

## **POLI 2057: Introduction to International Politics**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 - 4:20pm Fall 2021**

**253 Himes Hall**

### **Instructor**

- Kwadwo Poku-Agyemang
- Office: 311 Stubbs Hall
- Email: [kpokua1@lsu.edu](mailto:kpokua1@lsu.edu)
- Office Hours: Online via Zoom Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment. Zoom Meeting ID and password will be posted to the course Moodle site.

**Course Description:** This course is an introductory lecture in international relations, a subfield of political science. No previous coursework or background in international relations or political science is required. The general purpose of the course is twofold: the first is to provide students with the current theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches utilized in the study of international relations, including the approaches used in more specific areas such as conflict and international political economy. The second goal of the course is to expand students' knowledge of international affairs and institutions, including historical and contemporary issues of significance. These two purposes are not mutually exclusive, and as such there will be a large degree of interplay between them, including the use of the theoretical frameworks presented to contextualize and interpret current events. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to apply the theories and models utilized in the study of international relations to contemporary current events for the purposes of increasing the student's understanding of the relevant actors, their goals and actions, and the factors which inhibit or facilitate cooperation or conflict.

**Integrated Learning:** Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of *Social/Behavioral Sciences* and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of *Global Learning*.

**Required Text:** Jon C. Pevehouse and Joshua S. Goldstein, *International Relations* 12e, ISBN 9780135176610 (Pearson Revel).

In addition to the selections from the textbook above, additional readings will be made available on *Moodle* or in the library. As this course is also focused on current events in international politics, students are expected to remain abreast of the state of current international affairs through the utilization of newspapers, periodicals, and other sources of international news. This information

may be utilized in class and subject to unannounced quizzes or on exams. A list of suggested sources is provided on the course *Moodle* page.

**Course Requirements:** The structure of the class will be a mix of lecture as well as group discussion. To help facilitate the class discussion, it is imperative that students come prepared to each class having read that week's material and having familiarized themselves with current events. In addition to two exams and an unspecified number of quizzes, each individual will participate in a group project on global affairs.

A few notes on participation:

1. All students are expected to participate in class discussions. Students uncomfortable speaking in front of the class are encouraged to come to office hours to discuss the material.
2. Many of the issues and approaches utilized in international relations are subject to debate. Students are therefore encouraged to question the material in a thoughtful and respectful manner. No student will be penalized for presenting an argument which questions the material presented; all perspectives are welcome, although they are also fair game for class discussion and debate.
3. To facilitate class discussion and preserve an environment in which all students are encouraged to participate, please keep your class contributions directed at the material and arguments presented and not at fellow class members. Comments of a personal nature directed against fellow students will not be tolerated.

**Prohibition on Recording and Distributing Class Material:** All instructional material is the intellectual property of the instructor and may not be recorded or redistributed by students. Individuals who share these materials or otherwise violate this policy will be referred to Academic Affairs.

**COVID-19 Statement:** We remain under pandemic conditions and expect to be in this state for the entire semester. In order to consistently provide the highest quality LSU education, all students should follow current LSU guidelines. These include the following:

1. If you have any signs of illness, do not come to class.
2. To protect all campus community members, the University requires everyone to wear facemasks/cloths on campus. Failure to do so is a violation of the code of student conduct.
3. Wash hands with soap and water or clean with sanitizer frequently, and refrain from touching your face.
4. If you must cough or sneeze unexpectedly, please be mindful of others nearby and cough or sneeze into your elbow or shield yourself the best you can.
5. If you have been exposed to others who have tested positive for COVID-19, self-quarantine consistent with current [CDC guidelines](#).

LSU strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Visit [www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/](http://www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/) to learn how to get vaccinated on campus. Vaccination helps

keep our campus community safe, helps protect those among us who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, and is our path back to more normal operations and the full college experience that our students deserve.

**Daily Symptom Checker:** You are required to respond to a daily symptom check request sent via email or text message each morning. Completing the symptom checker will take approximately one to two minutes. Once you have provided information about your symptoms, you will be given feedback on whether or not you are certified to return to campus and attend your classes. Additionally, if you test positive for COVID-19, you are required to report it in your daily symptom checker application.

**Resources for Students:** Your health and safety are LSU's top priority. If you are feeling ill or overwhelmed with anxiety, please contact the [LSU Student Health Center](#) for medical advice and mental health support. General health care and mental health support are available for all enrolled students through telehealth appointments.

**Unexpected Changes to Courses:** Due to the unpredictable nature of the current situation, the format of the course and/or requirements may be forced to change, and if this is the case that students will be given appropriate notification.

