

POLI 2057- Intro to International Politics

Fall 2015

Instructor: James Gilley jgille4@lsu.edu

Office: 311 Stubbs Hall

Office Hours: MTWHF 10-1150am or by appointment

Class Hours: 1230-120 MWF

Classroom: 100 Tureaud Hall

Course Objectives:

This General Education Social Sciences 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 reaction to these events.

Required Texts:

Essentials of International Relations by Karen A Mingst and Ivan M Arreguin-Toft. WW Norton Press. ISBN 9780393921960

Essential Readings in World Politics by Karen A Mingst WW Norton Press
ISBN 978039321953

Old Man's War by John Scalzi

The Last Colony by John Scalzi

Students are also required to have tophat.com account for the taking of current events quizzes.

Course Requirements

The graded work for this class falls into 4 categories: Exams, Quizzes, Papers and Participation

- 1) Exams: There will be two exams given in this class: in class. The midterm will be worth 20 percent of your final grade. The final will be worth 30 percent of your final grade. The format will be multiple choice, short answer, and an essay.

- 2) Quizzes: There will be one quiz each week. These quizzes will cover current events and material from the reading for the week. Current events questions will be drawn from bbcnews.com and reuters.com. These quizzes will make up 20 percent of your final grade.
- 3) World Event Analysis: Students will write a paper dissecting an international event from a variety of theoretical perspectives. Detail will follow in another hand out. This paper will be worth 20 percent of the final grade.
- 4) Participation: Participation will be measured through participation in the class twitter feed. Students will be required to tweet approximately once a week @LSUIntl2000. Participation will make up 10 percent of the final grade.

Methods of Evaluation:

10-point grading scale 100-98= A+, 97-92=A, 91-90=A- (rinse and repeat going down, lowest passing grade = 60)

Reading Assignments

Students are required to read each assigned reading before class in preparation for discussion in class as indicated by the schedule. Readings are on moodle.

Technology in the Classroom

I am not a Luddite in any sense of the word. My primary research interests concern the use and governance of technology. I believe that it can be quite beneficial to have in the classroom. So I allow laptops and cellphones in my classroom, sometimes even making you use them to participate in something or the other. BUT, if it gets in the way or detracts from discussion, I will shut it down. So always bring a pen and notebook to class too.

Also, no hard copies of assignments will be accepted. All submissions are digital to jgille4@lsu.edu

A note on discussion: this course should be an open forum for debate. I am kind of old school about intellectual freedom, so please feel free to share. I want to hear what you have to say, but please be respectful of the space and others in the class. If discussion wanders too far afield or becomes toxic, I will shut it down.

Guidelines for Paper Writing

1. FORMAT- all papers should be double spaced, times new roman, 1 inch margins. 12pt font. Use page numbers in a right side header with your last name. Your name should appear in one line under your title. Submit it to jgille4@lsu.edu
2. PLAGARISM- Quotation is good, but you must use a citation. Otherwise that is plagiarism, and that is theft. You will be reported to the office of academic affairs. MLA or APA citation is acceptable.
3. STYLE- it's more than skinny jeans and wayfarers. Check out a style guide to help you become a better writer. *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White is ace, but there are lots of other good ones out there.

4. PROOF READING- Just do it. It will make you a better writer. I recommend at least two runs of proofing. Leave at least a day between writing and your first proof read to let it marinate.
5. DEADLINES- You will lose a full letter grade for every 12 hours your papers are late. So be on time.
6. WRITER'S PHOBIA- If you have trouble writing, come see me early on. I know lots of good campus resources and am willing to help. This is a great place to get over it.

Guide for Paper Grades

A+ : Best paper I have ever read. Brings new insights into the world. Exercises Stephen Fry levels of grammar and command of the English language. You will not get one of these. Sorry.

A: These papers are very well written, with hardly any errors of grammar or form. Of a prescribed length. Proposes an argument and supports it. Exceptional originality.

A- : Well written with very few errors. Displays hints of originality and has a supported argument.

B+: Well written. Length is right, has an argument. Not quite as original.

B: Few Errors, decent phrasing, length is right, has an argument.

B-: Problems with length, or too much paraphrase rather than analysis.

C or lower: major problems. Too many errors, too short, does not answer questions, no argument, paraphrases with no real point.

Make-up Procedure:

Makeups will only be available for medical emergencies with a physician's note and participation in University Sponsored or military affiliated events with official notice provided in advance.

Academic Honesty Policy:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and all incidents of suspected plagiarism will be automatically referred to judicial affairs.

Attendance Policy:

While attendance is not part of your grade, it is required to participate and take the quizzes. As such it is highly recommended that you come to class prepared for the lesson.

Course Content:

Week 1 (August 24-28): Definitions and Theory Evaluation

Week 2 (Aug 31-Sep4) **McNeese**: Realism:

Week 3 (Sep9-11) @ **Miss State**: Liberalism:

Week 4 (Sep 14-18) **Auburn** : Alternate Theories of International relations (World Systems Theory, Constructivism, Feminism, et Al.):

Week 5(Sep21-25)@ **Syracuse**: Why do wars happen? :

Week 6 (Sep28-Oct 2)**Eastern Michigan** : Conducting War and the Just War Tradition:

Week 7 (Oct 5-9) @ **South Carolina** Terrorism, Discuss **Old Man's War**

Week 8(Oct 12-16) **Florida** :Midterm Review and Exam

Week 9 (Oct 19-23) **Western Kentucky**: Foreign Policy Decision Making and Political Psychology :moodle

Week 10 (Oct 26-28) Bye: International Political Economy: Trade and Finance : (Also Fall Break)

Week 11 (Nov 2-6)@ **Bama**: International Political Economy: Aid and Development:

Week 12 (Nov 9-13) **Arkansas**: International Institutions and Law

Week 13 (Nov 16-20) @ **Ole Miss**: Environment and International Politics

Week 14 (Nov 23-26) **TAMU**: Technology and International Politics

Week 15 (Nov 30-Dec 4) SEC: Catch-up; Discuss Zoe's Tale, Exam Review

Week 16 (Dec 10): Exam Thursday Dec 10, 1230-230pm In the Classroom