

POLI 2057: Introduction to International Relations  
Erica B. Russell  
Spring 2021

*Please Note: While I have done my best to finalize this syllabus, my thoughts on certain aspects of the course may evolve. Thus, I reserve the right to make changes.*

Contact Information

Office Hours: **by appointment**

Email: [eruss14@lsu.edu](mailto:eruss14@lsu.edu)

**\*I will make every effort to respond to emails within 48 business hours.**

My name is Erica Russell. I am from and currently reside in Georgia. I am a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science. I have a Bachelor of Science in Rural Studies, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Arts in Political Science from here at Louisiana State University. I have prior experience analyzing behavior and working within criminal court.

I encourage all students to schedule an appointment to meet with me at some point during the semester. This is an excellent way to clarify confusing concepts, ask questions about the reading, or receive feedback on your performance in class. It is also often easiest to reply to longer or more detailed questions in person. Please email me if you have any concerns about your ability to participate in and complete any aspects of the course.

I will make content such as notes and videos available on Mondays of the assigned week.

**Course Overview**

This course serves as an introduction to the study of important issues in modern international relations. The goal of the course is to teach students basic concepts and theories that are useful for making sense of contemporary debates and challenges in international politics. The class surveys major topics in international relations to encourage further examination in more advanced classes. Major topics include international cooperation, security and conflict, trade, and international law and human rights. By the end of the class, students will be able to critique common academic and policy arguments about global affairs and will have acquired the tools to begin their own analyses.

Exam content, exams, and instructions will be provided via Moodle. I will make myself available for Zoom meetings as needed individually or with the class as a group.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Your performance and final grade for the course will be evaluated as follows:

- Exam 1 (Analyzing World Politics) 100 Points
- Exam 2 (Conflict and Cooperation & International Political Economy) 100 Points
- Exam 3 (Analyzing World Politics, Conflict and Cooperation, International Political Economy & Challenges for the Future) 100 Points

**Unless you speak to me ahead of time, exams may not be rescheduled or made up without a university excuse. Exam instructions will be provided a week prior to the exam.**

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

A+ 97.5% - 100%  
A 92.5% - 97.5%  
A- 89.5% - 92.5%  
B+ 87.5% - 89.5%  
B 82.5% - 87.5%  
B- 79.5% - 82.5%  
C+ 77.5% - 89.5%  
C 72.5% - 77.5%  
C- 69.5% - 72.5%  
D+ 67.5% - 69.5%  
D 62.5% - 67.5%  
D- 59.5% - 62.5%  
F Below 59.5%

### **Course Materials**

The following book is required for the course:

Kinsella, D. T., Russett, B. M., & Starr, H. (2013). *World politics: The Menu for Choice*. Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (10<sup>th</sup> Edition)

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic misconduct is defined by the Code of Student Conduct. You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with the LSU policy on academic misconduct, particularly regarding plagiarism. The LSU Code of Student Conduct can be found on the web site for the LSU Dean of Students:

<https://www.lsu.edu/saa/students/codeofconduct.php>

Please read the section labelled “10.0 Misconduct.” Academic misconduct is a serious violation of university policy, but more importantly it is a significant scholarly violation for political scientists. Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this course. Charges of academic misconduct will be turned over to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action.

## **Schedule**

\*I expect students to read the required readings listed under that date in the schedule.

### **Part I Analyzing World Politics**

#### **Week 1 (January 11):**

Self-Introduction

Chapter 1: World Politics: Analysis, Choice, and Constraint

#### **Week 2 (January 18):**

Chapter 2: Thinking about World Politics: Theory and Reality

#### **Week 3 (January 25):**

Chapter 3: Global Actors: States and Other Players on the World Stage

#### **Week 4 (February 1):**

Chapter 4: Power and Influence in Global Society: Relations Between States

#### **Week 5 (February 8):**

Chapter 5: Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy

#### **Week 6 (February 15): Exam Week**

Chapter 6: Decision Making: Rationality, Psychology, and Organizations

Exam 1 (Analyzing World Politics)

### **Part II: Conflict and Cooperation**

#### **Week 7 (February 22):**

Chapter 7: Why States and Other Actors Resort to Force

#### **Week 8 (March 1):**

Chapter 8: Security Dilemma: Armament and Disarmament

#### **Week 9 (March 8):**

Chapter 9: International Law

#### **Week 10 (March 15):**

Chapter 10: Global Order, Organization, and the United Nations

### **Part III: International Political Economy**

#### **Week 11 (March 22):**

Chapter 11: Interdependence and Economic Order

**Week 12 (March 29):**

Chapter 12: Regional Economic Integration and Globalization

**Week 13 (April 5): Exam Week**

Exam 2 (Conflict and Cooperation & International Political Economy)

Chapter 13: Development and Underdevelopment

**Part IV: Challenges for the Future**

**Week 14 (April 12):**

Chapter 14: Global Commons: Environmental Threats and Responses

**Week 15 (April 19): Exam Week**

Exam III: (Analyzing World Politics, Conflict and Cooperation, International Political Economy & Challenges for the Future)

Chapter 15: Which Global Future?

**Week 16 (April 26): Final Exam Week**

No Content