

POLI 2057-03: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS FALL 2017

Instructor: Michael Reed

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Classroom: Tureaud 116

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday (11:30 – 12:20)

Office: Stubbs 231

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday (8:00 – 10:00) or by appointment

Course Description

Is the outbreak of war driven by interest, misunderstanding, or accident? How do states benefit from globalization, increasing trade, and interdependence? How effective are economic sanctions and international institutions, and how do international regimes operate? Is peace a universal good held in common among all societies, or only among societies of a certain kind? What is the nature of the relationship between the outbreak of war and the outbreak of peace? This course will examine these and other questions through study of the classic texts in international relations. Upon completion, students will have obtained a strong theoretical bearing, as well as a high degree of familiarity with the major debates in modern terrorism, nuclear weapons proliferation, American foreign policy, military theory, great power politics, and diplomatic history. Students will also learn where their interests lie, and will obtain a sense of how to direct their studies in future courses.

Required Books

This course requires no textbook. All readings and assignments will be posted to Moodle.

However, students interested in attending graduate school or pursuing careers in international law, international business, US Foreign Service, Peace Corps, Department of Defense, or at an NGO or similar organization are strongly encouraged to purchase the books contained in this syllabus.

Class Assignments

Examinations (60%): Students will take two examinations throughout the semester, each constituting 30% of the final grade. The midterm will occur on *Friday, 13 October 2017* and will cover all reading and lecture material to-date. The final will occur on *Tuesday, 5 December 2017 (12:30-2:30)* and will be cumulative, though significant weight will be given to material covered during the second half of the course. Students must present their student ID's to be admitted on exam day.

Geography Exam (10%): Students are required to take a geography exam through Moodle on the names, capitals, and locations of each country in the international system. The exam may be taken at any time during the semester, but no later than *Friday, 1 December 2017*. Students may not use any aid or assist others.

Final Paper (20%): Students will be responsible for submitting a final essay (2500 words minimum) at the beginning of class on *Friday, 1 December 2017*. Late essays will not be accepted. Students are allowed a high degree of discretion on selecting the topic, but all topics must be approved by the instructor. Students are encouraged to make use of class readings, discussions, and response papers when writing their final essay. Essays should present a concise argument, summarize the relevant literature, and critique an opposing position.

Participation (10%): It is imperative that students attend all lectures. Lectures will always introduce new material related, but not identical, to the readings for each respective week. Students will be responsible for writing 5 response papers (250 words minimum) throughout the semester that briefly summarize and critique the readings. These response papers will constitute half of the participation grade. Attendance and contribution to active discussion will constitute the other half. Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences; each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a 1 point penalty.

Class Schedule

Part I: International Relations Theory

Week 1: Introduction – Political Science and Game Theory (Pt. I) (8/21, 8/23, 8/25)

“In matters of business and affairs of state there is never any need to avail oneself of the work of academics, since with their excessive subtleties they are more likely to ruin them than bring them to a good conclusion.” –Pope Clement VIII

- ☛ Lake, David A. 2011. “Why ‘Isms’ are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding Progress.” *International Studies Quarterly* 55 (2): 465-481. (SKIM)
- ☛ Nau, Henry R. 2011. “No Alternative to ‘Isms.’” *International Studies Quarterly* 55 (2): 487-493. (SKIM)
- ☛ Singer, J. David. 1961. “The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations.” *World Politics* 14 (1): 77-92.
- ☛ Game Theory 101: “Introduction,” “The Prisoner’s Dilemma and Strict Dominance,” “Pure Strategy Nash Equilibrium and the Stag Hunt,” and “What is a Nash Equilibrium?”

