

POLS 165 International Relations

Loyola Marymount University

Fall 2010

Instructor

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 1:30-2:30 PM

Class Meetings

Tuesday/Thursday, 3:00-4:15 PM

Room: FAN 175

Course Description

The objective of this course is to acquaint you with the fundamental issues and theories of international relations. The international system is a complex environment. Multiple actors, interests and institutions interact to produce outcomes which we read and hear about in the media every day. To become informed citizens in an increasingly interconnected world, we need to be able to understand the underlying causes of these global events. *What are the causes of international conflict and terrorism? What role do domestic factors and international institutions play in influencing the likelihood of conflict? How does politics influence the flow of goods, services and money across borders? Why are some countries rich while others are poor and what can be done to close this income gap? How do international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) affect policies across the globe? What stands in the way of intergovernmental cooperation in curbing climate change?* These are some of the questions that we will seek to answer in this course.

The material covered over the semester is grouped into four segments. First, we will review the history of the modern international system and analytical concepts necessary to approach questions of world politics scientifically. Next we will study the many dimensions of international conflict, ranging from theories explaining interstate warfare to transnational terrorism. Following the 'blood', we will next shift our focus to the 'money'. Central issues and theories related to international political economy will be reviewed in the third segment of the course. Lastly, important new topics of international relations which are especially relevant to understanding the international system of the 21st century, such as transnational networks and issues dealing with environmental policy cooperation, will be studied in the last part of the semester.

Course Requirements and Policy

The requirements of this course consist of a midterm and final examination, a research paper, a presentation of a recent news story related to the week's readings, and participating in an in-class simulation. You are also expected to read all of the assigned materials *before* class. Below is a summary of the weights associated with the class assignments.

Midterm	25%
Final	25%
Paper Proposal	10%
Paper Final Draft	25%
News Presentation	5%
Simulation	5%
Participation/Citizenship	5%

Exams

There will be two in-class written examinations in this course. The exams will consist of multiple choice, identification questions and short essays. Prior to the exam I will hand out a list of potential essay questions of which a subsample will be pseudo-randomly selected for the test. You are encouraged to form study groups to exchange ideas on how to answer these questions.

Research Paper

A significant portion of your grade will depend on the research paper. Your task is to explain a current or historical international relations issue or problem using the relevant theories which are found in the readings. In the second week we will review the specific expectations I have for the paper. On October 12th you are to submit a detailed paper proposal which states your research question and outlines the relevant literature which has dealt with the problem you seek to study. On October 19th there will be no lecture. Instead, I will be meeting with you individually in my office to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of your proposal and for us to decide on a strategy for moving forward. The final draft of the paper is due on December 9th. You are strongly encouraged to begin thinking about a paper topic as soon as possible. Feel free to run your ideas by me for feedback.

News Presentation

You are required to present to the class a recent event in the news which relates to the week's readings. The presentation should be no longer than 10 minutes. Use of PowerPoint is encouraged though not mandatory. A sign-up sheet will be distributed in the second week of class.

Class Simulation

On November 23rd we will be running an in-class simulation of international trade. Details regarding this simulation will be discussed as the date approaches. You are expected to attend this class session and to actively participate.

Participation/Citizenship

Attendance is imperative. My lectures are designed to not only cover the readings but to also supplement them. As such, many points not found in the reading material – but fair game for the exams – are discussed during lecture. Absence due to a family emergency or severe illness is allowed but I must be informed *before* class. Furthermore, you are strongly encouraged to constructively participate in class discussions. Healthy debate is a vital element of the learning

process. We must remember, however, that all views need to be respected. Any rude or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Lastly, to avoid the annoyance of the instructor and potential embarrassment, please turn off all electronic communication devices before class. Laptop computers and other devices are to be used only for taking notes and referring to readings and online resources relevant to the class.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Please don't do it. Administration will be contacted if a case of cheating or plagiarism arises. See the handout on plagiarism distributed in class. If you are paraphrasing, cite the source. If you are quoting, use quotation marks and appropriate citation. Remember that academic integrity is a reflection of one's character.

Make-up Exams, Late Work and Incompletes

Only under extraordinary circumstances will the instructor allow for a make-up examination. Late work will be penalized a whole letter grade. Incompletes will be allowed only for family or illness reasons.

Syllabus Modification Rights

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time. More often than not this will mean adjusting the reading schedule to keep pace with the lectures. However, if I determine that many students are not reading the assigned material before coming to class, new assignments may be added to the syllabus, such as quizzes and/or homework.

