POLI 2057 - 3
Introduction to International Politics
Fall, 2008
T TH 12:10 – 1:30
220 Coates Hall

Instructor: Caroline L. Payne
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Office: 310 Smibbs Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts, theories, and issues of international politics. My primary goal is for each and every person to walk away with an understanding and appreciation of international politics; this includes the actors, structures, and institutions involved. Though the course is rooted in traditional theories of international politics, it also considers the role of globalization and its influence on interstate and state/society relations. More generally, a primary goal of this course is to encourage the development of critical thinking, research, effective writing, and presentation skills. These skills will be developed while gaining a theoretical and practical understanding of international politics.

REQUIRED TEXTS


The textbook can be purchased at the University Bookstore, Coop Bookstore, and Chimes Textbook. Though we will primarily rely on this textbook, for some weeks we will use journal articles or websites to supplement the textbook. The journal articles are listed with the appropriate section on the course outline and can be accessed through the LSU Libraries webpage; you will be personally responsible for locating these journal articles. Any websites which will be utilized are included in the course outline.

CLASS POLICIES

Student Needs: If you have special needs (such as a learning disability or health condition) that I should be aware of, speak with me after class or make an appointment to meet with me privately. Additionally, if you are a member of a student organization or athletic team which requires that you miss class please notify me immediately. More generally, if you ever find yourself confused about the class or material we are covering come see me during office hours so that we can remedy this; remember that the longer you wait the harder it will be to catch up. I very much enjoy speaking with my students so feel free to stop by my office any time.

Attendance: While LSU does not allow an attendance requirement I do expect that you be here to participate in class discussions and contribute to the overall success of the course. Each of you has chosen to enroll in this course so I hope that means you are interested enough in the material to be here as much as possible. If the love of learning is not enough to get you here on a regular basis, however, keep in mind that tests will be based on both the readings and lectures/discussions. Additionally, participation is a significant portion of the grade, and you cannot participate if you are not present or routinely tardy.

Class Atmosphere: This course can only be good if each of you is actively engaged. This means everyone should participate in discussions and put sufficient time and effort into his/her work and preparation for each class meeting. The best way to do this is to read the material carefully and thoroughly and bring any questions you may have to class. All questions and input are welcome. However, remember that “positive” participation is not just participating-it is being respectful of your classmates and the instructor at all times; this means no interruptions or negative comments. We will be discussing some very controversial topics in this course so these are very important.
things to remember. Sleeping, carrying on conversations while class is in session, surfing the web, texting or any activity that is not directly related to the course will not be tolerated. Turn off all cell-phones and electronic devices that will interrupt class. Violation of these policies will be considered negative participation for the day in which the violation occurs.

GRADING POLICIES

Grade Scale: All assignments will receive a numeric grade. For the calculation of the final grade I will adhere to the LSU ten-point grading scale for final grades. That grading scale is as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 89</td>
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Grade Availability: All grades will be posted on Moodle for your review within one week of turning in the assignment.

Academic Misconduct: 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 (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructors, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive as postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or an attempt to commit such an act.” For these and other specific acts which may constitute academic misconduct, please see the following Office of the Dean of Students website: http://app1003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument#5.1. You are responsible for knowing what academic misconduct is and avoiding it.

A very specific form of academic misconduct which can be a problem is plagiarism. Please pay specific attention to what constitutes plagiarism; it is particularly important to note that plagiarism does not have to be intentional. Plagiarism is defined by the LSU Code of Student Conduct as, “the unacknowledged inclusion of someone else’s words, structure, ideas, or data...[f]ailure to identify any source (including interviews, surveys, etc.) published in any medium (including on the Internet) or unpublished, from which words, structure, ideas, or data have been taken...” If you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, refer to the LSU Libraries Tutorials Plagiarism Guide found at http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html.

Any case of academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean of Students for a formal hearing.

ASSIGNMENTS

First and foremost, all assignments in this course have been given great thought and planning. I do not believe in “busy work,” and I will not give you an assignment that does not contribute to your learning of international politics specifically or your development as a scholar more generally. As I have put great time and effort into developing these assignments, I expect you to do the same when completing them. All work should be in an acceptable final form when turned in to me. In order to enable you to do your best on each assignment, I will provide you with the assignment guidelines in print form in a sufficient time prior to each deadline. Should you wish to begin an assignment early, you may access the guidelines on Moodle, or alternatively, if the document has not yet been posted, you may request a copy from me via email.

All assignments should be turned in on time. Failure to hand in an assignment will result in a 5 point decrease in the highest possible grade you may receive for each day that it is late. Therefore, if the assignment is one day late, the highest grade possible is a 95. As you can see, turning in your assignment only a few days late can dramatically affect your grade. Organization trips or athletic events are not accepted as excuses for turning in assignments late. It is your responsibility to get any assignment to me before the due date if you are going to miss that particular class meeting. You will be allowed an extension if and only if you provide the appropriate written documentation (i.e. medical excuse).
All take-home assignments should be typed in 12pt. Times New Roman font using standard margins and double-spacing. A stapled hard copy should be turned in to me at the end of the appropriate class meeting. Every final work should show an attention to both the overall assignment guidelines as well as organization, grammar, correct citation, and of course critical thinking and analysis.

