Course Overview

International relations is a broad and diverse field, encompassing varied approaches and concentrations. In this course, you will be introduced to some of the most fundamental concepts within the study of international relations and hopefully come to understand how these concepts relate to world events past, present and future.

Part one begins with some foundational principles and an introduction to how scholars have approached this area of study. We will then cover the major theoretical approaches within this field, each of which will also be explored in terms of real-world, practical application. Part two of this class will place these theoretical approaches in context through an examination of current state/non-state actor relations occurring throughout the Middle East and North African region. Part three will end with a broad discourse on the role of international relations in addressing new global issues. The ultimate goal of this course is to provide you with the necessary tools to interpret world events and trends in a well-informed and analytical manner.

This international relations course deals with current issues, practices and problems in today’s international setting. You are required to read the morning edition of the Council on Foreign Relations News (www.cfr.org), the United Nations News Service (www.un.org/news/), and the newspaper. Pay particular attention to international and global events developing in South/South East Asia, Africa, Europe, the MENA region, and in the nation’s capitol (Washington, D.C.)!! Note that you must read the paper before class each day. We will spend a portion of class time each week discussing current international topics and how those topics fit into the theories we have studied and discussed in class. In addition to reading the newspaper, you can get supplemental international news from the following sources (but remember that we will draw in class from either the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Financial Times or New York Times):

1. Listen to National public Radio (NPR) news programs (particularly “All Things Considered” in the late afternoon and “Morning Edition” in the morning). NPR can be found on the FM dial at 89.3 (or www.npr.org) and is an excellent source of interesting and in-depth international news.

2. Read the international news stories in major magazines such as TIME, the Economist, Foreign Affairs, Newsweek, or the Council on Foreign Relations Daily News Brief,

3. Watch national news on television and pay particular attention to the international news stories.

General Education Learning Objectives

This course can be used to satisfy a General Education requirement. According to the LSU General Catalog, General Education courses are not hurdles to be overcome; rather they are means by which students learn to think, describe, interpret, and analyze the world. The primary aim is to educate, rather than train, and instill a desire for lifelong learning. POLI 2057 is designed to address the following General Education goals: develop factual knowledge of the subject matter; develop an understanding of the levels of association ranging from friends and family to civilizations of global
significance; and develop an understanding of diversity of culture across time and space, as well as universal social characteristics and global networks.

This course addresses the following General Education Learning Objectives. Students will:

- Demonstrate understanding of the levels of association, from friends and family, to economy and polity, and to civilizations of global significance in the social sciences.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how people relate to each other and to the world around them, ranging from their relations to the physical environment to their relations to the divine.
- Demonstrate ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and use appropriate reference and technology sources in an ethical manner for study of the social sciences.

**Required Textbook**


**Additional Text (non-required)**


**Portion of Grade**

1. Participations

2. Reflection Articles

3. Midterm Exam

4. Final Exam

- Participations ………………………………………………………………………………………………………10%
- Reflection Articles ……………………………………………………………………………………………20%
- Midterm Exam …………………………………………………………………………………………………30%
- Final Exam ………………………………………………………………………………………………………40%

**Course Requirements**

Grades will be determined on the basis of the student’s performance on the following:

- **Participation (10%)** – Over the course of the semester, you are required to participate both in and outside of class.

- **Reflection Articles (20%)** — You will be required to submit reflection papers on current articles related to international affairs. Your submissions should be uploaded (or emailed to me) and include a (single) title page and a 300 word double-spaced reflection about the article. The article must be properly cited at the top of the reflection page in accordance to your MLA or Chicago style handbook. You may choose from a range of online sources (CNN, NYTimes, Enduring America, Al-Jazeera, Foreign Affairs, or the Council on Foreign Relations). Examples of broad international topics you may wish to consider: International Security, Poverty/ Hunger, Sustainable Development, Global Terrorism, War and Political Violence, Genocide, etc. Your articles will assist in the development of your world worldview. **No credit will be given for late submissions.**
Midterm Exam (30%) – The midterm exam will be held in class. It will include questions on all topics covered up to the week before the exam is administered. The midterm will be comprised of multiple-choice questions, definitions from the readings.

