. Students should frequently check the course Moodle page in order to access additional readings or supplemental materials posted by the instructor at an on-going basis.

Diversity

Diversity is fundamental to LSU's mission and the University is committed to creating and maintaining a

living and learning environment that embraces individual difference. Cultural inclusion is of highest priority.

Special Accommodations

LSU is committed to providing adequate accommodations to all students with documented and approved disabilities. Per University policy, special accommodations approved by LSU Disability Services will be incorporated into individual student learning, and will remain confidential. Eligible students should notify and provide the instructor with all proper documentation during the first week of the semester. Students who want to initiate this process, or who would like more information about accommodations, can contact Disability Services at 115 Johnson Hall or reach them by phone at 225-578-5919.

General Statement on Academic Integrity

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and LSU's Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

In general, academic dishonesty refers to any unauthorized behavior or action that gives the student an unfair advantage during a graded assessment. More specifically, academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) viewing other students' answers during quizzes/exams, viewing unauthorized material or notes during an examination/quiz, accessing & viewing testing materials from previous courses or previous semesters, and sharing notes through group email chains or note swapping websites. I have no problem with you obtaining notes from an individual classmate on an occasional basis when you miss class. But this must not occur regularly and may not be done through any type of collective group effort (exceptions are made for students with appropriate and documented Special Accommodations).

Plagiarism

Students will refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of others and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. For this course, it is recommended that you use the APSA citation style. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting, and how to properly cite each respectively.

Technology Use

Laptop use in class is for note-taking, research purposes and academic-centered use. This privilege is contingently permitted, but may be rescinded at any time. It is an obvious concern that laptop use is a distraction to students during lectures, and I encourage you to keep electronic use to a minimum. Sustained abuse of laptop privileges may result in punitive adjustments to a student's participation grade when it becomes apparent to the instructor that technology is being used for purposes other than academic learning. Cell phone use is not allowed and should be avoided. Likewise, use of other technological devices is prohibited, unless approved by the instructor. Students may not record lectures or class discussions using any type of electronic device. Concerns related to this or any policy listed above should be discussed with the instructor, as amicable modifications will be based on genuine needs of the student, as it relates to learning in a university environment.

Communication and Conduct

All communication with the instructor and all written work should be prepared using formal, standard language. In other words, do not use “texting” language or other abbreviated jargon to communicate your thoughts and ideas for this class.

Additionally, all students are required to conduct themselves appropriately at all times and in a professional, courteous manner. This means it is necessary for you to treat others with respect and courtesy. Talking while the instructor or another student is talking will not be tolerated. Conduct that is disruptive and/or not respectful of an academic environment will also not be tolerated. Severe violation of these guidelines will be reported to the LSU Office for the Dean of Students.

General Statements

If in doubt about any policy, requirement, or content-related matter, please contact the instructor. Also, it would greatly benefit students to read and become familiar with the LSU General Catalog. This catalog contains the official policies and regulations of the University. I am more than willing to provide additional information or explanation to questions related to course content posed by students. Questions or concerns may be addressed in-class, through email, in-person during office hours, or by appointment. I will respond to emails within a timely manner, but allow up to 24 hours for responses. I am also available to meet before/after class to discuss questions or concerns.

LSU provides each student with a University-affiliated email (ex. jsmith4@lsu.edu) which you should have already activated and currently use. If you have not activated your University email account, you should do so immediately, as all course communication will be sent to this email address.

Check your email, check the course Moodle page, and check the Course Calendar (see below) on a regular basis. Be proactive!

The instructor reserves the right to amend any of the policies, requirements, or statements pertaining to this course/syllabus. Any modification of the syllabus or class schedule (for unexpected events such as emergencies, extenuating circumstances, etc.) will be conveyed to student either in-class or via email, with as much advance notice as reasonably possible.

Covid-19 Protocols & Student Learning

It is the individual’s right to decide what is best for them. However, LSU strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Visit www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/ to learn how to get vaccinated on campus. Vaccination helps keep our campus community safe, helps protect those among us who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, and is our path back to more normal operations and the full college experience that our students deserve.

For the Fall 2022 semester, LSU is once again scheduled to hold traditional, on-campus learning. Note that if the university mandates a return to remote/online learning, the instructor will transition the course to an online class. I will provide a detailed and thorough plan if this were to be the case.

There are two appendices to this syllabus:

- 1) **Lecture Topics**, which provides topical information that is to be discussed during the course, along with assigned reading chapters. It is your responsibility to keep with where we are in terms of topics and lecture material.
- 2) **Course Calendar**, which list the dates for: class meetings, exams & quizzes, university holidays, and other notations needed by the student.

Have a great semester and Geaux Tigers.

LECTURE TOPICS

(in order of class discussion)

[Fall 2022]

PART ONE CONCEPTS & REVIEW

- Topic I. Introduction to Course |
Review of International Relations Concepts**
Required Reading: Pevehouse & Goldstein, pp. 1-22, 57-65
- Topic II. Foreign Policy, Power & Domestic Politics**
Required Reading: Pevehouse & Goldstein, pp. 65-71, 113-131
Auerswald (2000), Ch. 2 (selections)
- Topic III. Case Study: The United States, the United Kingdom and Western Allies**
Required Reading: MacRidis & White, Ch. 2

PART TWO INTERNATIONAL CRISES

- Topic IV. Disagreements Among States |
International Crises**
Required Reading: Brecher, Ch. 2, pp. 22-35
- Topic V. Stages of Crisis Escalation**
Required Reading: Brecher, Ch. 3, pp. 53-67
- Topic VI. When Diplomacy Works: De-Escalation & the International Community**
Required Reading: Case Files No. 1

PART THREE INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

- Topic VII. When Diplomacy Fails: Escalation to Conflict**
Required Reading: Stoessinger, Ch. 9
Case Files No. 2
- Topic VIII. Violence Mitigation in Conflict & the International Community**
Required Reading: Stoessinger, Ch. 5: pp. 119-132
Case Files No. 3
- Topic IX. Conflict Termination & the International Community**
Required Reading: Stoessinger, Ch. 5: pp. 133-153
Walter, Ch. 6

PART FOUR SETTLEMENT & PEACEKEEPING

Topic X. Settlements, Peacekeeping & the International Community

Required Reading: MacQueen 2006
Case Files No. 4

Topic XI. War Renewed?

Required Reading: Walter, Ch. 7

Topic XII. Lessons Learned

Required Reading: No Required Reading

OTHER X

Topic XII. Regional IGOs & Conflict/Settlement

Required Reading: Hansen et al. 2007

Topic XIV. Limitations of International Law

Required Reading: Goldsmith and Posner 2005

Topic XV. Role of International News Media in Conflict/Settlement

Required Reading: TBD
Case Files No. 5

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	CLASS TYPE	GRADED ITEM / NOTES
Aug 23	Syllabus / Course Outline Lecture	First Class Meeting
Aug 30	Lecture	-
Sept 6	Lecture	-
Sept 13	Lecture	-
Sept 20	Lecture	Quiz #1
Sept 27	Lecture	-
Oct 4	Lecture	-
Oct 11	Examination Period Lecture	Midterm Exam
Oct 18	Lecture	-
Oct 25	Lecture	-

Nov 1	Lecture	-
Nov 8	Lecture	-
Nov 15	Lecture	Quiz #2
Nov 22	Lecture	-
Nov 29	Lecture	-
Dec 6 (Tue.)	Examination Period	FINAL EXAM 8:00pm – 10:00pm