Syllabus

POLI 2057, version 1.2

Effective: June 30, 2017

POLI 2057—Introduction to International Politics

Course Description: 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; foreign policies of the major powers.

Textbooks and Other Materials

Please read the following textbook information carefully. You should use the ISBNs listed below to order the correct materials. ODL is *not responsible* for purchases that result in the receipt of the wrong materials. It is your responsibility to order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

Required Textbooks

Karen A. Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguín-Toft. *Essentials of International Relations*. 7th edition. New York, NY: W. W. Norton, 2016.
   ISBN-13: 978-0-393-28340-2
   ISBN-10: 0-393-28340-2

Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. 6th edition. New York, NY: W. W. Norton, 2016.
   ISBN-13: 978-0-393-28366-2
   ISBN-10: 0-393-28366-2

John Scalzi, *Old Man's War*—any edition

John Scalzi, *The Last Colony*—any edition

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. *Always order by the ISBN*. Publishers and vendors often offer the same textbook title under different ISBNs. You must have the correct ISBN to access your online website.
3. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

Software: Adobe Flash Player, Adobe Shockwave Player, Adobe Acrobat Reader

We recommend that you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Flash and Adobe Shockwave player are required for online testing and video playback. Adobe Acrobat Reader may be required to view PDF document files.

Hardware: Web cam, microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and reliable high speed internet

Proctored exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Students are encouraged to review the technical requirements provided on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on their equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure they have the necessary resources available.

Technical Requirements: http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php

Equipment Test: http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Discuss the basic mechanics of the international political system
2. Apply theories of international politics to global events
3. Describe the interaction between international politics and domestic actions

This course will examine significant problems of world politics including such concepts as imperialism, theories of international relations and law, balance of power, international morality, sovereignty, diplomacy, problems of peace, disarmament, international organizations, trends toward world government, and a contemporary survey of world affairs. After taking this class, students should have a basic understanding of the causes of war and peace, as well as the processes of international politics. Students will also become aware of current events and the impact that governmental types have on reactions to these events.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. *Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session.* Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.

Each module contains information, activities, and assignments organized under a consistent series of headings. Get familiar with how the module is organized. Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the module learning objectives, the lecture video, the reading assignment, and the module assignment. You should watch the course lecture videos and do the assigned readings first. The lecture is the more important element of the course, but the readings provide deeper instruction and clarification of the topics at hand.

Additional recommendations may be provided in a link to the course module instructions in Moodle, which you should review before beginning the first module.

Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the module lecture videos first, then the reading assignments. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.

6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

Reading Assignments

The reading assignments, both from *Essentials of International Relations* and *Essential Readings in World Politics*, provide a deeper dive into the material for this course. The lecture videos give you your foundation. Please watch the videos before you do the readings. Read from *Essentials of International Relations* before *Essential Readings in World Politics*. You will read an average of 30 pages per module. Specific reading assignments will be given in each module.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	Definitions and Theory Evaluation
02	Realism
03	Liberalism
04	Alternative Theories of International Relations
05	Why do Wars Happen?
06	Conducting War and the Just War Tradition
07	Terrorism and *Old Man's War* Discussion
	Mid-Course Examination
08	Foreign Policy Decision Making and Political Psychology
09	International Political Economy: Trade and Finance
10	International Political Economy: Aid and Development
11	International Institutions and Law
12	Environment and International Politics
13	Technology and International Politics
14	Space and International Politics, *The Last Colony*
15	Final Paper
	Final Examination

Module Assignments

Each module will require you to watch a lecture video and read one chapter from *Essentials of International Relations*, as well as a primary source document or two. You should watch the lecture video and take notes. The major highlights will appear on the PowerPoint presentation in the video. Take care in reading *Essentials of IR* and the primary document from *Essential Readings* before attempting the module assignment. You will only get one chance at the assignment.

You will then complete your module assignment. This assignment will consist of five multiple-choice questions, a few identification questions, and a longer essay assignment. The identification questions should be answered in one paragraph, fully identifying the *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *how* and *why* the topic is important. The essay should be at least 500 words long, but no longer than 700 words.

For the modules with the novel assignments, you will also be required to submit a paper, no more than five pages double-spaced , examining the novel in the context of an international relations theory. Further details will be attached to the module assignment in those weeks.

For the final module, you will be using all that you have learned this semester to examine an international event in the context of realism, liberalism, and one other theory of world politics. Further details are posted in a separate document in the very first module. You must submit this paper in order to be able to take the final exam. All paper submissions must be in .pdf format.

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Some courses have restrictions that require that a grade be received before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the module instructions in Moodle. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

Assignment Policies

You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 Assignment, which is a final paper, in order to unlock access to the final exam. Please allow at least seven calendar days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the grade book.

Once you submit an assignment, you cannot revise it, so be sure to check your work. Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment within seven calendar days. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct.* Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, see the ODL Academic Integrity policy page on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

The graded work for this class falls into five categories: exams, module assignments, quizzes, a longer paper, and book analyses.

1) Exams: There will be two exams given in this class. The mid-course exam will be worth 20 percent of your final grade and will cover Modules 01–08. The final exam will be worth 30 percent of your final grade and is cumulative (Modules 01–15). The format will be multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay. You will have a maximum of three hours to complete each exam.
2) Quizzes: There is a short quiz in each module worth 5 points. The average of the quizzes is worth 5 percent of your final grade.
3) Module assignments: There will be one assignment in each module. These will cover material from the reading for the week. The average of these will make up 15 percent of your final grade.
4) World event analysis: You will write a paper dissecting an international event from a variety of theoretical perspectives. Details for this paper are in Moodle. This paper will be worth 20 percent of the final grade.

5) Book analyses: You will write two short papers (no more than 5 double-spaced pages) examining how the novels *Old Man's War* and *The Last Colony* fit in with the theories of international relations. You will upload these papers in Modules 08 and 15 as Word documents. These will be worth a total of 10 percent of your final grade.

- Module assignments count 100 points each.
- Exams are 100 points each.
- Course grade = average of module assignments + average of quizzes + exam scores + book analyses + world event paper. Each component is weighted by the following predetermined percentages.

Course grade =

Component	Weight (%)
Average of Module Assignments	15%
Average of Quizzes	5%
World Event Analysis (long paper)	20%
Mid-Course Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Book Analyses	10%

The following grading scale applies:

97%–100% = A+
93%–96% = A
90%–92% = A-
87%–89% = B+
83%–86% = B
80%–82% = B-
77%–79% = C+
73%–76% = C
70%–72% = C-
67%–69% = D+
63%–66% = D
60%–62% = D-
0%–59% = F

YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAMINATION
IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.

2. You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 Assignment (final paper) in order to unlock access to the Final Exam. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Extended-Campus/Online-Distance-Learning/Guidelines-Policies/Policies. Go to Continuing Education's homepage. Click on *Extended Campus,* select *Online Distance Learning*, and then click the link for *Guidelines and Policies*.

Taking Your Examinations

You are required to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access (some restrictions apply). Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the "Getting Started" module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

There is a separate charge for each proctored exam. You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and reliable high speed internet to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options at http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/.

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