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

General Education
This course can be used to help fulfill your general education requirement. According to the LSU 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. Their primary aim is to educate rather than train, and to instill a desire for life-long learning.”

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

- **Participation (10%)** – All students are expected to contribute to class discussion. The quality of your participation is far more important than the quantity. To receive credit for participation, your comments must reflect both familiarity with the readings and some degree of critical thinking about the topics for the day.

- **Quizzes (20%)** – Over the course of the semester, several unannounced short essay quizzes will be administered on the assignment due that day. The standard format will be one short essay question worth a possible total of 10 points. There will be approximately ten quizzes during the semester; the highest six grades will be included in the final grade. To receive full credit, be sure to refer to specifics from the readings and explain your response as comprehensively as possible in the time allotted. NOTE: There will be no makeup quizzes. If you miss a quiz, I do not require any excuse. There are enough chances to offset missed quizzes built into the structure of the course.

- **Midterm Exam (20%)** – The midterm exam will be held in class on October 14th. 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, key definitions from the readings, and essay questions. You will have options in terms of which definitions and essay question you choose to answer.
- **Research Paper (30%)** – In order to familiarize students with the proper approach to writing a solid research paper, the grading of the research paper will include multiple graded components due at different points during the semester. You will receive a separate handout with due dates other details for the following assignments:

- **Final Exam (20%)** – The final exam will be held in class on **December 2nd**, and 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. Quizzes will generally be given within the first five to ten minutes of the class period; if you are late, you will not receive a quiz grade for that day.

- Assignments are due by the beginning of class on the date specified. If the assignment is late, 10 points per day will be deducted from the grade you would have received for a timely submission.

- If you have a question about a grade you have received, please do **not** email me. Please see me during scheduled office hours or make an appointment. Be sure to bring the graded assignment with you.

**Textbook**


**Reading Assignments**

August 24, 26  
First Week – No Readings

August 31  
**Fundamentals of IR Theory**
Goldstein & Pevehouse - Ch. 1

September 2  
**Fundamentals of IR Theory (cont.)**

September 7  
**Realism**
G & P – Ch. 2

September 9  
**Realism (cont.)**
Thucydides’ *The Melian Dialogue*  
([http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm))

September 14  Foreign Policy
G & P – Ch. 3


September 16  Liberal Institutionalism
G & P – Ch. 4, pp. 53-64 (up to EU section)


September 21  Liberal Institutionalism (cont.)
G & P – Ch. 4, pp. 53-71


September 23  Domestic Influences
G & P – Ch. 5
Eisenhower’s Farewell Address:  
[http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/3361](http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/3361)

September 28  Domestic Influences (cont.)
Chapter 1 from Hogan’s *A Cross of Iron* (1998) – available on Moodle

September 30  Constructivism, Law, and Human Rights
G & P – Ch. 6


October 5  Critical Theories
G & P – Ch. 7

October 7  Critical Theories (cont.)
Chapter 1 from Wallerstein’s *The Capitalist World-Economy: Essays* (1979) – available on Moodle

October 12  No Readings Due – Midterm Review

October 14  Midterm Exam – In Class
October 19  Gender Theories  
G & P – Ch. 8  


October 21  No Class – Fall Break

October 26  Theories of Conflict 
G & P – Ch. 9

October 28  Theories of Conflict (cont.)  
Chapters 1 & 4 from Juergensmeyer’s Terror in the Mind of God (2003) – available on Moodle

November 2  Theories of Conflict (cont.)  

November 4  Theories of Trade 
G & P – Ch. 10

November 9  Theories of Globalization  
G & P – Ch. 11  

November 11  Theories of Globalization (cont.)  
Chapters 4 & 15 (Barnet and Cavanagh) from Goldsmith & Mander’s The Case Against the Global Economy (2001).  

November 16  Theories of Development 
G & P – Ch. 12

November 18  Theories of Development (cont.)  

November 23  No Class

November 25  No Class – Thanksgiving
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