

PLSC 102: International Relations in an Age of Globalization
Loyola University Chicago
Spring 2016

Professor Çağlayan Başer
ccetin@luc.edu

Class: M, W, F 11:30 am-12:20 pm
Mundelein Center - Room 406

Office Hours: Coffey Hall 445
M 12:30-2:00 pm,
W 9:45-11:15 am,
and by appointment.

Course Description

What are major challenges that threaten the global peace and prosperity today? What do international actors want from politics? When do they disagree and when do they cooperate? This course serves an introduction to international relations and key topics in the study of world politics. It examines the interrelationships among nations, groups and peoples in the contemporary global system. It surveys the evolution of the international system and nation-state system, as well as the major global actors and problems facing the global community. The topics covered in this course include, but not limited to, international conflict and cooperation, human rights, international political economy and development. It also engages with the major international relations (IR) theories such as realism, liberalism and constructivism. Lectures will help the students understand basic foundations of political science research through critical examination of theoretical debates and empirical examples. Students will gain factual knowledge about major issues in global politics and the theories of international relations.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of the main ways of studying international politics,
- compare and contrast major competing approaches to the field,
- examine individual regions and countries from the perspective of these approaches,
- achieve an understanding of such major substantive issues as interstate war, terrorism, arms control, international political economy and sustainable development
- assess competing points of view through evaluation of evidence,
- develop informed opinions about world politics.

In order to achieve the learning objectives, it is your responsibility to make sure you come to class prepared, read the course material and do your best with the assignments and exams.

Required Readings

- Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2013. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. W.W. Norton Press. 3rd ed. ISBN-13: 978-0393938098 , ISBN-10: 0393938093
- Supplemental material will be posted on Sakai.

Required Assignments

Your final grade will be determined based on three in-class exams, a memo, and extracurricular activity report and class participation. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Exam1: 20%
- Exam2: 25%
- Exam3: 25%
- Memo: 15%
- Extracurricular activity report: 10%
- Class participation: 5%

- **Exams** are comprised of multiple choice, short answer and short essay questions. The questions will be based on class discussions, the text book and supplemental readings. They are not cumulative, but there may be questions addressing ongoing themes in the course material. The three exams make up 70% of your total grade.
- **Memo** is the report that you are going to write at the end of a simulation where we will formulate a new international human rights treaty. In this project, groups of students will be assigned different countries. Within each country, each student will have a separate role (such as leader, high-level diplomat, non-governmental organization representative etc.) Each group will be provided with specific country information. Groups will discuss and formulate a new international human rights treaty after negotiating with each other depending on their country's policies. **Each student will separately submit a maximum 6-page memo (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font) on April 18th**. The memo will outline the newly created human rights accord, and explain how the new human rights agenda reflects the interests of their assigned country. Students will also reflect upon their role in the negotiation process. They will relate their experience with real-life examples and indicate the most difficult parts of creating a new human rights agenda. Full instructions will be provided in class and be posted on Sakai. This project is based on Kent J. Killie's article about active learning in international relations courses. It is posted on Sakai: Kille, K. J. (2002), "Simulating the creation of a new international

human rights treaty: Active learning in the international studies classroom,” *International Studies Perspectives*, 3(3), 271-290.

- **Extracurricular activity report** is a 2-page report (double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font) based on your reflection on an activity that you attend outside of the classroom. The activities can include conferences, movies, lectures, or museum visits related to the course topics. The activities will be announced in advance. You can also write a report on an activity that you like, only after getting my approval. You can submit the report anytime during the semester **before April 30th**. You need to show a proof of attendance; such as tickets or photos/selfies of you taken in the activity venues, preferably with the speakers/discussants. The report will be graded based on your ability to relate the theories/topics we learnt in classroom to the daily life activities. Full instructions will be provided in class and be posted on Sakai.
- **Class participation** grade will be determined based on your presence in the classroom as well as active and meaningful contribution to class discussions. Class discussions constitute an important part of your learning process and are crucial for completing course requirements. The lectures contain supplemental information that may not be found in the readings. You are responsible for this information in exams and papers.

Course Policies

Grading Scale: The following grade scale is applicable in this class: A: 100-94, A-: 93-90, B+: 89-87, B: 86-84, B-: 83-80, C+: 79-77, C: 76-74, C-: 73-70, D+: 69-67, D: 66-60, F: 59-0. Grades are rounded to the nearest integer (e.g., 79.4=79 or C+, 79.5=80 or B-).