Week 2: Classical Realism (8/28, 8/30, 9/1)

“In the nature of man we find three principal causes of quarrel. First, competition; secondly, diffidence; thirdly, glory. The first maketh man invade for gain; the second, for safety; and the third, for reputation...They are in that condition which is called war, and such a war as is of every man against every man...The nature of war consisteth not in actual fighting but in the known disposition thereto during all the time there is no assurance to the contrary. All other time is ‘peace.’” –Thomas Hobbes

- ☛ Thucydides. “Book I” (excerpts) and “Book V” (The Melian Dialogue) in *History of the Peloponnesian War*.
- ☛ Carr, Edward Hallett. 1939. “The Beginnings of a Science,” “Utopia and Reality,” and “The Prospects of a New International Order” in *The Twenty Years’ Crisis: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers. P.1-21, 224-239.

- ☛ Morgenthau, Hans. 1948. “A Realist Theory of International Politics” and “Political Power” (excerpts) in *Politics Among Nations*.

Week 3: Defensive / Offensive Neorealism (9/4-NO CLASS, 9/6, 9/8)

“Chaos was the law of nature; order was the dream of man.” –Henry Adams

- ☛ Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. “Political Structures” and “Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power” in *Theory of International Politics*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. P.79-128.
- ☛ Mearsheimer, John J. 2014. “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power” in *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co. P. 29-54.

Week 4: Liberalism / Neoliberalism / Democratic Peace (9/11, 9/13, 9/15)

“Whenever any trouble arises the light shall shine on it for a year before anything is done; and my prediction is that after the light has shone on it for a year, it will not be necessary to do anything; that after we know what happened, then we will know who was right and who was wrong.” “The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty.” –Woodrow Wilson

- ☛ Kant, Immanuel. 1795. *Perpetual Peace*.
- ☛ Angell, Norman. 1910. “The Great Illusion” in *The Great Illusion: A Study of the Relation of Military Power To National Advantage*. Memphis, TN: Bottom of the Hill Publishing. P.29-39.
- ☛ Bull, Hedley. 1977. “Does Order Exist in World Politics?” in *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. P. 22-50.
- ☛ Doyle, Michael W. 1986. “Liberalism and World Politics.” *American Political Science Review* 80 (4): 1151-1169.

Week 5: Trade, Interdependence, War, and Cooperation (9/18, 9/20, 9/22)

“Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations...entangling alliances with none.” –Thomas Jefferson

- ☛ Lenin, Vladimir. 1917. “Division of the World Among the Great Powers” in *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*.
- ☛ Keohane, Robert O. 2005. “Cooperation and International Regimes” in *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. P. 49-64. (SKIM)
- ☛ Hufbauer, Gary Clyde et. al. 2007. “Conclusions and Policy Recommendations” in *Economic Sanctions Reconsidered*. Washington, D. C.: Peterson Institute for International Economics. P.155-178.

- ☛ Keohane, Robert O. and Joseph S. Nye, Jr. 2012. “Interdependence in World Politics” and “Realism and Complex Interdependence” in *Power and Interdependence*. Glenview, IL: Pearson. P. 3-31.

Week 6: Information and War (9/25, 9/27, 9/29)

“People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war, or before an election.” –Otto von Bismarck

- ☛ Blainey, Geoffrey. 1973. “The Abacus of Power” and “War as an Accident” in *The Causes of War*. New York, NY: The Free Press. P. 108-124, 127-145.
- ☛ Fearon, James D. 1995. “Rationalist Explanations for War.” *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414.

Week 7: Psychology in International Relations (10/2, 10/4, 10/6)

“There is nothing a Government hates more than to be well-informed; for it makes the process of arriving at decisions much more complicated and difficult.” –John Maynard Keynes

“We Russians are a talented race. Unfortunately, however, we cannot trust ourselves. There is no continuity about our work. Now the Germans are just the reverse. They are all continuity. But they begin laying their plans so many years beforehand that, long before the plot is hatched, the whole world knows what they intend to do. The whole art of diplomacy is to mask one’s intentions. And that is where the English excel. No one ever knows what they intend to do, because they never know themselves.” –Sergey Sazonov

- ☛ Jervis, Robert. 1968. “Hypotheses on Misperception.” *World Politics* 20 (3): 454-479.
- ☛ Jervis, Robert. 2010. “Why Intelligence and Policymakers Clash.” *Political Science Quarterly* 125 (2): 185-204.
- ☛ Jervis, Robert. 2013. “Do Leaders Matter and How Would We Know?” *Security Studies* 22 (2): 153-179.

