

PROPOSAL TO LIST A COURSE, OR TO RENEW THE LISTING OF A COURSE,
IN THE GENERAL EDUCATION SOCIAL SCIENCES AREA
AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Renewal New Listing

Course designation, number, and title: (e.g.: PHIL/1000/ Introduction to Philosophy)

Poli 2057 Introduction to International Politics
Course designation Course number Course title

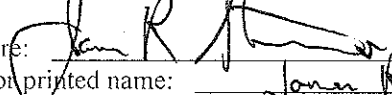
Semester credits: 3 Contact hours per week: Lecture: 3 Laboratory: _____

Department (or other unit) offering the course and proposing its inclusion: Poli

College or School: Humanities and Social Sciences

Please attach the requested information. Submit a single electronic copy (pdf file) bearing unit and college/school signatures to gened@lsu.edu.

Chair of the proposing unit, affirming approval by its faculty or appropriate faculty committee:

Signature:  Date: April 25, 2012
Typed or printed name: James R. Jones, Jr.

Dean of College or School, affirming support of the proposal:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Typed or printed name: _____

Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on General Education, affirming approval by the Committee:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Typed or printed name: _____

Office of Academic Affairs:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Typed or printed name: _____

**Proposal to Renew the Listing of Political Science 2057
In General Education at Louisiana State University**

1. Attached is a syllabus for Political Science 2057 that includes the course description, reading assignments, statement of general education goals in social science, description of assignments and examinations used to assess student learning, and an outline of the subject matter of the course.

2. Political Science 2057 is a broad, multiple section, general introduction to international politics, with a typical enrollment of 50-60 students. The course is designed to introduce students to the theories and practices of global politics, especially basic principles, problems, and concepts of international politics; evolution and nature of the nation-state; concepts of sovereignty, power, and national interest; patterns of conflict and cooperation; and foreign policies of the major powers. The course deals with two primary dimensions of international politics. The first dimension covers the important theories and concepts of international relations. The second primary dimension of the class deals with current issues, practices and problems in today's international setting, particularly in Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, the former Yugoslavia, Africa, the Middle East, global trade issues, and others as they emerge.

This course can be used to satisfy a General Education requirement. According to the *LSU General 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. The primary aim is to educate, rather than train, and instill a desire for lifelong learning. POLI 2057 is designed to address the following General Education goals: *LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.*

3. The required readings for the course along with the exams and writing assignments are all designed to provide students various opportunities for developing an "understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference."

The assessment will be conducted during the fall semesters of each year. During those semesters, the instructors of this course will gather to discuss and select appropriate questions to assess this competency. Approximately 10 to 15 multiple-choice questions will be given to students on their final examinations (an alternative assessment procedure will involve examining answers to essay-style questions). Some examples of these questions are listed below:

Which political economy system includes a free market, free trade, winners and loser, and generally low levels of government intervention?

- A. Marxism
- B. Capitalism
- C. Mercantilism
- D. Confucianism

One component of the East Asian Economic Development Model is an authoritarian-style government. Theoretically speaking, how might an authoritarian-style government benefit development compared to a democratic-style government?

- A. It can more quickly and efficiently implement economic plans.
- B. It can suppress dissent, which can be disruptive of economic growth.
- C. It can force austerity measures and other sacrifices on citizens.
- D. All of the above

Which of the following is NOT a mercantilist tool regarding trade:

- A. Tariffs
- B. Import restrictions
- C. Special licensing or inspection requirements
- D. Reducing government intervention

Assessment will summarize percentage of students who score in each of the following categories, for each section and across all sections.

- 90% = Exceeds Expectations
- 70 - 89% = Meets Expectations
- Under 70% = Did Not Meet Expectations

It is expected that if 70% of the students meet or exceed expectations, the objective will have been met.

Alternative Assessment Procedure

Instructors for all of the sections will agree upon a common written assignment that demonstrates an understanding of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics and cultural and linguistic difference.

What do the recent changes and upheavals in the global economy suggest about international politics?

OR

Using examples of any ongoing global event, how do conflict and cooperation seem to manifest themselves?

Essays will be graded by a team of international relations instructors for a particular semester. Assessment will summarize the percentage of students who score in each of the following categories, for each section and across all sections:

- Answer demonstrates a thorough, precise and critical understanding of the question asked = 90% & Above = Exceeds Expectations
- Answer demonstrates a thorough understanding of the questions asked but without significant critical perspective = 80-89% = Meets Expectations
- Answer demonstrates a reasonably accurate and general sense of the questions asked = 70-79% = Meets Expectations
- Answer demonstrates little understanding of the questions asked = 60-69% = Did Not Meet Expectations
- Final Exam demonstrates little understanding and little effort to answer the questions. Below 60% = Did Not Meet Expectations

It is expected that if 70% of the students meet or exceed expectations, the objective will have been met.

Introduction to International Politics

Political Science 2057

Course Description

POLI 2057 examines basic principles, problems and concepts of international politics; evolution and nature of the nation-state; concepts of sovereignty, power, and national interest; patterns of conflict and cooperation; and foreign policies of the major powers.

Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce you to the theories and practices of global politics. The course deals with two primary dimensions of international politics. The first dimension covers the important theories and concepts of international relations. This will be covered primarily in class lectures and discussions. You may wish to supplement this with optional textbook readings in *Dynamics of International Relations*, 2004, by Walter C. Clemens; Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. But please note that this book is *optional*. The only *required* book for this course is a wonderful piece of literature by Ursula Leguin called *The Dispossessed*. This novel deals fictitiously with many issues pertaining to international relations in general and will be the basis for some provocative discussion throughout the semester. Both books should be available at the LSU Union Bookstore (and perhaps elsewhere in town).