**Missed Exams:** All missed exams will be made up during the final exam period. While you will certainly have time to do this during the final exam period, studying for both the mid-term and the final, as well as taking both on the same day, is not ideal. I would therefore encourage you to avoid this situation if at all possible.

**Contested Grades:** All grade contestations must be made within 14 days of receiving the grade. If you think a mistake has been made in calculating a grade, please see me with your graded assignment after class or during my office hours. If you disagree with the marking of an answer as wrong or incomplete, you must make your case in writing to me. Each contestation should include a copy of the assignment or exam with a written statement expressing your rationale for the disagreement. If you think a final grade is incorrect you must notify me within 30 days of the grade being posted; this should be in writing and via email. In this event, I may request a copy of all graded work from you to verify my own records so you should **always keep anything that is handed back to you.** If you have not retained copies of your graded work I will be unable to reevaluate your final grade.

**PARTICIPATION**

15% Total

**Verbal participation** is expected of every student. While I understand that not all students are comfortable with this type of participation, it is essential that you learn to express your thoughts and questions verbally. For those of you who struggle with verbal participation, I suggest you bring written comments or questions with you to class; this will better enable you to verbally contribute to the discussion.

Also, keeping up with **current events** is an essential task for anyone studying international politics; we cannot study a world which we do not pay attention to. Therefore, I expect each and every one of you to come prepared to discuss relevant current events. You should pay attention to the most important stories of the week as well as anything pertaining to your particular country of choice (see below).

Finally, you **need to be present, on time, and actively engaged in the class to get full participation credit.** Excessive absences and tardiness will drastically lower your participation grade as you cannot participate if you are not present.

10% of your total participation grade will come from verbal participation.

5 random **written participation checks** will also be given throughout the semester. These will be completed at the end of class in response to a specific question I give you. While I do not feel comfortable placing limitations on your brilliance, I will suggest that these responses be no less than a paragraph and no more than a page. Though these will not be graded at the level of a quiz, they are intended to help develop your analytical thinking skills as well as the ability to develop and express your own thoughts given some basic knowledge gained from the course. It is essential that you be present to get credit for these random participation checks, so attendance is always important. Also, I hope that this will allow those of you who are less comfortable with verbal participation an opportunity to otherwise demonstrate the knowledge you are acquiring; this should not, however, discourage you from verbal participation.

5% of your total participation grade will come from written participation checks.

**MAP QUIZZES**

10% Total

In order to understand many of the issues that countries around the world face, it is first important to know where many of these countries are. Therefore, there will be two map quizzes. While these quizzes will not cover every single country in the world they will cover the major and/or most important countries in the world system or their particular region.

**Map Quiz 1**

Date: September 4

**Map Quiz 2**

Date: September 11

**POLICY PAPERS AND PRESENTATION**

35% Total
You will be responsible for two policy papers throughout the semester on a country of your choice (you will use the same country for each assignment). You will first submit three countries of interest (in order of your interest) during the second class meeting. You will receive your country assignment for the rest of the semester during the third class meeting.

You will research the country's history, political and economic systems, and cultural and social dynamics and relationships. Each paper should use the necessary factual information gained in your research and the information learned in the course to generate a policy prescription concerning a salient problem (economic for the first assignment and political for the second). Additionally, you will be responsible for keeping up with the current events taking place within your country so that we can discuss them over the course of the semester as well as so you can build them into your papers.

Finally, each of you will present a summation of all relevant background information, issues confronting the country, and policy prescriptions in the final week of the class. While the papers are individual, the presentation will be a group project. The due dates and percentage breakdown for each assignment is listed below. You will receive a more detailed handout concerning each assignment at a later date.

**Policy Paper 1**  
Due Date: October 21  
Economic Issue

**Policy Paper 2**  
Due Date: November 13  
Political Issue

**Presentation**  
Due Dates: December 2  
December 4

**MID-TERM EXAM**  
Date: October 14

The mid-term exam comprises three parts: multiple choice, identification/short-answer, and one essay question. This will allow you to demonstrate the knowledge that you have gained thus far in a variety of ways. However, the parts of the exam are not equally weighted. Because this class encourages more critical thinking and writing skills, the identifications and the essay will receive more weight than the multiple choice. Keep in mind that even the identifications should be answered with complete sentences and be logically organized. As with everything, real world examples from historical or current events should be used to demonstrate your ability to apply the concepts and theories. **Please bring a blue book and a scantron for the exam.**