Required Text

Frieden, Jeffrey, David Lake and Kenneth Schultz (2010) *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York, NY: Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-92709-2. (Hereafter referred to as 'FLS')

All other readings besides those found in the textbook can be accessed on the library electronic reserves site of this course.

Reading Assignments and Course Schedule

I. Introduction

Week 1

August 31: **Course Introduction**

September 2: **Historical Overview of the International System**

- FLS Chapter 1 [pp. 5-37]

Week 2

September 7 & 9: **Analytical Tools**

- Organski, A.F.K. (1968) *World Politics*, Chapter 1 [pp. 3-8]
- FLS Introduction
- FLS Chapter 2 [pp. 41-73]

II. International Conflict

Week 3

September 14 & 16: **Strategic Perspective**

- FLS Chapter 3 [pp. 80-120]

Week 4

September 21: **Balance of Power**

- Thucydides "The Melian Dialogue"
- Snyder, Jack (2004) "One World, Rival Theories" *Foreign Policy* no. 145 [pp. 53-56]
- Waltz, Kenneth (1979) "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics"
- Mearsheimer, John (2001) "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power"

September 23: **Power Parity Perspective**

- Lemke, Douglas (2002) *Regions of War and Peace*. New York: Cambridge University Press [pp. 21-35]

Week 5

September 28: **Collective Security and the Democratic Peace**

- FLS Chapter 4 [pp. 154-167]
- FLS Chapter 5 [pp. 189-212]
- Snyder, Jack (2004) "One World, Rival Theories" *Foreign Policy* no. 145 [pp. 56-59]
- Kant (1795) "Perpetual Peace"

September 30: **Domestic Explanations**

- FLS Chapter 4 [pp. 127-153]
- Macewan, Arthur (2003) "Is It Oil?" *Dollars & Sense* 247: 20-23.

Week 6

October 5: Nuclear Deterrence and Proliferation

- FLS Chapter 13 [pp. 490-500]
- Waltz, Kenneth (1981) "The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better" [pp. 451-461]
- Sagan, Scott (2006) "How to Keep the Bomb from Iran," *Foreign Affairs* 85(5): 45-59.
- Tammen et al. (2000) *Power Transitions: Strategies for the 21st Century*. New York: Chatham House. Chapter 4 [pp. 82-106]

October 7: Implications of the Asian Ascent

- FLS Chapter 13 [pp. 500-509]
- Tammen, Ronald and Jacek Kugler (2006) "Power Transition and China-US Conflicts," *Chinese Journal of International Politics* 1: 35-55

Week 7

October 12: International Terrorism

- **PAPER PROPOSALS DUE**
- FLS Chapter 10 [pp. 381-402]
- Snyder, Jack (2004) "One World, Rival Theories" *Foreign Policy* no. 145 [pp. 59-62]
- Krueger, Alan (2003) "Cash rewards and poverty alone do not explain terrorism" *The New York Times*
- Pape, Robert (2003) "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *American Political Science Review* 97(3):343-361.

October 14: Documentary "Bush's War"

Week 8

October 19: STUDENT MEETINGS

October 21: MIDTERM

III. International Political Economy

Week 9

October 26 & 28: International Trade

- FLS Chapter 6 [pp. 219-259]
- Rodrik, Dani (2001) "Trading in Illusions," *Foreign Policy* no. 123: 54-62.
- The Economist (1932) "Along What Road?"

Week 10

November 2 & 4: International Finance

- FLS Chapter 7 [pp. 261-293]
- Massey, Douglas (1988) "Economic Development and International Migration in Comparative Perspective," *Population and Development Review* 14(3): 383-413.

Week 11

November 9 & 11: **International Monetary Relations**

- FLS Chapter 9 [pp. 330-361]

Week 12

November 16 & 18: **International Development**

- FLS Chapter 9 [pp. 330-361]
- Scott, Bruce (2001) "The Great Divide in the Global Village," *Foreign Affairs* 80(1): 160-177
- The Economist (2002) "Roots of Development"
- The Economist (2005) "The \$25 Billion Question"

Week 13

November 23: **International Trade Simulation**

November 25 – **Thanksgiving Break NO CLASS**

IV. Transnational Politics

Week 14

November 30: **Transnational Networks**

- FLS Chapter 10 [pp. 366-381]
- Carothers, Thomas and William Barndt (Winter, 1999-2000) "Civil Society," *Foreign Policy* no.117: 18-24+26-29.

December 2: **Human Rights**

- FLS Chapter 11 [pp. 409-442]

Week 15

December 7: **Global Environmental Change**

- FLS Chapter 12 [pp. 445-474]

December 9: **Review**

- **PAPER DUE**

Week 16

December 13-17 – Final Exam TBA