The second primary dimension of the class deals with current issues, practices and problems in today's international setting. In order to accomplish this you are *required* to read daily editions of the *New York Times* online. This is a free service and can be found at www.nyt.com. Pay particular attention to international and global happenings such as events in Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, the former Yugoslavia, Africa, the Middle East, global trade issues, and others as they emerge. Note that you must read the paper before class each day. We will spend a portion of class time each week discussing current international topics and how those topics fit into the theories we have studied and discussed in class. In addition to reading the *New York Times*, you can get supplemental international news from the following sources (but remember that the *New York Times* is required):

1. Listen to National Public Radio (NPR) news programs (particularly "All Things Considered" in the late afternoon and "Morning Edition" in the morning). NPR can be found on the FM dial at 89.3 and is an excellent source of interesting and in-depth international news.
2. Read the international news stories in major magazines such as *Time*, the *Economist* or *Newsweek*.
3. Watch national news on television and pay particular attention to the international news stories.

Course Objectives

The course objectives can be organized into two broad areas: development of international knowledge as discussed above (theories and current events), and development of skills. The skills objective can be further defined: students are expected to develop and enhance their reading, writing, and speaking skills, and most importantly, their critical thinking skills. All

activities in this course are geared toward accomplishing these objectives. By the end of this course, you should have learned much about international politics and you should have developed better skills that will serve you well in many places.

General Education Objectives

This course can be used to satisfy a General Education requirement. According to the *LSU General 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. The primary aim is to educate, rather than train, and instill a desire for lifelong learning. POLI 2057 is designed to address the following specific general education goal: As a social science general education elective this course is designed to prepare you to meet the following competency requirements: *LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.*

Course Requirements

Portion of Final Grade

1. First exam, February 16.....	25%
2. Second exam, March 27.....	25%
3. Final exam Tuesday, May 5 at 10:00 am.....	30%
4. First short paper, due March 13	10%
5. Second short paper, due April 17.....	10%

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answer/short essay questions. Grades will be posted when available to your PAWS account using Moodle.

You may also receive an additional bonus to your grade, up to 5%, based on your participation in class discussions (see note below).

Class discussion is a central component of this class. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and current international events. Class participation can take several forms such as commenting on a topic or asking or answering a question. Based on participation in class discussions, students may earn up to 5% bonus added to their final score in the course. Because I won't know everyone's name in this class until later in the semester, I have a system of keeping track of class participation: any time you contribute to class discussion, write down a brief version of what you said on a piece of paper with your name on it and turn it in to me after class. That allows me to keep track of how often everyone participates in class. I will also occasionally give pop quizzes and in-class assignments that will count toward your participation bonus, but the majority of the bonus will come from actually participating in class discussion.

Course Calendar

(Note: The following calendar is organized into one or two week segments. There may be some minor deviations from this schedule depending on a variety of scheduling factors.)

January 14 through 23: Realism, Idealism, and Interdependence: Core Theories of International Relations.

Read Chapters 1 and 2 in *The Dispossessed*.

Optional readings: Introduction and Chapter 1 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

Week of January 26: Foundations of the "Nation-State" System.

Optional readings: Chapters 2 and 8 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

Weeks of February 2 and 9: International Organizations; Organizing for Peace.

Read Chapters 3-5 in *The Dispossessed*.

Optional reading: Chapter 14 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

**** First Exam: February 16 ****

February 18 through March 6: Foreign Policy Decision Making and the Levels of Analysis.

Optional reading: Chapter 3 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

Week of March 9: Power, Conflict, and War

Optional readings: Chapters 4 and 5 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

**** First Short Paper Due March 13 ****

Week of March 16: More on Peace: Arms Control; International Law

Optional readings: Chapters 9 and 15 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

Week of March 23: Catch up, review, and prepare for exam.

Read Chapters 6- 9 in *The Dispossessed*.

**** Second Exam: March 27 ****

Week of March 30: International Political Economy: Liberalism, Mercantilism, and Marxism

Optional reading: Chapter 11 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

Week of April 13: Development and Underdevelopment.

Optional reading: Chapter 12 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

**** Second Short Paper Due April 17 ****

Week of April 20: Development and Underdevelopment (continued).

Week of April 27: Contemporary Global Issues and Challenges; and catch up, review and prepare for final exam.

Finish reading *The Dispossessed*.

Optional reading: Chapter 13 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

**** Final Exam – Tuesday, May 5 at 10:00 am ****

Policies

I welcome and encourage questions, comments and discussion either in or out of the classroom. I love teaching and I love what I teach, so remember my door is open!

Any papers or assignments must be turned in on or before the due date. Emailed papers will not be accepted unless previously arranged with me due to dire circumstances. Exams and quizzes may not be rescheduled or postponed. Exceptions will be allowed only under extreme, documented circumstances. Under such circumstances, you are required to notify Professor Schafer (or, if he is unavailable, the Department of Political Science) prior to the date or as soon as possible if prior notice is impossible.

Late papers are generally not accepted. If I accept a late paper because of circumstances, I will deduct 10% from the paper grade for every day it is late, up to a maximum of 75% deduction.

According to the Dean of Students, cell phones, pagers and other such things going off in class are a violation of PS29 (the University policy that regulates conduct in the classroom), and therefore are not permitted in class.