Week 8: Social Constructivism (10/9, 10/11, 10/13-MIDTERM)

“Identities are the basis of interests. Actors do not have a ‘portfolio’ of interests that they carry around independent of social context; instead, they define their interests in the process of defining situations.” –Alexander Wendt

- ☛ Wendt, Alexander. 1992. “Anarchy is What States Make of It.” *International Organization* 46: 391-426.
- ☛ Wendt, Alexander. 1995. “Constructing International Politics.” *International Security* 20 (1): 71-81.

Part II: International Relations in Practice

Week 9: History of International Relations (10/16, 10/18, 10/20-NO CLASS)

“Today the United States is practically sovereign on this continent and its fiat is law upon the subjects to which it confines its interposition. Its infinite resources combined with its isolated position render it master of the situation and practically invulnerable as against any or all other powers.” –Richard Olney

“The great questions of the day will not be settled by means of speeches and majority decisions but by iron and blood.”
“God always protects fools, children, and the United States” (unsourced) –Otto von Bismarck

No reading assignments this week.

Week 10: War and Peace (10/23, 10/25, 10/27)

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.” –Ecclesiastes 3:1-3, 8

“Wars are, of course, as a rule to be avoided; but they are far better than certain kinds of peace.” –Theodore Roosevelt

- Waltz, Kenneth. 1988. “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory.” *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4): 615-628.
- Ikenberry, G. John. 2001. “An Institutional Theory of Order Formation” in *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order After Major Wars*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. P. 50-79.
- Kennan, George F. 1951. “World War II” in *American Diplomacy*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. P. 79-96.

Week 11: Military Theory and Force Structure (10/30, 11/1, 11/3)

“We see, therefore, that war is not merely an act of policy but a true political instrument, a continuation of political intercourse, carried on with other means.” –Carl von Clausewitz

“Helplessness induces hopelessness, and history attests that loss of hope and not loss of lives is what decides the issue of war.” –B. H. Liddell Hart

- Tzu, Sun. *The Art of War*. (SKIM)
- Von Clausewitz, Carl. Eds. Michael Howard and Peter Paret. 1984. “Book Eight: War Plans” in *On War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. P. 577-640. (SKIM)
- Mearsheimer, John J. 2014. “The Primacy of Land Power” in *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co. P. 83-137.
- Posen, Barry. 2003. “Command of the Commons: The Military Foundation of U.S. Hegemony.” *International Security* 28 (1): 5-46.

Week 12: Terrorism (11/6, 11/8, 11/10)

“The guerrilla is sometimes said to deal from weakness, but this is an absurdity. In fact, he exploits his own kind of strength, which lies in the extreme mobility of lightly armed forces without territorial or hardware investments, a bottomless well of manpower from which to recruit, and the fact that time—which is both money and political capital—works in his favor. Analogically, the guerrilla fights the war of the flea, and his military enemy suffers the dog’s disadvantages: too much to defend; too small, ubiquitous, and agile an enemy to come to grips with. If the war continues long enough—this is the theory—the dog succumbs to exhaustion and anemia without ever having found anything on which to close his jaws or to rake with his claws.” –Robert Taber

“Today we were unlucky, but remember we only have to be lucky once. You will have to be lucky always.” –IRA statement on the assassination attempt of Margaret Thatcher

- Pape, Robert. 2003. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.” *American Political Science Review* 97 (3): 343-363.
- Pape, Robert. 2006. “Learning Terrorism Pays” in *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*. New York, NY: Random House Publishers. P.61-76.
- Abrahms, Max. 2006. “Why Terrorism Does Not Work.” *International Security* 31 (2): 42-78.
- Mueller, John, and Mark G. Stewart. 2012. “The Terrorism Delusion: America’s Overwrought Response to September 11.” *International Security* 37 (1): 81-110.

