



## **PLSC 102: International Relations in an Age of Globalization - Syllabus**

### **John Felice Rome Center**

Fall 2024

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, by appointment only.

### **Course description:**

Broadly stated, politics is the struggle to define the rules and mechanisms by which the individual's life is organized within a larger social group. Within the global context, confrontation inevitably arises around the goals and values of different societies. This power struggle is further compounded when social problems are global in nature, yet are beyond the scope of any particular domestic, institutional response. Through the world lens, therefore, the paramount question is how global society will establish, maintain, and/or change the dominant paradigm of rules that will dictate the individual's life?

There are two sections to this course. In the first section, we will survey the major philosophical contributions traditionally used in the study of international relations as well the history of the modern international system of politics and power. This includes a large spectrum of issues and methodological concepts in contemporary world politics, including international security, gendered forms of violence, international political economy and globalization, international organizations and law, the international development and global inequality, and environmental issues. We will study these issues by examining how they impact the relationship between the United States and particular areas in the world that have contemporary relevance, such as the Middle East, China, and Africa.

Class is complemented with discussions on current issues in world politics. Each Thursday will be a student-led discussion.

Please note: This syllabus is subject to change with advance notice.

**Learning outcomes:** This class, **International Relations in an Age of Globalization, PLSC 102**, both examines issues confronting the members of global society and requires a perspective recognizing the historical and cultural aspects of the shifting terrain of global power. More importantly, this course provides a sturdy foundation – the necessary background information and conceptual tools – upon which students may build an understanding of contemporary international relations.

**Course procedure:** Students are expected to have completed their reading before the end of the semester. They are also expected to actively participate in all sessions, and their participation will be taken into consideration. Some sessions are in seminar format.

**Required Text:** Jeffrey Haynes, Peter Hough, and Bruce Pilbeam, *World Politics - International Relations and Globalisation in the 21st Century*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (London: SAGE Publications Ltd., April 8, 2023).

**Credits:** Three credit hours

**Evaluation:** Class participation, attendance, and questions. Students will be expected to bring to class each Thursday one question related to the chapter from the Haynes, Hough, and Pilbeam's text for that week. As you read the chapter[s], there should be something that either is of interest to you or that is not clear to you. The success of this class depends upon the quality of the dialogue in class. It is expected that students will attend every class and that they will be fully prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. Class participation grades will reflect their attendance record, the frequency of their contributions to class discussions, and the quality of their questions, observations, and conclusions. **Class participation counts for 5 percent of the final grade.**

There will be a **term project worth 15 percent of the final grade**. Each student will also write a paper of approximately 3000 words (or about 12 double-spaced typewritten pages) analyzing one aspect of international relations. Students *must* choose their topic in consultation with the instructor. The completed paper will be due by **November 22**.

**The following schedule will be strictly observed:**

1. Consultation with the instructor on your research idea (by **October 3**).
2. A typed project proposal, including the central questions, a plan for research, and a preliminary bibliography (due **October 17**).

3. A rough draft of the paper (due **November 14**).
4. A final draft (due **November 22**).

There will be **multiple-choice quizzes worth 6 percent of the final grade**. Quizzes will relate to current *and previous* topics. A quiz may be given at the beginning of a class. There will be no make-up quizzes -- not even later during the same class period. Quizzes will be announced one week in advance.

Each student will write a book review of approximately 600 words. Students will have the ability to make their own choice as long as the book deals with world politics. This will be submitted no later than **November 7**. Each review should include a brief synopsis, followed by the reader's reaction. What was the author's point? What did the editor provide? What do you think of the book? What did you learn? What did you like about the book? What didn't you like about the book? How did the book relate to your understanding of democracy and government today? Why was the assignment worthwhile? Why wasn't the assignment worthwhile? *This assignment must be word processed, spell checked and proof read*. Failure to follow these directions will result in either a lowered grade or having the assignment returned ungraded to be resubmitted. Late assignments (including those returned for resubmission) may have points deducted for each day late.

**Reviews count for 4 percent of the final grade.**

**Plagiarism:**

Students of this university are called upon to know, to respect, and to practice a high standard of personal honesty. Plagiarism is a serious form of violation of this standard. Plagiarism is the appropriation for gain of ideas, language, or work of another without sufficient public acknowledgement that the material is not one's own. Plagiarism on the part of a student in academic work or dishonest examination behavior will result in failure and will be reported to the Office of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

**Examinations:**

There will be two examinations (Midterm: essay, with some choice -- 2 of 5, e.g.; Final: 10 short answer essays). The **Midterm exam will count 30 per cent of the final grade**, the final exam will be worth **40 percent of the final grade**.

**Travel plans or other personal commitments may not interfere with examinations.**

The first exam will cover the first half of the class; the final exam will be cumulative.

In-class tests (mid-term exam, final exam, and quizzes) are **closed book/notes**. Quizzes may include multiple choice, true/false, or short answer questions. No exams are dropped or replaced.

**Caveat:** student may not miss any exams. Missed exams, without verifiable appropriate documentation, will be recorded as a zero. The final exam must be taken to receive credit in the course. Tests and exams are cumulative.

All graded material will have to be returned to the instructor in a timely manner for archiving.

