

**Political Science 2057**  
**Introduction to International Politics**  
**Fall 2020**

**Instructor**

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**Virtual Office Hours**

I will be available to meet virtually each week at the times below:

- Monday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST, or by appointment

You can join [the Zoom meeting](#) by entering the meeting ID and the passcode provided below. The virtual meeting room is available only at the times above.

Meeting ID: 971 8975 9786

Passcode: 022020

Please note that general questions about the course (content questions, due date clarifications, etc.) via the general Q&A forum on the course Moodle page so that all students can benefit from the answer. To reach me regarding questions that are personal in nature (such as a request for an extension due to a family emergency or a request for an incomplete grade), please use the email listed above.

**Course Description and Objectives**

This course will introduce you to studies of international relations. It will cover the basic concepts, theories, major actors and issues of IR. Therefore, the course is not about current affairs of world politics although we will also discuss them as they relate to our subject matter. The course will begin with a brief discussion of international system and its evolution. Then we will spend about first half of the semester to cover basic concepts and theories of IR. In the second half of the course, we will cover substantial issues such as conflict, cooperation, use of force, terrorism, international organizations and international political economy. By the end of the course, you should be able to use different frameworks of analysis to explain relations of states and other actors and be familiar with most relevant issues in the field of IR.

**Integrated Learning**

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is

designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Global Learning.

### **Social Science Competency Statement**

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, psychological, cultural and linguistic forces.

### **Course Structure**

This course will be delivered online using an asynchronous format (meaning there is no set time that you must be logged into the online course). I will provide a series of video lectures using PowerPoint slides for each chapter. Each video lecture will be broken into six segments of 25-30 min. I will share a link to each video lecture on the course Moodle page. When you click the link, it will take you out of the Moodle page to view the video on Zoom.

All course activities and resources can be found through our course page on Moodle. All of the learning activities will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. However, each assignment has a time frame which is listed in the course schedule below. Please stay on schedule with the class.

### **Required Text**

Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. W. Pevehouse, *International Relations*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN-13: 9780134404769, Publisher: Pearson).

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

Mid-term Exams (2)	40% (20% each)
Current Events Articles (10)	25% (2.5% each)
Final Exam	35% (cumulative)

### **Letter Grades**

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 59 or below
A: 93-96	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

## Exams

There will be three examinations given in this course: two mid-term exams and a final exam.

- Mid-term Exam #1            40 multiple-choice questions covering concepts and theories from W2-W4
- Mid-term Exam #2            40 multiple-choice questions covering concepts and theories from W6-W7
- Final Exam (cumulative)    40 multiple-choice questions covering all concepts and theories presented during the semester

Both mid-term exams and final exam will be administered online through Moodle, accessible for one day (24-hour window). This means you may select any 30- minute period within the 24-hour window to take your exam. Once you begin, you will have 30 minutes to complete the exam. It is important to ensure that you have a reliable internet connection prior to starting the exam since you will have a time limit of 30 minutes and only one attempt to take the exam. You are free to use the textbook and your notes, but you are not permitted to get help from other students when completing exams. There are no grace periods for the exams.

## Current Events Articles

The primary purpose of this assignment is to keep you informed about what is happening throughout the world. For this assignment, you are to find and summarize four online news articles dealing with significant international events for ten of the weeks of the course (around one single spaced page). The articles may, but by no means must, cover issues we discuss in class. They must, however, cover an international (not domestic) issue. Additionally, articles need to have been published during the week prior to their due date. As your articles are due on Fridays, articles may come from the previous Friday through the Friday on which they are due.

You are free to choose the sources from which you select articles for this assignment. The only requirement is that the sources typically offer original, full-length articles. Foreign news sources are also acceptable where English translations are available. You may also select articles from periodicals along the lines of Foreign Affairs, The Atlantic, Foreign Policy, The Economist, and similar publications. If you utilize these types of sources, articles must come from the publication's most current issue or, if the article is provided only online, from the week before articles are due. Note that academic journals—International Security and International Studies Quarterly serving as two examples—are not considered appropriate for the purpose of this assignment.

