POLI 7940 Seminar in International Politics
Fall 2009

Classroom: 210 Stubbs Hall
Course hours: Thursday 1:40 to 4:30
Office hours: T, TH 12:00-1:00

Professor: Dr. Joe Clare
Department of Political Science
Louisiana State University
Office: 206 Stubbs Hall
Phone: (225) 578-2551
E-mail: jclare@lsu.edu

Course Description
This seminar provides an in-depth coverage of past and recent developments in international relations theory. We will examine general approaches to international relations (realism, neorealism, neoliberalism, critical theories) and their variants, major disciplinary debates, topics and controversies in the areas of conflict and cooperation, and evaluation of the scientific progress in the field. The readings include both the classic and recent literature with different theoretical and methodological orientations.

Reading Materials
All required readings for the course consist of two books, selected book chapters and journal articles. If not available through the LSU library’s electronic journal holdings (http://www.lib.lsu.edu/epubs/ejournals.html), they can be accessed on the Moodle page for this course. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to download all materials. Two books can be purchased at LSU Union, Chimes, or Co-op Bookstores:


Course Requirements
Final grades will be based on three components: class participation (20%), two short papers (30%), and a final exam (50%).

• Class participation: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings each week according to the topic covered. For this part of the grade, students will be expected to perform consistently well both when participating on a voluntary basis as well as when called upon to discuss the readings. Class participation will count for 20% of the final grade.

• Two short papers: Beyond regular attendance and active participation in class discussion, each student is expected to make two brief (10-15 minute) in-class presentations on the weekly topics, based on a short (approximately 6 pages double-spaced) paper to be e-mailed to me by 4 p.m. one day before the scheduled class for that topic. These papers and presentations should highlight the principle points of all the week’s readings, critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the
readings (and of their theoretical contributions), and provide guidance for future research in this area (such as identifying a related question that has been left unanswered or answered incompletely by the readings, or by proposing an extension of the week’s reading to a new question or area). They should not be simple summaries of the readings or annotated bibliographies; suggestions on how to analytically and critically evaluate the readings will be detailed in an additional handout. These presentations are meant to help focus the class discussion on the week’s topic, readings, and future directions; as a result, each presentation will be followed by a period of general class reaction and discussion. Each short paper/presentation will count for 15% of the overall course grade, for a total of 30%.

- **Final exam:** The take-home final exam is similar in format to the comprehensive exams in international relations, although it will be shorter and with an extended time of one week. It will be distributed in class on December 3 and will be due by 4 p.m. on December 10. Although both hard copy and electronic version are preferable, an electronic version is required and must reach me by e-mail by the deadline. The final exam will count toward 50% of the final grade.

**Excused Absences, Deadline Extensions, and Make-Ups**
This is a graduate-level seminar, and students are expected to attend all classes. If the student is seeking an excused absence, s/he must notify me as soon as possible after the absence, but no later than the end of the second working day after the last date of absence. If the absence occurs the same day as a scheduled presentation or other graded procedure, the student must notify me or the department by the end of the next working day after the absence in order to ensure full rights. The student is responsible for providing satisfactory documented evidence to the instructor within one week of his or her absence to substantiate the reason for the absence. Deadline extensions and make-ups will be given ONLY in documented cases of serious illness or family emergency. Otherwise, short review papers and the take-home exam will be graded F if not turned in to me by the specified deadlines. The same applies for the failure to present a short paper in class as scheduled.

**Plagiarism Statement**
“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 permission of the instructors, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or attempts to commit such an act. Students should be familiar with the definition of academic misconduct and the Code of Student Conduct, available at [http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/code.htm](http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/code.htm). If a student is found to have committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and penalized appropriately.

**Students with Disabilities Policy**
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. For additional information, check the Office of Disability Services Faculty Handbook.
Equal Opportunity Statement
LSU’s PS 1 assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran’s status in admission to, participation in, and treatment or employment in the programs and activities that the University operates. This policy statement applies equally to the teaching and learning environment within all university recognized courses, curriculum and co-curriculum programs.

Copyright Statement
Unless otherwise noted, the handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, web pages, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Scholarly Journals
Students should be familiar with a few leading journals in the field:
International Organization
International Studies Quarterly
Journal of Conflict Resolution

in the conflict area, additionally:
International Interactions
Journal of Peace Research
International Security
Conflict Management and Peace Science

and articles on international politics in more general journals in the discipline:
American Political Science Review
American Journal of Political Science
Journal of Politics

All these journals (and relevant articles in the leading general ones) should be perused regularly and, if unfamiliar with some of them, you should then consult and read relevant articles for the course in the recent issues as well.
COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week 1: August 27
COURSE INTRODUCTION

Week 2: September 3
No class: The instructor is attending the American Political Science Association Conference

Week 3: September 10
NEOREALISM VS. NEOLIBERALISM: THE DEBATE

Weeks 4-5: September 17 & September 24 (first session)
CLASSICAL AND STRUCTURAL REALISM

Week 5: September 24 (second session)
LIBERALISM AND NEOLIBERALISM

Week 6: October 1
NO CLASS: Fall Holiday

Week 7: October 8
INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT: BARGAINING APPROACHES


Week 8: October 15
INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT & DOMESTIC POLITICS


Week 9: October 22
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS


Week 10: October 29
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Week 11: November 5
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & DOMESTIC POLITICS

Week 12: November 12
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY: EXTERNAL INFLUENCES


**Week 13: November 19**

**INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY: INTERNATIONAL-DOMESTIC LINKAGES**


**Week 14: November 26**

**NO CLASS: Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Week 15: December 3**

**ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES**


~ Have a Good Winter Break ~