Week 13: Nuclear Politics and Game Theory (Pt. II) (11/13, 11/15, 11/17)

“I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.” –Robert Oppenheimer, on the first detonation of a nuclear weapon

“The objective of nuclear weapons policy should not be solely to decrease the number of weapons in the world, but to make the world safer—which is not necessarily the same thing.” –Herman Kahn

- Schelling, Thomas. 1966. “The Art of Commitment” in *Arms and Influence*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. P. 35-91.
- Sagan, Scott D. and Kenneth N. Waltz. 2012. “More May Be Better” and “More Will Be Worse” in *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: An Enduring Debate*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co. P. 3-87. (SKIM)
- Game Theory 101: “Punishment Strategies,” “Tying Hands (Burning Bridges),” “Commitment Problems,” and “The Centipede Game.”

Week 14: Essays in International Relations (11/20, 11/22-NO CLASS, 11/24-NO CLASS)

“People define themselves in terms of ancestry, religion, language, history, values, customs, and institutions. They identify with cultural groups: tribes, ethnic groups, religious communities, nations, and, at the broadest level, civilizations. People use politics not just to advance their interests but also to define their identity. We know who we are only when we know who we are not.” –Samuel Huntington

- Fukuyama, Francis. 1989. “The End of History?” *The National Interest* 16: 3-18.

- Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72 (3): 22-49.

Week 15: Essays in American Foreign Policy (11/27, 11/29, 12/1-PAPER DUE)

"Totalitarianism is rooted in the variety of utopian political philosophy which seeks moral reform ends through political means. Totalitarians use power to remake men...Once experience is eliminated, anything appears possible. Failure to distinguish between the domains of thought and experience, of rhetoric and politics, is, of course, the very essence of rationalism. Rationalism encourages us to believe that anything that can be conceived can be brought into being." –Jeane Kirkpatrick

- Kennan, George. 1947. "The Sources of Soviet Conduct." *Foreign Affairs* 25 (4): 566-582.
- Kirkpatrick, Jeane. 1979. "Dictatorships and Double Standards." *Commentary* 68: 34-45.
- Mearsheimer, John J. and Stephen M. Walt. 2006. "The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy." *Middle East Policy* 13 (3): 29-87. (SKIM)

Academic Misconduct Statement

Integrity, not industry or ingenuity, is the highest academic virtue. Lying, cheating, and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

According to section 10.1 of the LSU Code of Student Conduct, "A student may be charged with Academic Misconduct" for a variety of offenses, including the following: unauthorized copying, collusion, or collaboration; "falsifying" data or citations; "assisting someone in the commission or attempted commission of an offense"; and plagiarism, which is defined in section 10.1.H as a "lack of appropriate citation, or the unacknowledged inclusion of someone else's words, structure, ideas, or data; failure to identify a source, or the submission of essentially the same work for two assignments without permission of the instructor(s)."

Disability Services Statement

According to the General Catalog, "The *Office of Disability Services* assists students in identifying and developing accommodations and services to help overcome barriers to the achievement of personal and academic goals. Services are provided for students with temporary or permanent disabilities. Accommodations and services are based on the individual student's disability-based need." Students seeking accommodations must provide current documentation of their disabilities to the course instructor. Students should contact the office early so that necessary accommodations can be arranged.

General Education Statement

This course counts as part of the General Education curriculum at LSU, the purpose of which is described as follows on the Faculty Senate website (<http://www.cae.lsu.edu/genedhome/>).

The general education of LSU students spans the four years of undergraduate study. In courses designated as general education, students begin a process of developing competencies or essential

learning outcomes which continues through their study in upper-level elective courses and courses in the major field of study. LSU's General Education Component represents a conviction on the part of the faculty that LSU graduates will be able to communicate effectively through multiple media; will have a basic appreciation of historical, cultural and philosophical complexity; will be aware of the economic, political, cultural, and linguistic factors which inform global interdependence; will be able to identify and solve important problems through research-based inquiry which employs scientific and mathematical methods, and appropriate technology; and will have the requisite abilities and motivation to participate effectively in the civic life of communities.

Humanities and Social Sciences Competency Statement

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.