Louisiana State University
Department of Political Science

POLI 4048-2: International Conflict and Cooperation
Fall 2009
Course Syllabus

Instructor : Bettül Dicle
Office : 320 Stubbs Hall
Office Hours : 12:30 – 1:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays or by appointment
E-Mail : bdicle1@lsu.edu

Class Schedule: 1:40 – 3:00 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays
Classroom : Coates 228

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to improve their understanding and analytical skills of international conflict and cooperation. From Thucydides to Kant, classical and modern thinkers attempted to develop concepts, frameworks and theories to offer solutions to the question of ‘conflict’ in international system and to create an enduring cooperation among nations. In this sense, the emphasis of this course is on various theoretical frameworks not specifically current events. However, after an introduction of grand theories in International Relations, we will discuss several topics in International Conflict and Cooperation, such as alliances, deterrence, interdependence, crisis bargaining, as well as more specific theories, such as democratic peace. We will conclude our course with a discussion of international terrorism and the ethics of war.

Course Readings : There is no required textbook for this course. There are several research articles provided through Moodle.

In addition to the assigned readings, students are expected to follow the current events in international politics; The New York Times Available online at www.nyt.com, The Economist Available online at www.economist.com and BBC News online at http://news.bbc.co.uk/

Students who study foreign languages are strongly suggested to visit news websites from other countries, such as Le Monde, El Pais or Der Spiegel.

Grading : Participation → 10%
Four in-class quizzes → 20%
In-class Midterm exam → 35% (Thursday, October 15, 2009)
In-class Final exam → 35% (Wednesday, December 9, 2009)

Grade Scale → A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (below 60)
Exams: Midterm exams will include the material covered until the exam. It will include short answer identification/definition questions and essay questions. Content for the exams includes all readings and class discussions. Your analysis of topics and reasoning to each question is more important. Final exam is not comprehensive. The structure of the final exam will be very similar to the midterm exam.

Makeup Exams: There is no make-up exam and there is no exception to this rule.

Participation: Throughout this course, there will be material unique to class discussion. In terms of the exams, all that we cover in the class will be included. I also find it easier to learn together in the class and review on your own. Some preparation before the class will make this learning experience more beneficial. A better preparation before the class and active participation during the class will help you in your own reviews. Please take advantage of learning in the class by attending each and every class. Trying to learn on your own after a missed class will be much harder.

Communication: Moodle will be used extensively for all homework assignments, grades and announcements. It is your responsibility in this class to follow all announcements, course documents, homework assignments and deadlines. Please log-in to Moodle frequently. E-mail communication is also important. Please note that you need to use your LSU email address.

Academic Integrity: “All academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized data or help of any kind. A student who supplies another with such data or help is considered deserving of the same sanctions as the recipient. Specifically, cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation are prohibited”. For detailed information please refer to LSU undergraduate bulletin.

Accommodation: A student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact Office of Disability Services. A student wishing to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time) should provide the instructor with an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services in advance of the scheduled test date. http://appl003.lsu.edu/slasc/ods.nsf/index
August 25, 2009: Class Introduction

August 27, 2009 - September 3, 2009: (Neo) Realism and the Balance of Power
  - Read Chapter 1: Introduction and Chapter 2: Anarchy and Struggle for Power

September 8, 2009 - September 10, 2009: Liberalism

September 15, 2009 - September 17, 2009: Power Transition and Hegemonic Stability
  - Read Chapter 8: "The Abacus of Power"
- Gilpin, Robert, 1981. War and Change in World Politics. Cambridge University Press
  - Read Chapter 5: "Hegemonic War and International Change"

September 22, 2009 - September 24, 2009: Rational Choice
- Fearon, James, D. 1994 "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes" American Political Science Review 88(3): 577-592

September 29, 2009: Crisis Bargaining

October 1, 2009: Fall holiday

October 6, 2009 - October 8, 2009: Deterrence
  - Read Chapter 1: "Introduction" and Chapter 3: "Deterrence and Conflict"
October 13, 2009: Review

October 15, 2009: Midterm

October 20, 2009 - October 22, 2009: Alliances

October 27, 2009 - October 29, 2009: Democratic Peace
- Doyle, Michael W. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics" American Political Science Review 80(4) 1151-1169
  - Read Chapter 2: "From Democratic Peace to Kantian Peace"

November 3, 2009 - November 5, 2009: Critiques of Democratic Peace

November 10, 2009 - November 12, 2009: Interdependence
- Richardson, Neil R. 1995 "International Trade as a Force of Peace" In Controversies in International Relations Theory: Realism and the Neoliberal Challenge, ed. Charles W.
  - Read Chapter 1: Interdependence in World Politics and Chapter 2: Realism and Complex Interdependence

November 17, 2009 - November 19, 2009: Terrorism

November 24, 2009 - December 1, 2009: Ethics of War" "Just War"

November 26, 2009: Thanksgiving holiday

December 3, 2009: Review

December 9, 2009: Final Exam (10:00 am to Noon)