**FINAL EXAM**  
Date: December 13 (12:30 – 2:30 p.m.)

The final exam will comprise multiple choice questions, identification/short-answer, and two essay questions. The final exam is not cumulative, though it will be important in some situations to build upon the information covered in the first half of the class. Additionally, information from the presentations may be included on the exam. While I will not ask you specific questions about a particular country from the presentations, I may ask you to draw upon recurring themes from all of the presentations. It will not be sufficient to discuss only the country that you focus on throughout the semester; you will have to draw parallels between your work and others’. **Please bring a blue book and a scantron for the exam.**

**EXTRA CREDIT**  
5 Points on Midterm Exam  
Date: August 28

Each of you MUST read the syllabus in order to be successful in this course. It is important to know where to find the schedule of readings, the assignments and their due dates. Additionally, all of the procedures and policies
of the class should be known. Therefore, there will be a quiz over the important elements of the syllabus to ensure that you commit these things to memory and thus maximize your performance in this class. This quiz is worth a maximum of 5 extra points added to your final midterm exam grade.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Given the tentative nature of international politics we will adhere to a loose schedule for readings if necessary; if we do not finish the scheduled readings for a specific date or if an important topic arises which deserves additional discussion, we will simply alter our schedule for the following class meeting. This flexibility will allow us to address relevant world events as they come up and topics that are of particular interest to you. Below, you will find an outline of topics and the corresponding readings for those topics. I will announce any alterations to the readings for the following class period at the end of each class. If you miss class please ask a friend, neighbor, or email me for this information. Also, *important dates are noted in italics.*

**Week 1: Course Introductions**
August 26: Introductions and Syllabus Overview
August 28: Learning to Research
   - Research Handout
   - Syllabus Quiz
   - Submit 3 Countries of Interest

**Week 2: Studying International Politics**
September 2: Introduction to Textbook
   - Introduction
   - Chapter 1
   - *Last day to drop courses without receiving a grade of “W”*

September 4: Levels of Analysis
   - *Map Quiz #1*

**Week 3: Historical Context**
September 9: International History and Its Evolution
   - Chapter 2
   - Chapter 3

September 11: Post-Cold War Environment
   - Chapter 4
   - *Map Quiz #2*

**Week 4: Traditional Theories of International Politics**
September 16: Realism and Neo-realism
   - Chapter 5
   - Pg. 125 – 130
   - Machiavelli, Nicolo. *The Prince*. Chapters XVII – XX. Can be found at:
     [http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1232/1232-h/1232-h.htm#2HCH0018](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1232/1232-h/1232-h.htm#2HCH0018)

September 18: Liberalism and Neo-liberalism
   - Chapter 6
   - Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points Speech." Can be found at:
     [http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Fourteen_Points](http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Fourteen_Points)
   - Pgs. 131 – 141

**Week 5: Alternative Theories of International Politics**
September 23: Marxist Theories & Constructivist Theories
September 25: Other Alternative Theories
   -Chapter 9
   -Pgs. 263 - 268
   -Chapter 10

Week 6: Conflict
September 30: Globalization and International Ethics/War
   -Chapter 11
   -Chapter 13

October 2: War and Security Issues Continued
   -Hume, David. 1752. "On the Balance Of Power." Can be found at:
     http://www.econstor.org/Library/LFBooks/Hume/hmMPL.html
     587.

Week 7: International Political Economy
October 7: IPE and Globalization
   -Chapter 14
   -Pgs. 268 - 277

October 9    Fall Break

Week 8: International Law
October 14: Mid-Term Exam

October 16: International Law
   -Chapter 16

Week 9: International Actors
October 21: International Regimes and the UN
   -Chapter 17
   -Chapter 18
   -Economic Policy Paper Due

October 23: International Organizations and Interactive Effects
   -Chapter 19
     Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992.” World

Week 10: International Issues I - Terrorism
October 28: Terrorism and Nuclear Proliferation
   -Chapter 21
   -Pape, Robert. 2003. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.” American Political
October 30: Causes of Terrorism
  - Chapter 22
  - Chapter 23
  - Chapter 24

**Week 11: International Issues II – Development**

November 4: Global Trade and Finance
  - Chapter 26

November 6: Development and Poverty
  - Chapter 27

November 7  *Final day for dropping courses*

**Week 12: International Issues III – Human Rights**

November 11: Human Security and Human Rights
  - Chapter 28
  - Chapter 29

November 13: International Intervention
  - Chapter 30
  - Political Policy Paper Due

**Week 13: International Issues IV – Civil War**

November 18: The Changing Nature of War?
  - Chapter 12

November 20: Civil War

**Week 14: Globalization and the Future of International Politics**

November 25: Transforming the Political Community and a New Order
  - Chapter 31
  - Chapter 32

November 27  *Happy Thanksgiving!*

**Week 15**

December 2: Group Presentations

December 4: Group Presentations and Course Evaluations

*December 13  *Final Exam 12:30 – 2:30*