Course material: You are expected to complete the readings before the class date listed below. Supplemental course material, and your grades, will be posted to Sakai. Assignments must be uploaded through *Turn It In* on Sakai as a Word or PDF document.

Late Assignments: Assignments must be turned in through Sakai at the beginning of the class period on the day they are due. Assignments submitted other than the beginning of the class will be penalized a third of a letter grade for each day that the assignment is late (e.g., if your original grade is B for the assignment, you will have B- if you do not submit it on time).

Cell Phones, Laptops, Tablets etc.: Cell phones, laptops or tablets must be turned off and put away during class hours. Recent studies show that taking notes in the old-fashioned way

increases learning and productivity. (for a short summary, see http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/12/writing-on-paper_n_5797506.html)

Academic Integrity: All acts of academic dishonesty including plagiarism, cheating, submitting a work that is not your own, copying someone's work are unacceptable. The minimum penalty for a violation of academic honesty standards is a grade of F on the assignment and referral to the Dean's Office for possible disciplinary action.

In writing course papers, students must document all passages, paraphrases and/or ideas that are borrowed from any source, and direct quotations must be placed within quotation marks. Similarly, papers must represent research conducted for the course in which they are assigned and no other; it is not appropriate to submit a paper that has already been or will be submitted to another course. Finally, papers must be the product of students' own work. Papers written by anyone other than the student, including those purchased from commercial research services, are unacceptable.

Academic dishonesty on an examination or other assignment is also inconsistent with Loyola's standards of academic integrity. This includes, in the words of the catalog, "obtaining, distributing or communicating examination materials prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the teacher; providing to, or obtaining information from another student during the examination; attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted; [or] falsifying medical or other documents to petition for excused absences."

Additional rules concerning academic integrity and examples of acceptable and unacceptable conduct can be found at on the Loyola website at http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml

Syllabus: This syllabus is a contract that students agree to comply with as they take the course. It is your responsibility to make sure you read and understand the syllabus. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed. In that case, I will announce any change to the students in a timely manner.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (January 20 & 22)

Course introduction
Historical formation of world politics

READING

- Syllabus
- Textbook, Chapter 1

Week 2 (January 25, 27, 29)

IR theories
Realism
Liberalism
Constructivism

- Textbook, Introduction
- SR #1: Baldwin, “Neorealism,
Neoliberalism, and World Politics”

Week 3 (February 1, 3, 5)

IR theories –continued

-SR #2: Shapcott, R. (2009) “Critical
Theory” in *The Oxford Handbook of IR*,
(ed.) Reus-Smith, C. and D. Snidal

Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

-Textbook, Chapter 2

Week 4 (February 8, 10, 12)

Why are there wars?

- Textbook, Chapter 3

Week 5 (February 15, 17, 19)

■ EXAM 1 – February 15

Domestic politics

- Textbook, Chapter 4

Week 6 (February 22, 24, 26)

Civil War and Terrorism

- Textbook, Chapter 6

Week 7 (February 29, March 2 & 4)

International Institutions

- Textbook, Chapter 5

Week 8 (March 7, 9, 11)

■ SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS

Week 9 (March 14, 16, 18)

International Trade

- Textbook, Chapter 7

Movie: *The Yes Men Fix The World* on March 18.

Week 10 (March 21, 23)

■ EXAM 2 – March 21

International Political Economy

- Textbook, Chapter 9

-SR#3: Bedford, K. & S. Rai (2010)
“Feminists Theorize International Political
Economy” *Signs*, 36(1):1-18

■ Easter Holiday – NO CLASS on March 25

Week 11 (March 30, April 1)

■ Easter Holiday – NO CLASS on March 28

Development

-Textbook, Chapter 10

Week 12 (April 4, 6, 8)

International Law and Norms
Human Rights

-Textbook, Chapter 11

-Textbook, Chapter 12

Week 13 (April 11, 13, 15)

Simulation

-Universal Declaration of Human Rights
-SR#3: Lebovic, J. H., and E. Voeten (2009)
“The cost of shame: International
organizations and foreign aid in the
punishing of human rights violators.”
Journal of Peace Research 46(1): 79-97

Week 14 (April 18, 20, 22)

■ MEMO DUE – April 18

The Global Environment

-Textbook, Chapter 13

-SR#4: Bretherton, C. (2003). Movements,
networks, hierarchies: a gender
perspective on global environmental
governance. *Global Environmental
Politics*, 3(2), 103-119.

Week 15 (April 25, 27, 29)

Future of IR

-Textbook, Chapter 14

■ FINAL EXAM (Exam 3) - Monday, May 2nd 1:00 -3:00 pm