GOVT 102
Introduction to International Politics
Spring 2010
MW 11:00am-12:15pm
Kirby 204

Professor Seo-Hyun Park
Office: Kirby 102
Office hours: MW 1:00-3:00pm and by appointment
Phone: (610) 330-5412
Email: parksh@lafayette.edu

Course description:
This course provides an introduction to the systematic study of international politics. It introduces students to the major theoretical approaches to the analysis of international relations and applies them to various historical and contemporary issues. The first section of the course surveys key concepts and theories. The second section explores the causes and consequences of international conflict and war. The third section turns to important issues in global economic relations, such as the politics of free trade, financial liberalization, development and inequality. The final section addresses the question of change in the current international system by critically examining newly emerging topics, including terrorism, environmental cooperation, and the role of transnational actors.

Course objectives:
Through the completion of this course, students are expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes:

- identify and distinguish between the different types of explanations of international politics;
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of theoretical arguments through the logical examination of evidence;
- think critically about world events and develop clearly articulated arguments; and
- apply theoretical knowledge to various policy issues in international relations.

Course requirements:
The grading criteria for this course are as follows:
- Mid-term exam #1 (25%)
- Mid-term exam #2 (25%)
- Final exam (40%)
- Class attendance and participation (10%)

Students are expected to attend all sessions, to have carefully read and considered the required readings, and to actively participate in class discussions. Students who are unable to attend class must notify the instructor in advance or bring appropriate written
documentation (from a physician, etc). More than two unexplained absences may result in a lower final grade.

Students are strongly encouraged to raise questions or concerns about difficult concepts from the lecture material and assigned readings both during classroom discussions and during office hours. Each student must also act as a discussant for one discussion session at least once during the semester. The job of the discussant is to prepare and circulate in advance a one page handout which briefly summarizes the assigned group of readings and raises two or three questions that engage and/or critique the authors’ arguments.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that s/he is available to take the final exam on the date and time assigned for the course. Students with special needs due to disability should make requests for accommodation in the first week of classes so that arrangements can be made.

Students are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work. Please consult the Student Handbook for College policies on academic honesty (http://www.lafayette.edu/student_life/StudentHandbook_0910_FINAL.pdf).

**Course readings:**
The following books are required for purchase and will be made available at the campus bookstore. They will also be placed on reserve at the library. Other course readings and additional material will be made available through Moodle.


Course Schedule

Part I. Concepts and Theories

Lecture 1 (Jan 25)  Introduction  Week 1

Lecture 2 (Jan 27)  Course Overview
□ Nau, Perspectives on International Relations, pp. 1-10; 28-64.

Lecture 3 (Feb 1)  Realism  Week 2

Lecture 4 (Feb 3)  Realism  Week 2

Lecture 5 (Feb 8)  Liberalism  Week 3

Lecture 6 (Feb 10)  Liberalism  Week 3

Lecture 7 (Feb 15)  Constructivism  Week 4

Lecture 8 (Feb 17)  Domestic Politics

**Part II. International Conflict and War**

**Lecture 9 (Feb 22) World War I**


**Lecture 10 (Feb 24) World War I**


**Lecture 11 (Mar 1) World War II**


**Mid-term #1: March 3, 2010 (in-class)**

**Lecture 12 (Mar 8) The Cold War**


**Lecture 13 (Mar 10) The Cuban Missile Crisis**


***** Spring Break ****
Lecture 14 (Mar 22) End of the Cold War  

Part III. International Political Economy


Lecture 16 (Mar 29) International Trade  

Lecture 17 (Mar 31) International Finance  

Lecture 18 (Apr 5) Economic Development and Global Inequality  

Mid-term #2: April 7, 2010 (in-class)

Lecture 19 (Apr 12) Globalization and Its Discontents  
Part IV. Change and Continuity in World Politics

Lecture 20 (Apr 14) Ethnic Conflict and Civil Wars
□ Nau, Perspectives on International Relations, pp. 252-262.

Lecture 21 (Apr 19) Interventions and Sanctions
Week 12

Lecture 22 (Apr 21) Nuclear Proliferation

Lecture 23 (Apr 26) Environment
Week 13

Lecture 24 (Apr 28) Human Rights and the Role of Transnational Actors
Week 14
□ Nau, Perspectives on International Relations, pp. 483-509.

Lecture 25 (May 3) 9/11 and Terrorism
Lecture 26 (May 5)  The U.S. in a Changing World


[Final Exam: TBA (Week of May 10, 2010)]