

**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Dept. of Political Science**  
**POLI 2057**  
**Introduction to International Relations**

**Fall 2011**

**MWF: 8:40AM-9:30AM**

**203 Turead**

**Office Hours:** MW 10:45 AM – 1PM or by appointment

**Office:** 239 Stubbs

**Instructor:** Masse Ndiaye [maas njaay]

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**Course Overview:**

This course introduces students to the study of politics at the international stage. It surveys the different approaches used to examine the history as well as the structure of global politics. We will broadly explore the main causes and consequences of conflicts and cooperation. We will also examine the behaviors of nation- states and non-state actors on the international stage.

We will achieve the goals of this course by relying on a two-pronged approach. Firstly, we will learn the theoretical, conceptual, and historical tools used by analysts of international politics to make sense of our world. Secondly, we will apply these lenses to major historical changes as well as contemporary events germane to this course to better understand relations among nations. Particular major contemporary issues include, but are not limited to, conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the emergence of economic powers such as China, Brazil and India, migration and financial crises in Europe, protracted conflicts, and humanitarian crises in Sub-Saharan Africa, revolutions, and political change in the Middle-East and North Africa etc.

**Objectives of the Course:**

Students who take this course will gain substantial knowledge on the history of the relations among nations and the rationale for their behaviors on the world stage.

**General Educational Objectives:**

As required by Louisiana State University, this course satisfies the general education requirement. It socializes students with basic knowledge on international politics, allowing them to make sense of the world through reading, interpretation, analysis, and critical thinking. Particular goals include the ability to retain factual knowledge on the subject matter; to understand the levels of association, ranging from friends and family to civilization of global significance; and to understand cultural diversity across time and space as well as universal social characteristics and global networks.

### **Course Requirements:**

You are expected to attend class, do the readings prior to the session for which they are listed, take all the quizzes, take a mid-term and final exam, and submit two brief research papers of no more than 8 double-spaced-12 pts pages each. The research paper will focus on a specific case of international politics. You will focus on a topic of your choice among the list of topics that I will provide.

### **Participation:**

You will be expected to participate in class, as it is a way of demonstrating that you have done the required reading and that you have given it some thought. In addition to the unannounced quizzes, I will occasionally call on a student to respond to a specific question related to the reading. This form of participation will be graded. You can also participate through responses on specific current events developed in the NYT or other major news outlets.

### **Current events review:**

Each student will review and briefly comment on a piece of newspaper article on international politics three times in the course of the semester. This assignment is due every Friday ( groups will be assigned). A copy of the newspaper article reviewed will be submitted to me along with your page to page and a half-long comment each week. The comment should be no more than five hundred (500) words comprising respectively a summary of the article, a broader discussion of the issue and a conclusion that with questions, and implications that you would like to draw from the article. I will specific guidelines on this exercise on the course web page. I recommend articles from the New York Times, Washington Post, Financial Times, etc or in some magazines such as the *Economist*, the *Christian Science Monitor*. The Internet can also be a valuable source of information. [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org) is a great source on information of international relevance.

### **Grading policy**

Quizzes and class exams (20%);  
Midterm (20%);  
Final Exam (20%);  
Two short Papers (30%);  
Current event review (newspaper articles) (5%);  
Participation (5%)

### **Required Course Textbook:**

Clemens, Walter. *Dynamics of International Relations: Conflict and Mutual Gain in an Ear of Mutual Interdependence*. (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2004)

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK OF 8/22/2011: SOME BASIC CONCEPTS**

Syllabus Presentation

Continuity and change in international relations.

*Optional Readings:* Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War

### **WEEK OF 8/29/2011: MAJOR SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT**

Lecture Two: Traditional International Relations Theories: Realism, Idealism, and Interdependence.

Dynamic of International relations: Introduction and Ch. 1.

Optional Reading: Jervis, Robert. 1978. Cooperation under the security dilemma.

*World Politics.* 30 (2): 167-214.

**Labor Day Holiday: 9/05/2011**

### **WEEK OF 9/07/2011: POST-WAR WORLD ORDERS ( WW I &II)**

Dynamic of International Relations, Ch. 2

Optional Reading: Joseph Nye: Understanding Conflict and Cooperation ch. 3

*Wednesday 9/7/2011 Map Quiz*

### **WEEK OF 9/12/2011: THE POLITICAL FUNCTIONS OF WAR**

Dynamic of International Relations, Ch. 4

Optional reading: Clausewitz: *On War*

Joseph Nye: Understanding Conflict and Cooperation ch. 4

### **WEEK OF 9/19/2011: FOREIGN POLICY DECISION MAKING**

Dynamics of International Relations, ch. 3.

Optional Reading: Graham Allison; Essence of Decision Making

### **WEEK OF 9/26/2011: COOPERATION AND DIPLOMATIC CONDUCT**

Dynamic of International Relations, ch. 6 and 7.

Optional Readings: Kant, Immanuel : “Perpetual Peace”

Review for Midterm exam

### **WEEK OF 10/03/2011: THE USE OF FORCE AND HUMANITARIANISM**

Dynamic of International Relations, ch. 9.

**MIDTERM EXAM**

**10/03/2011**

**WEEK OF 10/10/2011: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Dynamics of International Relations, ch. 10 & 11

Optional Reading: Ghemawat, Pankaj. 2007. Why the world isn't flat. *Foreign Policy*. (159): 54-60.

**WEEK OF 10/17/2011: GLOBALIZATION AND NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS**

Dynamic of International Relations, ch. 12.

Optional Reading: Micklethwait, John and Adrian Wooldridge. 2001. The globalization backlash. *Foreign Policy*. (126): 16-26.

Optional Reading: nMilner, Helen V. 2005. Globalization, development, and international institutions: normative and positive perspectives. *Perspectives on Politics*. 3 (4): 833-854.

**WEEK OF 10/24/2011: INTERNATIONAL REGIMES, NON-STATE ACTORS AND ISSUE-AREAS (Part One: non-state actors)**

Dynamics of International relations, ch. 15.

Optional Reading: Mearsheimer, John. 1995. The false promise of international institutions. *International Security*. 19 (3): 5-49.

First Short paper due on Friday 10/28/2011

**WEEK OF 10/31/2011 INTERNATIONAL REGIMES, NON-STATE ACTORS AND ISSUES AREAS (Part two: Sovereignty, human rights and Global Governance)**

Dynamics of International relations, ch. 16.

Optional Reading: Donnelly, Jack. 2008. Human rights: both universal and relative, *Human Rights Quarterly*. 30 (1): 194-204.

**WEEK OF 11/07/2011 : HUMAN SECURITY AND TERRORISM**

Gordon, Philip H. 2007. Can the war on terror be won? *Foreign Affairs*. 86 (6): 53-66.

Mearsheimer, John J. and Steven Walt. 2003. An unnecessary war. *Foreign Policy*. (134): 50-59.

**WEEK OF 11/14/2011: DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN POST 9/11  
WORLD**

Zakaria, Fareed. The Rise of Illiberal Democracy  
Articles on the Libya and Egypt : TBD

*November 18. Class cancelled; professor at the ASA Conference.*

**WEEK OF 11/21/2011 CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES AND  
CHALLENGES**

Dynamics of International Relations, ch. 13.  
Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The tragedy of the commons. *Science*. 162 (3859): 1243-1248.  
Final Short paper due 11/25/2011

**WEEK OF 11/28/2011 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY**

Nye, Ch. 9.  
Zakaria, Fareed. 2008. The rise of the rest. *Newsweek*.  
Final Exam Review  
Course Evaluations

**12/05/2011  
FINAL EXAM**