**Grading:**

94-100:	A
90-93:	A-
87-89:	B+
84-86:	B
80-83:	B-
77-79:	C+
74-76:	C
70-73:	C-
67-69:	D+
60-66:	D
59 or lower:	F

The minimum passing grade for a course taken under the Pass/Fail option will be C minus (C-)

I	Incomplete
W	Withdrawal
WF	Withdrawal Failure

The minimum passing grade for a course taken under the Pass/Fail option will be C minus (C-)

### Percentage-Based Grading System:

Class participation	5 %
Quizzes	6 %
Book review	4 %
Term paper	15 %
Midterm exam	30 %
Final exam	40%

### Grading philosophy:

**A** Excellent. Indicates the highest level of achievement in the subject and an outstanding level of intellectual initiative.

**B** Good. Indicates a good level of achievement, intelligent understanding and application of subject matter.

**C** Satisfactory. Indicates academic work of an acceptable quality and an understanding of the subject matter.

**D** Poor. Minimum credit. Indicates the lowest passing grade, unsatisfactory work and only the minimum understanding and application.

**F** Failure. Indicates the lack of even the minimum understanding and application.

### Attendance Policy:

(Please note that course attendance is based on prompt class attendance, preparation and active participation in class discussions)

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets twice a week, thus a total of two unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit.”

The collective health of the JFRC is everyone’s responsibility. Do not attend class if you are ill.

There are no make-up exams, tests, or quizzes unless students demonstrate in advance that a significant life-event prevents them from attending class or if they have a documented emergency. The following are *not* acceptable excuses: scheduled flights or trips, job interviews, picking up relatives at the airport, etc.

Attendance and punctuality are basic requirements for an effective course. Beyond that, each person's frequency and quality of contribution to the class discussion will be assessed and reflected in the class participation score. If students cannot attend a class it is a courtesy to inform me in advance if possible.

**Disagreement:**

Political attitudes and opinions tend to reflect one's social background and self-interest, and since we all have different backgrounds and interests there is no reason why we should be expected to agree. A student does not have to agree with the professor to get a grade in this class. It is both legitimate and desirable for you to disagree with me and independently and critically evaluate the material. I will exercise my academic freedom and say what I think is accurate about politics; you have the same right. Political Science is a way of thinking about politics, not a set of right answers and airing your disagreements is an excellent way to learn how to think. So please, if you feel I am wrong, challenge me. Former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn had two bits of advice for the new members: *"Learn to disagree without being disagreeable"*, and *"Don't turn political differences into personal differences"*.

**Behavior:**

Civility and toleration are essential for an academic atmosphere conducive to learning. Incivility in the classroom will not be tolerated. Students should make sure to turn off cellular phones and other electronic devices before class. Students are not allowed to eat, drink, or smoke in the classrooms.

**Honor Code:**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our honor code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Loyola University Chicago, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle.

Failing to meet the following academic integrity standards is a serious violation of personal honesty and the academic ideals that bind the University into a learning community. These standards apply to both individual and group assignments. Individuals working in a group may be held responsible if one of the group members has violated one or more of these standards.

- Students may not plagiarize; the use of AI is considered plagiarism too and treated as such.
- Students may not submit the same work for credit for more than one assignment (known as self-plagiarism).
- Students may not fabricate data.
- Students may not collude.
- Students may not cheat.
- Student may not facilitate academic misconduct.

Follow this link for more details about these standards, sanctions, and academic misconduct procedures:

([https://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicintegrity.shtml](https://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml))

## **Examinations:**

As stated above, travel plans or other personal commitments may not interfere with midterm and final examinations.

## **Privacy Statement:**

Assuring privacy among faculty and students engaged in online and face-to-face instructional activities helps promote open and robust conversations and mitigates concerns that comments made within the context of the class will be shared beyond the classroom. As such, recordings of instructional activities occurring in online or face-to-face classes may be used solely for internal class purposes by the faculty member and students registered for the course, and only during the period in which the course is offered. Instructors who wish to make subsequent use of recordings that include student activity may do so only with informed written consent of the students involved or if all student activity is removed from the recording. Recordings including student activity that have been initiated by the instructor may be retained by the instructor only for individual use.

## **Intellectual Property:**

Unless otherwise noted, all lectures, notes, and other instructional materials in this course are the intellectual property of the professor. As a result, they

may not be distributed or shared in any manner, either on paper or virtually, without my written permission. Recorded lectures may not be shared without my written consent. Recognizing that your work, too, is your intellectual property, I will not share or distribute your work in any form without your written permission.

### **Course outline**

**Week 1 – September 3-5:** International Relations and Globalization. Development of International Society

**Week 2 – September 10-12:** International Relations before WWII. IR After WWII. IR after the Cold War)

**Week 3 - September 17-19:** Power in World Politics. Realism. Liberalism. Marxism and Neo-Marxism. Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism

**Week 4 – September 24-26:** Critical Theory. Social Constructivism. Feminist Theory and Gender in IR

**Week 5 – October 1-3:** Foreign Policy Analysis

**Week 6 – October 8:** International Organizations and Transnational Actors

**Midterm Exam – October 10**

**Fall semester break:** October 11-20

**Week 7 – October 22-24-25 (Friday Class Day):** International Organizations and Transnational Actors (continued); The United Nations; Global Civil Society;

**Week 8 – October 29-31:** International Law

**Week 9 – November 5-7:** Regionalism; Race & Identity International Security; International Political Economy

**Week 10 – November 12-14:** International Security; International Political Economy The Global Environment; Development, Poverty and Inequality

**Week 11 – November 19-21:** The Global Environment; Development, Poverty and Inequality Global Health Politics; Migration; Human Rights;

**Week 12 – November 26:** Contemporary Warfare; Terrorism and Political Violence

**November 28-December 1:** Thanksgiving Break

**Week 13 – December 3-5:** Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding; Conclusions



**December 6:** Conclusions

**Final Exam Period:** December 9-12