**Grading Policy:** The grading breakdown is as follows:

#### Graded Elements

- Reading Quizzes: 25%
- Reaction Papers 15%
- Group Project on Global Affairs: 15%
- Mid-term Exam: 20%
- Final Paper: 25%

#### Letter Grades and Percentages

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 59 or below
A: 93-96	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

#### Additional Notes on Grading

- Reaction papers of 2 to 3 pages (double spaced) will be assigned throughout the course asking the student to respond to a reading or concept discussed in class.
- Reading quizzes will be assigned in Revel. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
- Missed exams may not be made up without appropriate documentation of a valid excuse for absence as defined by LSU Policy Statement 22 or LSU's guidelines regarding COVID-19.

- Thirty-five percent of the reaction papers, group project, midterm and final paper grades will be earned by completing the assignment, with the remaining sixty-five percent assigned based on evaluation of the assignment's content.
- The calculated final percentage will be rounded up to the nearest integer for assignment of the course letter grade.
- If you feel that an error has been made in the grading of your assignment, a written submission specifying the contested question(s) and/or issue(s) as well as the detailed reason why you feel an error has been made, including supporting documentation, should be given to the course instructor prior to scheduling a meeting to discuss the issue. Only grading issues pertaining to the substance or format of an argument or factual error on the part of the instructor will be considered eligible for review.

**General Statement on Academic Integrity:** Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at [LSU Student Advocacy and Accountability](#). It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU.

**Plagiarism and Citation Method:** As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively. If you have questions regarding what is appropriate, please consult with the library's tutorials on avoiding plagiarism and proper citation formats.

**Group work and unauthorized assistance:** All work must be completed without assistance unless explicit permission for group or partner work is given by the instructor. This is critical so that the instructor can assess your performance on each assignment. If a group/partner project is assigned, the student may still have individual work to complete. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. You might have a project with group work and a follow up report that is independently written. When in doubt, e-mail the faculty member or ask during a class session. Seeking clarification is your responsibility as a student. Assuming group/partner work is okay without permission constitutes a violation of the LSU Code of Student Conduct.

**Students requiring special accommodation:** Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability

Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, (225) 578-5919.

## Course Outline & Reading Schedule

### Week 1: August 24 & 26

- Course Introduction
- The Evolution of the International System: *IR*, Chapter 1

### Week 2: August 31 & September 2

- The Elements of International Relations: *IR*, Chapter 1
- Rationality & Game Theoretic Approaches: *IR*, Chapter 2

### Week 3: September 7 & 9

- Power Politics: *IR*, Chapter 2, pages 43-75

### Week 4: September 14 & 16

- Rice, Condoleeza. 2008. "Rethinking the National Interest". *Foreign Affairs* 87(4): 2-26.
- Alternatives to Power Politics: *IR*, Chapter 3

### Week 5: September 21 & 23

- Alternatives to Power Politics (continued)
- Allison, Graham. 2018. "The Myth of the Liberal Order" *Foreign Affairs* 97(4): 124+
- Biden, Joseph R. Jr. 2016. "Building on Success". *Foreign Affairs* 95(5): 46-57.
- Deudney, Daniel and G. John Ikenberry. 2018. "The Resilient Order." *Foreign Affairs* 97(4): 16+.

### Week 6: September 28 & 30

- International Conflict: *IR*, Chapter 5

### Week 7: October 5 & 7

- International Conflict (continued)
- Film Screenings
  - "The Middle East's Cold War, Explained" - Vox
  - "Syria: Seven Years of War Explained" – BBC News
  - "The Secret History of ISIS" – Frontline PBS

### Week 8: October 12 & 14

- Midterm Exam Review
- Midterm Exam

### Week 9: October 19 & 21

- Military Force and Terrorism: *IR*, Chapter 6

Week 10: October 26 & 28

- Foreign Policy and Domestic Decision Making: *IR*, Chapter 4
- International Organization: *IR*, Chapter 7

Week 11: November 2 & 4

- The North-South Gap: *IR*, Chapter 12
- International Development: *IR*, Chapter 13

Week 12: November 9 & 11

- International Trade: *IR*, Chapter 8

Week 13: November 16 & 18

- Global Finance and Business: *IR*, Chapter 9

Week 14: November 23

- Global Finance and Business (continued)
- Unscheduled day for remaining course material

Week 15: November 30 & December 2

- Group Presentations

Final Exam Review Session on Zoom

- (link available in Moodle)

Week 16: Final Exam Week, No Class

- Final exam – December 8 (12:30pm – 2:30pm)