Introduction to International Politics
POLI 2057 – Summer 2009

Assistant Professor M. Rodwan Abouharb

Class Meeting: MTWTRF, 12.10pm-1.10pm, 109 Tureuad, June 8th 2009-July 27th
Office: 219 Stubbs Hall
E-mail: roda@lsu.edu
Tel: 578-3881
Office Hours: W, TH 2.30pm-3.30pm, and by appointment.

Course Description
This course is designed as a survey of issues and problems in world politics and an introduction to how political scientists think about those issues and problems and design theories to explain international relations.

The course examines a number of competing explanations of world politics: realism and liberalism, and rational choice theories. The course compares their expectations about the likelihood of conflict and the possibility of cooperation. In addition, we will think about the scientific approach political scientists take to understanding political behavior in general, and international relations in particular.

The course will focus on the broad topics of international security and political economy, and will deal with more specific issues including international conflict, civil conflict weapons of mass destruction, development, international trade, and international organizations.

Though this is not a current events course, we will certainly make reference to current events and seek to apply theories of world politics to the world around us. POLI 2057 is designed as a survey to introduce you to international politics and to prepare you for courses in more specialized topics in international politics.

Reading Material

The course has two required books, one is available in the University Book Store, the other will be made available on Moodle.

Updated. Pearson Longmann


Additionally, you are required to remain up-to-date on current events by reading either a major newsmagazine (e.g. Newsweek, Time, US News & World Report, The Economist) or a major newspaper (e.g. New York Times, Washington Post) regularly.
Finally, reserve the right to add reading assignments from other sources as necessary.

**Student Responsibilities**
You are expected to complete the assigned readings before each class, to attend daily lectures and discussion sections, and to participate actively in class discussion in the discussion section. The exams (mid-term and final) will be comprised of short and essay questions. Material for each of these exams will be drawn from three sources: assigned readings; lectures, and discussion.

In an effort to be clear about my expectations and relieve answering the same questions multiple times, here are 4 especially important things you should know for the class:
1. Everything is cumulative.
2. Participation count . . . a lot.
3. Don’t ask if this chapter, that book, those lectures, etc. will be on the exam . . . .

As a general rule, if it happens in lecture or section, appears in one of the books, or takes place on the planet earth and pertains loosely to international politics, it’s eligible for inclusion on an exam. SO . . . assume everything is important.
4. If a quiz, or exam has not been returned to you, assume it’s not yet graded. Instructors have little incentive to grade something and then hold onto it indefinitely. Once things are graded, I will give them back to you.

Exams and quizzes missed without a valid and prearranged excuse cannot be made up, effectively resulting in a zero for the assignment. Finally, students who miss lecture or discussion for whatever reason including adding the class late are wholly responsible for all material missed and for recovering that material themselves.

During the semester, you will have the following opportunities upon which your grade will be based:
- Mid-term exam 40%
- 10 One minute essays – 20%
- Final exam – 40%

**II**

**Exams**
The mid-term exam is scheduled for Thursday July 2nd and will cover all material assigned and topics covered in lecture up to that date. The final exam is scheduled for Monday July 27th. It will be cumulative, though it will focus more heavily on material covered after the mid-term. Make-up exams are only given provided you have received approval from me in advance. Weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth, etc. after missing an exam will not result in a make-up, so be certain to make arrangements beforehand.

**One Minute Essays**
You will have 10 unannounced quizzes during the course, each worth 20 points. Like exams, makeups will only be given if an excuse is prearranged with me.
Class Etiquette
No facebook, no tweets, no instant messaging, no reading the sports pages, no online shopping, no reading the newspaper. Anyone who engages in this behavior will be asked to leave.

Course Outline
Theoretical Approaches To Relations Between States

Week 1: June 8th-June 12th

Monday: Introductions

Tuesday: The Study of International Relations, & the Study of Social Science I

Wednesday: The Study of International Relations, & the Study of Social Science II

Thursday: Globalization of International Relations III:

Friday: Globalization of International Relations IV:
Chapter 1 Goldstein & Pevehouse (2009): Empowering Global South Special Section pages 1-14.

Week 2: June 15th-June 19th

Monday: Power Politics

Tuesday: Power Politics II

Wednesday: Power Politics: The Peloppenisan Wars I

Thursday Power Politics: The Peloppenisan Wars II
The Spartans Part II (Minutes 0-16.50 & 38-54)
http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1346963395621663715&hl=en

**Friday: Alternatives to Power Politics I**

**Week 3 Alternatives to Power Politics June 22-26th**

**Monday: Alternatives to Power Politics II: Liberal Theories II**
Chapter 3 Goldstein & Pevehouse: Democratic Peace pages 73-75.


**Tuesday: Alternatives to Power Politics III**
The Human Rights Peace

**Wednesday: Alternatives to Power Politics IV**
Foreign Policy Decision Making pages 75-90.


**Thursday: Alternatives to Power Politics V**
Chapter 4 Goldstein & Pevehouse: Gender Theories pages 99-111.


**Friday: Debate Ethics in Realist/Liberal/Gendered World**

**Week 4 Conflict War and Terrorism June 29th-July2nd**

**Monday: Conflict War and Terrorism**
Chapter 4 Goldstein & Pevehouse: Wars of the World, Conflicts of Ideas, Conflicts of Interests pages 112-141.

**Tuesday: Conflict War and Terrorism II**

**Wednesday: Catch Up/Review**

**Thursday: Mid Term Exam**  
**Short Answer & Essay Questions.**

**Friday: No Class July 4th Holiday**

**Week 5 Civil Wars I July 6th-July 10th**

**Monday: Civil Wars Causes I**  

**Tuesday: Civil Wars Causes II**  

**Wednesday: Civil Wars Causes III**  

**Thursday: Civil Wars Who Fights? I**  

**Friday: Civil Wars Who Fights? II**  

**Week 6 Civil Wars II July 13th-July 17th**

**Monday: Civil Wars World Stage I**  

**Tuesday: Civil Wars World Stage II**  

**Wednesday: Discussion**  
**Why Civil Wars Start, How do We End Them?**

**Thursday: International Organization Law and Human Rights**  

**Friday: International Organization Law and Human Rights II**
Week 7 July 20th-July 24th

Monday: Genocide and Human Rights: Case of Rwanda


Tuesday: Genocide II
FILM: Remembering Rwanda. PBS

Wednesday: Genocide III
Film: Remembering Rwanda. PBS

Thursday: Trade and Money I
Chapter 5 Goldstein & Pevehouse: Theories of Trade, Trade Regimes, Economic Globalization pages 168-194

Friday: Trade and Money II/Review

Monday July 27th: Final Exam

Short Answer & Essay Questions.

Guidelines & Information
• Plagiarism & Cheating: Plagiarism and cheating are serious matters that, should they occur, will be pursued to the limits of University rules. Moreover, academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course. For details regarding the University’s policy on cheating and plagiarism and academic dishonesty more generally, see the University Handbook. For writing guidelines and information on plagiarism and how to avoid its pitfalls, visit the writing links on the course website. Additionally, students are advised to retain all course material for all course work until two weeks after grades are received.

The syllabus does not confer any rights and may change as the instructor deems necessary over the course of the term.