

International Relations POLS 260

Course Information:

Spring 2015
Classroom: MOU 110
Meeting Time: MWF 10-10:50 a.m.
Course Website: Moodle

Contact Information:

Instructor: Elizabeth Nyman
Email: enyman@louisiana.edu
Office: Mouton Hall 229
Office Hours: MW 11-1, T 9-12 or by appt.

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides students with a basic introduction to theories and politics of the international system, with an eye to the most important issues currently facing that system. It will cover major concepts and topics that relate to the international system, such as war and conflict, global trade, and international law and organizations. Upon completion of this course, students should have a strong basic knowledge of the international system and an ability to understand and evaluate global events. I expect that students will keep up to date on current events as we move through the course, as these will often be used as examples of the information we are covering in class. The course thus requires a range of readings, regular attendance and class participation.

Required Texts

Joshua Goldstein and Jon Pevehouse, *International Relations Brief 6th Edition, 2013-2014 Update*

Course Requirements

- (1) **Examinations:** There will be four examinations in this course. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final course grade.

- (2) **Paper:** Each student will write a short paper (3-4 pages) on a world event that is relevant to topics of international relations. This paper must feature no less than 5 different news articles from reputable news sources, and is worth 10% of the course grade. More information about this paper will be distributed in class.

- (3) **Participation:** Students are required to attend class regularly and participate actively in class discussion. Students will be graded on their participation in class discussion, and this will make up 10% of the course grade.

Course Letter Grades

Final course letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 and below

I will not respond to end of semester emails requesting a grade change.

Course Policies

Absences from Exams and Late Work: Makeup exams will be allowed when students are participating in formally sanctioned University events if proper documentation is provided to the instructor prior to the exam. Makeup exams will also be allowed in the case of an extraordinary circumstance if accompanied by sufficient documentation within two days after the exam. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance.

Academic Honor Policy: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students committing these violations will be punished according to University policy. Be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism; ignorance is not an excuse. Consult Section V in the UL Lafayette Undergraduate Bulletin for the university definitions of plagiarism for more information about what constitutes an offense.

Courtesy in the Classroom: Attention to classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distraction. As such, please silence and put away all cell phones and other electronic devices during class time. Please be on time to class and remain in class until you are dismissed. If you must arrive late or leave early, please take the seat nearest an exit, and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please show respect for your fellow students by refraining from talking during lectures, as well as when other students are speaking. Similarly, please respect the opinions of your fellow students, even if you are in disagreement with them. Repeated disruption of class will lead to a reduction of your final grade.

Nondiscrimination Policy: UL Lafayette does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability. This classroom is intended to be a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. If you have any suggestions as to how I can improve the learning environment in this course, please let me know. I will give all such suggestions serious consideration.

Health Issues and Disabilities: Students are encouraged to address any special needs or accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should speak with the Office of Disability Services at 337-482-5252 or ods@louisiana.edu and receive documentation. You can also visit the ODS website (<http://disability.louisiana.edu>) for information on ODS services and on eligibility requirements. Furthermore, if you are concerned about your physical and/or mental

well-being, I strongly encourage you to visit the UL Counseling and Testing Center, Saucier Wellness Center, OK Allen Hall, or call them at 337-482-6480. After hours help can be found by calling University Police at 337-482-6447 and asking to speak with the counselor on call.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure: Students with any sort of condition that may place them at risk during an emergency evacuation are responsible for preplanning their own evacuation strategies. You are also responsible for identifying yourself to your professor at the beginning of the semester and sharing information on your particular needs and your evacuation plan.

Course Outline**

Theories of International Politics

Week 1 (Jan 14-16) Introduction to course (Chapter 1)

Week 2 (Jan 19-23) Introduction to course continued

Martin Luther King Day: Jan. 19

Week 3 (Jan. 26-30) Realism (Chapter 2)

Week 4 (Feb. 2-6) Liberalism (Chapter 3)

Exam 1: Feb 6

Peace and Security

Week 5 (Feb. 9-13) Conflict (Chapter 4)

Week 6 (Feb. 16-20) **NO CLASS**

Mardi Gras: Feb. 16-18

No Class: Feb. 20 (**Note that you WILL have an out of class exercise to complete on this day!**)

Week 7 (Feb. 23-27) Terrorism

Week 8 (March 2-6) Weapons of Mass Destruction

Exam 2: March 6

International Cooperation

Week 9 (March 9-13) Trade & Finance (Chapter 5)

Paper Due: March 11

Week 10 (March 16-20) International Organization & Law (Chapter 6)

Week 11 (March 23-27) Movie

Week 12 (March 30-April 3) North-South Relations (Chapter 7)

Exam 3: April 1

Spring Break: April 3-12

Global Issues

Week 13 (April 13-17) Environment & Technology (Chapter 8)

Week 14 (April 20-24) International Crime

Week 15 (April 27-May 1) Diseases & Course Wrap-Up

Final Exam (Exam 4): May 5 at 2 p.m.

****This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change.**