

Louisiana State University, Dept. of Political Science
POLI 2057, Tureaud 101, Fall 2014
MWF 12:30-1:20

Introduction to International Relations

Instructor: Mr. John Kitch

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3pm, Thursday 1-2:30pm and by appointment

“History is the memory of states.”-Henry Kissinger, 56th United States Secretary of State

Required Texts

Moral Man and Immoral Society, Reinhold Niebuhr

The Post-American World 2.0, Fareed Zakaria

Five to Rule Them All, David Bosco

Course Overview

This course will provide students with an introduction into international relations at both the theoretical and practical levels. We will first cover three of the most prominent and most important perspectives in the study of international relations and will then address a variety of broad questions and specific examples in the field by reading, discussing, and thinking about four books.

Course Objectives

After completing the course students should be able to think and write about, as well as discuss, international relations at a basic scholarly level.

Additionally, students will be prepared to take and excel in international relations courses later in their academic careers at LSU. Most importantly, and if all goes well, students will substantially improve their critical thinking, writing, and communication skills. These skills are not only important in all academic areas, but are important tools for any educated person to possess throughout adult life.

Course Expectations

My expectations are high, but simple. I expect that students will attend class and be in their seats and prepared by 12:30 each class day. I expect that students will be attentive to whoever is speaking at a given time and will display respect for everyone in the classroom. I expect that students who have questions about the materials covered in class or in the readings will ask questions in class and/or in office hours. Finally, I expect that students will engage the material in a serious manner and perform to the best of their abilities on all assignments and in class discussion. I understand that each of you has academic, extra-curricular, and personal commitments outside of this class and I will keep this in mind throughout the semester. I do though ask that when you are in this class that you give it your full attention. If you work hard you should have little trouble making a good grade. My hope is that everyone will succeed-this is not a weed out class or a course designed to allow only a certain percentage of students to earn As or Bs. That being said, students will receive the grade that they earn at the end of the semester, so if there are issues make sure you work to resolve them as soon as they arise.

Students with Disabilities

Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments is asked to speak with the Disability Services Office and the instructor as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Disability Services is located in Johnston Hall, room 115. They can also be reached at (225) 578-5919 and disability.lsu.edu.

Plagiarism and Unauthorized Group Work

Plagiarism in all forms is explicitly prohibited on all assignments. Additionally, all work should be your individual work. If you have a question about what constitutes a violation of either of these rules please contact me to be sure. Having questions about what is and is not allowed is perfectly acceptable, but ignorance of the policy is not an acceptable excuse after a violation has occurred. The full LSU student code of conduct can be found at www.lsu.edu/saa. Each student is responsible for knowing this code and following it. Any student suspected of an academic violation will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability for potential

disciplinary action. The University takes academic integrity seriously and as such even first time penalties for an act of academic dishonesty can be harsh.

Grading Scale

Attendance/Participation:	10%
Quizzes/Journal entries:	10%
Midterm:	25%
Group Project:	20%
Final Exam:	35%
Extra Credit:	5%

A=	90-100%
B=	80-89 %
C=	70-79%
D=	60-69%
F=	Below 60%

Assignments

Attendance and Participation: The grade you earn for A and P will be determined both by how often you attend class and how often and how well you participate when in class. I understand that a wide variety of issues can come up in the course of a semester that can force you to miss a class here and there. While there is not a set policy as to how many classes you must attend to receive full credit in this portion of your grade, regular or sustained absences will hurt you. If there is a serious issue that will force you to miss class over a long period of time please discuss the matter with me during office hours.

Quizzes and Journal Entries: There will be 5 multiple choice quizzes and 5 required journal entries throughout the course of the semester. The quizzes will be short and meant to test for basic reading knowledge and understanding of the material covered in class. The journal entries will be posted online and will be no longer than 100 words. The question to be addressed in each journal entry will be given to you at the end of the class

before it is due. Content, writing style, grammar, and spelling all matter for these. There will be no makeup quizzes or journal assignments.