Final Exam (40%) – The Final exam will be structured much like the midterm. NOTE: The final exam will not be cumulative; only topics covered after the midterm will be included.

Policies

- Please be sure to arrive on time to class.
- All assignments are due on the due dates. There are no exceptions. Please visit the LSU student handbook regarding missed classes.
- If you have any questions/concerns about assignments, grades, presentations, etc., please see me during my scheduled office hours or make an appointment.
- **Statement on Academic Integrity/Academic Misconduct:** I expect that all work you turn in will be your own. Plagiarism (representing someone else’s work as your own) **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Be sure to cite any source from which you take material, including websites. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask.
- All LSU students are expected to have read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct. According to university policy, “Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student…” (Sec 5.1, C of the LSU Code of Student Conduct). For further information, please consult the LSU Code of Student Conduct at [http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs](http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs).

- **Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a Coordinator in the Office of Disability Services so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your Accommodation Letters, please meet with someone in that office to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.

- **It is your responsibility to get in touch with me if you have any questions.** If an event arises that you think will impact your success in this course, please get in contact with me as soon as possible. It is much easier for me to work with you during the semester than after the final grades have been submitted.
Reading Assignments

January 15, 17  International Politics in a Post-secular Era

Part 1 – Elements of International Politics

January 22  Introduction to International Politics
            Lamy et al., Ch. 1

January 24  The History of International Politics
            Lamy et al., Ch. 2

January 29  The History of International Relations (Pt. 2)
            Lamy et al., Ch. 2

            In-class film on the Cold War—TBA

January 31  Realism and Liberalism Pt. 1
            Lamy et al., Ch. 3

            Morgenthau’s *Six Principles of Political Realism*
            http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/morg6.htm

February 5  Realism and Liberalism (Pt. 2)
            Lamy et al., Ch. 3

February 7  Alternative Theories in International Relations
            Lamy et al., Ch. 4

            *(Reflection # 1 Due, Feb. 7)*

PART 2 – Foreign Policy & State/Non-state Actor Relations

February 12  MARDI GRAS (NO CLASS)

February 14  Understanding States and Foreign Policy Pt. 1
            Lamy et al., Ch. 5

            Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Introduction

February 19  Understanding States and Foreign Policy (Pt.2)
            Lamy et al., Ch. 5

            Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 1

February 21  Global and Regional Governmental Relations Pt. 1
            Lamy et al., Ch. 6

            Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 2
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>Global and Regional Government (Pt. 2)</td>
<td>Lamy et al., Ch. 6</td>
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<td>Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 2</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Non-state Actors and New Challenges Pt. 1</td>
<td>Lamy et al., Ch. 7</td>
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<td>Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 3</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>Non-state Actors and New Challenges Pt. 2</td>
<td>Lamy et al., Ch. 7</td>
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<td>Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 3</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
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<td>Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 4</td>
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<td>(Reflection #2 March 8)</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
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<td>Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 4</td>
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<td>Midterm Review</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Midterm Exam—In Class</td>
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<td>March 19, 21</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>International Security and Military Power Pt. 1</td>
<td>Lamy et al., Ch. 8</td>
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<td>April 2,4</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK—No Class</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
<td>Terrorism and Globalization Pt. 1</td>
<td>Lamy et al., Ch. 9</td>
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<td>Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 6</td>
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<td>Video: Global Terrorism – TBA</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>Terrorism and Globalization (Pt. 2)</td>
<td>Lamy et al., Ch. 9</td>
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<td>Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 7</td>
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Further Reading:

*(Reflection #3 Due April 11)*

April 16
Human Rights and Human Security Pt. 1
Lamy et al., Ch. 10
Video: United Nations Peacemaking

Ezell, Beyond Cairo, Ch. 8, Conclusion

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**Part 3 – New Global Issues**

April 18
International Political Economy
Lamy et al., Ch. 11

April 23
Global Trade and Finance Pt. 1
Lamy et al., Ch. 12
Video: TBA

April 25
Poverty, Development and Hunger Pt. 1
Lamy et al., Ch. 13

*(Reflection #4 Due April 25)*

April 30
Poverty, Development and Hunger (Pt.2)
Lamy et al., Ch. 13

May 2
Environmental Issues
Lamy et al., Ch. 14

**Final Exam Review**

May 6-11
**Final Exams**