GOVT 102
Introduction to International Politics
Fall 2012
Section 01: Mon/Wed 11:00am-12:15am
Section 02: Mon/Wed 12:45-2:00pm
Kirby 107

Professor Seo-Hyun Park     Office hours: Tues 1:00-4:00pm
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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 nuclear proliferation, international intervention, the role of transnational actors, and terrorism.

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 major requirements of the course include three exams (distributed throughout the semester) and class participation in weekly discussions based on the assigned readings and/or current events. The specific grading criteria are as follows:

Mid-term exam #1 (20%): October 3
Mid-term exam #2 (25%): November 7
Policy analysis paper (25%): due November 30
Current events presentation (15%)
Class attendance and participation (15%)
- Informed contribution to class discussions
- Response papers
Students are expected to attend all sessions, to have carefully read and considered the required readings, and to actively participate in class discussions. Students are also strongly encouraged to raise questions about difficult concepts from the lecture material and assigned readings both during classroom discussions and during office hours. The exams will be based on both class lectures and the assigned readings; students should keep up with both lectures and the readings in order to succeed in this class.

There are two in-class mid-term exams scheduled for October 3 and November 7 respectively. A policy analysis paper (details TBA) will be due on November 30. Each student must also act as a discussion leader at least once during the semester. A signup sheet will be distributed during the first week of class. The job of the discussant is to select an article in *The New York Times* (or other similarly reputable newspapers) as a topic for class discussion and prepare and submit to the instructor a one-page handout (due at noon on the Friday prior to the assigned week). The handout should include: (a) a brief summary of the event(s); and (b) the students’ own analysis of the events as seen through the three major analytical perspectives in international relations theory.

Your class participation grade will consist of both attendance and meaningful participation in class, which refers to informed contribution to class discussions and timely submission of response papers, etc. Students are expected to regularly participate in class discussions of the lecture material as well as the readings. If a student is unable to attend class, s/he must notify the instructor in advance or bring appropriate written documentation (e.g. Dean’s excuse). More than two unexplained absences will result in a lower final grade.

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 (available on the Student Life website (http://studentlife.lafayette.edu).

**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

Week 1: Introduction (August 27 & 29)

* Recommended:

Week 2: Realism (September 3 & 5)

Week 3: Liberalism (September 10 & 12)

Week 4: Constructivism & Domestic Politics (September 17 & 19)

Part II. International Conflict and War

Week 5: World War I (September 24 & 26)
- Nau, Perspectives on International Relations, pp. 103-128.

Required lecture:
Prof. Robert A. Pastor (American University)
Date: September 27, 2012 at 7:30pm
Location: Kirby 104

Week 6: World War II (October 1)
- Nau, Perspectives on International Relations, pp. 129-159.
Mid-term #1: October 3 (in-class)

♦ Fall Break (no class on October 8)

Week 7: The Cold War I (October 10)

Week 8: The Cold War II: The Cuban Missile Crisis (October 15 & 17)

Required lecture:
Prof. Anne-Marie Slaughter (Princeton University)
Date: Wednesday, October 24 at 7:30pm
Location: Colton Chapel

Week 9: End of the Cold War (October 22 & 24)

Part III. International Political Economy

Week 10: States, Markets, and the International Trading System (October 29 & 31)
□ Nau, Perspectives on International Relations, pp. 263-301.

Week 11: Economic Development and Global Inequality (November 5)

Mid-term #2: November 7 (in-class)
Part IV. Change and Continuity in World Politics

Week 12: Nuclear Proliferation I (November 12 & 14)

* Countdown to Zero response paper: Write a 1-2 page essay reflecting on a question on the future of nuclear proliferation. Essays are due at the beginning of class on Monday, November 21.

Week 13: Nuclear Proliferation II (November 19)

♦ Thanksgiving holiday: No class on November 21

Week 14: Civil Wars and International Intervention (November 26 & 28)
□ Nau, Perspectives on International Relations, pp. 252-262.

* Write a 5-6 page analysis of a specific case of a UN-mandated intervention in the past 20 years. Your paper is due at noon on Friday, November 30.

Week 15: 9/11 and Terrorism (December 3 & 5)