Midterm: The format for the midterm will be discussed closer to the test date. Please do not miss this test. If a true emergency comes up on the day of the test please contact me via email **before** the time of the test and explain the situation to me. While I will not punish someone for having the misfortune of experiencing a true and verifiable emergency on the day of the test any makeup midterms will have to be a different test from the original exam. Missing the midterm without an excused absence will result in a 50% deduction on the score of the makeup exam.

Group Project: You can see from the course calendar that a significant amount of time will be devoted to this project at the end of the semester. The full parameters of the assignment will be discussed in class, posted on Moodle, and handed out in class at a later date. The project will be designed to provide students with a hands on and enjoyable way to learn about how international relations occurs in the real world.

Final Exam: The final exam will occur on **Thursday May 8th from 10am-Noon in our regular classroom.** The date and time of the exam is set by the University and therefore cannot be altered. The format will be discussed later in the semester.

Course Calendar

Jan. 15: Introduction to the course

Major Perspectives in International Relations

Jan. 17: *Realism*, readings-

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/worldwarone/hq/causes1_01.shtml

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pol116/realism.htm>

Jan 22: *Liberalism*, readings-

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/preamble.shtml>

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/ghwbushiraqinvasion.htm>

Jan. 24: *The Individual, The most basic element of IR*, reading- Niebuhr Ch. 1 (**Quiz #1**)

Jan. 27: *The Individual, cont.*, reading-Niebuhr Ch. 2

Jan. 29: *The Individual, cont.*, reading-Niebuhr Ch. 3

Feb. 3: *The beginnings of international politics*, reading- Niebuhr Ch. 4

Feb 5: *Moral sensibilities of elites and common citizens*, reading- Niebuhr Ch.5-6

Feb 7: *Revolution*, reading- Niebuhr Ch. 7 (**Journal #1 due**)

Feb. 10: *Violence and values in politics*, reading- Niebuhr Ch. 8-9

Feb. 12: *Personal and communal ethical capabilities and limitations*, reading-Niebuhr Ch. 10

Feb. 14: *The 21st Century: The end of history or a new era?* Reading- Zakaria- preface and Ch.1

Feb. 17: *The World as Golden Corral: A global buffet of riches* reading- Zakaria- Ch. 2 (**Quiz #2**)

Feb. 19: *Out of mind, no longer out of sight*, reading- Zakaria-Ch.3

Feb. 21: *China: An heir to America's power?*, reading- Zakaria- Ch. 4

Feb. 24: *India: The world's biggest democracy-Is this as awesome as it sounds?*, reading- Zakaria- Ch. 5

Feb. 26: *How much power and influence does America still have in the world?*, reading- Zakaria Ch. 6 (**Journal #2 due**)

Feb. 28: *The present and future of U.S. foreign policy-How and why?*, reading- Zakaria Ch.7

Mar. 5: **MIDTERM EXAM**

Special Topics in IR: Readings for this section on Moodle

Mar. 7: Arab/Israeli conflict

Mar. 10: Israeli/Arab conflict

Mar. 12: Brazil (**Quiz #3**)

Mar. 14: China and the Century of Humiliation

Mar. 17: European Union

Mar. 19: Iran

Mar. 21: North Korea (**Journal #3 due**)

The U.N. Security Council-Liberalism at its apex?

Mar 24: *Genesis of the U.N. Security Council*, reading-Bosco intro and Ch.1

Mar 26: *The early years*, reading- Bosco Ch. 2 (**Quiz #4**)

Mar 28: *Global views of the Security Council*, reading-Bosco Ch.3

Mar. 31: *The Security Council and the end of the cold war*, reading-Bosco Ch.4

Apr. 2: *The Security Council and the end of the cold war*, reading-Bosco Ch. 5

Apr. 4: *The Security Council at "The End of History"*, reading- Bosco Ch.6 (**Journal #4**)

Apr. 7: *The Post 9-11 Security Council*, reading- Bosco Ch.7 and Conclusion

Apr. 9: *In class work on group project* (**Quiz #5**)

Apr. 11: *cont.*

Apr. 21: *cont.*

Apr. 23: *cont.*

Apr. 25: *Group project presentations*

Apr. 28: *Group project presentations cont. and conclusion of project.*

Apr. 30: *Project debrief (Journal #5 due)*

May 2: *End of course and Review*

May 8: **Final Exam 10am-Noon**