- Some news sources:

New York Times  
Washington Post

Wall Street Journal  
BBC World  
China's Xinhua  
China Daily  
Al Jazeera  
Reuters  
All Africa  
Times of India  
Moscow Times  
Pravda Report

Each assignment is due at 11 pm on Friday. There are no grace periods for the assignments. Students with exceptional circumstances and supporting documentation provided to the course instructor will not receive a deduction of points for work submitted during the exceptional circumstance timeframe agreed upon between the instructor and student. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor about the late assignment as soon as possible. Otherwise, late assignments which are not submitted in Moodle by the deadline will be penalized as follows:

- First day late                    10 points deducted
- Second day late                20 points deducted
- Third day late                   30 points deducted
- Fourth day late                40 points deducted
- Fifth day late                   50 points deducted
- After fifth day late            No points awarded

### **Make-up Policy**

No make-up examinations will be granted without a university-approved excuse ([PS-22 Student Absence from Class](#)). In cases of severe illness or deaths in the family, I require proof (e.g. a signed doctor's note and an explanation on the doctor's letterhead describing why you cannot take the exam; obituaries; e-mails from your academic adviser explaining the specific situation). Make-up exams will be possible only if you contact me in advance by e-mail and provide me with the appropriate document. There will be no make-up exams for unexcused absences. Also, I require essay exam as a replacement of a make-up exam.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students must comply with the LSU Code of Student Conduct. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and/or any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. Preventing academic misconduct requires learners to take ownership of their individual work for individual assignments and assessments. Students who violate the LSU Code of Student Conduct will be referred to Student Advocacy & Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until

graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

### **Plagiarism and Citation Method**

It is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember, there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively.

### **Unauthorized Assistance**

All work must be completed without assistance unless explicit permission for group or partner work is given by the faculty member. This is critical so that the professor can assess your performance on each assignment. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. When in doubt, e-mail your instructors or ask in a discussion forum. Seeking clarification is your responsibility as a student. Assuming group or partner work is okay without permission constitutes a violation of the LSU Code of Student Conduct.

### **Accessibility**

A student with a disability is entitled by law to equal access to university programs. Louisiana State University is committed to ensuring that its websites, online courses, and all online materials are accessible to people with disabilities. If you have accessibility needs that can be helped with, visit the LSU Disability Services page and register for accommodations before you begin your course work. If you notice that your course contains material that is not accessible, please contact the instructor directly to discuss accommodations.

### **Diversity Statement**

Diversity is fundamental to LSU's mission and the University is committed to creating and maintaining a living and learning environment that embraces individual difference. Cultural inclusion is of highest priority. LSU recognizes that achieving national prominence depends on the human spirit, participation, and dedicated work of the entire university community. Through its Commitment to Community, LSU strives to create an inclusive, respectful, intellectually challenging climate that embraces individual difference in race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, spirituality, socioeconomic status, disability, family status, experiences, opinions, and ideas. LSU proactively cultivates and sustains a campus environment that values open dialogue, cooperation, shared responsibility, mutual respect, and cultural competence—the driving forces that enrich and enhance cutting-edge research, first-rate teaching, and engaging community outreach activities.

## **Course Schedule**

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus—whether in schedule, readings, or other details— when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.

### **Week 1: August 24-28**

- Introduction to the course

### **Week 2: August 31-September 4**

- Globalization and International System: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 1

### **Week 3: September 7-11**

- Realist Theories: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 2

### **Week 4: September 14-18**

- Liberal and Social Theories: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 3
- Submit Article #1 by Friday, September 18 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

### **Week 5: September 21-25**

- Mid-term Exam #1: from 6:00 p.m. (CST) on Wednesday, September 23 through 6:00 pm (CST) on Thursday, September 24
- Submit Article #2 by Friday, September 25 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

### **Week 6: September 28-October 2**

- Foreign Policy: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 4
- Submit Article #3 by Friday, October 2 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

### **Week 7: October 5-9**

- International Conflict: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 5
- Submit Article #4 by Friday, October 9 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

### **Week 8: October 12-16**

- Mid-term Exam #2: from 6:00 p.m. (CST) on Wednesday, October 14 through 6:00 pm (CST) on Thursday, October 15
- Submit Article #5 by Friday, October 16 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

### **Week 9: October 19-23**

- Military Force and Terrorism: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 6
- Submit Article #6 by Friday, October 23 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

### **Week 10: October 26-30**

- International Organizations: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 7
- Submit Article #7 by Friday, October 30 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

**Week 11: November 2-6**

- International Trade: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 8
- Submit Article #8 by Friday, November 6 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

**Week 12: November 9-13**

- Global Finance and Business: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 9
- Submit Article #9 by Friday, November 13 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

**Week 13: November 16-20**

- International Integration: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 10
- Submit Article #10 by Friday, November 20 at 11:00 p.m. (CST)

**Week 14: November 23-27**

- No class due to the Thanksgiving Holiday

**Week 15: November 30-December 4**

- The North-South Gap: Goldstein & Pevehouse, Chapter 12

**Week 16: December 7-12**

- Final Exam: from 6:00 p.m. (CST) on Wednesday, December 9 through 6:00 pm (CST) on Thursday, December 10