Course Scope and Purpose

This course is designed to introduce students to the major actors, processes, problems, and issues in the arena of global politics. The focus of the course is on both theoretical and empirical knowledge that has accumulated for the academic study of the interactions of international actors. We will conduct a broad overview of the puzzles on which IR scholarship focuses and the theoretical approaches to understanding contemporary debates. Lectures will cover issues at both a theoretical level and with empirical examples and current events. Students will become familiar with the contending theories and approaches in the study of IR, will come to understand the conceptual bases of rigorous social science, and will assimilate knowledge of historical and current events in the process.

As with any course, Political Science 102 is primarily designed to enhance the students’ knowledge of the substantive material at hand. However, I do not only want to impart on you concepts that might be left behind once your final exam is finished. While the ability to memorize terms is honorable, I hope that you will come away from this course with the ability to think critically about international problems. You should have the ability to connect theoretical approaches to contemporary events and process. The course outline, examination format, and class discussion are designed with this goal in mind. Should you choose to stick with the tried and true memorization techniques, you will likely still do fairly well in the course. However, should you strive to consider application of the theories and think critically about the issues that arise in class discussion, not only will you be more likely to excel in the course, but you will likely also do better in your future endeavors and become a more interesting person.

As the course takes place in Rome, we will take advantage of the resources of this international city. One session we will visit one intergovernmental organization headquartered in Rome. We will have a tour through the Museum of Liberation, the former SS headquarters during the Nazi occupation of Rome. Last but not least, we will host a diplomat from the U.S. Embassy in Rome to our class to learn about U.S. policies towards Italy and Europe. All of these opportunities, as well as your own sightseeing excursions, will offer us examples for the theoretical arguments and concepts we discuss in class.

Required Readings
Class Policies

- Course materials, additional readings, and grades will be posted to Sakai. Assignments must be uploaded through Turn It In on Sakai as a PDF or Word document.

- The best way to talk about class issues is in person, especially during office hours.

- Late assignments are penalized 5 percentage points per day and will not be accepted after the exam period. Memos are to be uploaded before class starts.

- Spell-check and proofread.

- If you have a serious problem, you should contact me IMMEDIATELY. I can do more to help you if you let me know what is happening before you miss deadlines.

- If you have an issue with a grade, please provide me a note. If you convince me, I will re-grade the entire assignment. You receive the new grade – higher or lower.

- I encourage students to challenge the ideas discussed in this class. In all discussion, everyone must provide his or her fellow students with full respect and courtesy.

- All lectures, handouts, assignments, and exams are the property of the professor and may not be published on the web or in any other manner without permission.

- If you cannot make all examination dates, please do not register for the class. Make ups are not given. Students who have an excused absence (doctor’s note or the like) will have their other test scores pro-rated.

- Students may have computers in class as long as they are being used for class purposes and are not distracting others. You can read about studies showing students that write notes retain more information than those who type them here. Cell phones should be silenced and away, and you can read about how this will help boost your exam scores here.

- Grading scale: A=94-100, A-=90-93, B+=87-89, B=83-86, B-=80-82, C+=77-79, C=73-76, C-=70-72, D+=65-69, D=58-64, F=less than 58

- Cheating and plagiarism will be punished to the fullest extent possible.

- Academic dishonesty on an examination or other assignments is inconsistent with Loyola’s standards of academic integrity. This includes, in the words of the catalogue, “obtaining, distributing or communicating examination material prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the teacher; providing to, or obtaining information from, another student during the examination; or attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted.” Additional rules concerning academic integrity and examples of acceptable and unacceptable conduct can be found here.
Course Requirements

Two Exams, each worth 30% of final grade (60% total)
Each student must take three examinations. Exams consist of multiple-choice questions only. If you miss an exam you must provide documentation. No make-ups will be given. If you have a valid excuse, your remaining exams will be averaged to determine your grade. Students who arrive to examinations after the first student has completed their exam will not be allowed to take the test and cannot make it up.

Four Current Events and IR, each worth 5% of final grade (20% total)
Students are expected to keep up to date on current events in international politics. Each week by Friday at 5pm, each student will post a link to a current event article that is relevant for the week’s material to sakai. You will also post commentary on the event and how they relate to the topic. Do the theories we’ve discussed explain the event? Which theory works best? Events will be used to create exam questions. News can be found from any reputable national sources, such as the BBC, Economist, and The New York Times. Subscribing to Foreign Policy Magazine’s daily email is also suggested.

Attendance, regular sessions 1% each, visits 4% each (20% total)
Each regular class meeting will count towards 1% of your final grade. Site visits and the visit from the embassy will count as 4% each. You should be aware that skipping class will lower your grade as you will perform poorly on the exams. You are responsible for any material or announcements you miss from class.

Contact: Email, class time, and (gasp!) meetings in person
I use three main tools of contact: email, the Remind app (texting), and in person meetings. Each have their own conveniences, and you should use them to be sure to know of class announcements.
Email is my main tool for contacting you about on campus events, syllabus updates, and any other information that is not overly time sensitive. Any class emails will be sent to the address that the university has on file for you, which is most likely your Loyola account. If you use other accounts, it is your responsibility to have your emails forwarded to that account. If you do not, you may miss crucial announcements. Please treat all emails you send to your classmates and me as a professional document. Be sure to sign your first and last name to the email.
Please take advantage of office hours, class time, or make an appointment with me if you have substantive questions about the course material.
Course Outline and Readings
The following is an outline of the readings and discussion topics we will cover. Readings are due on the day they are listed. I may alter the schedule to stimulate discussion or catch up.

What are International Relations?
May 21st: Course Introduction & Textbook Introduction (Introduction to IR)
May 23rd: Ch. 1 (Historical Introduction) & Ch. 2 (Interests, Interactions, and Institutions) (Game Theory)*

Foreign Policy & Conflict
May 28th: Chapter 3 (War)
May 30th: Ch. 4 (lecture FP & strategy) (Domestic Politics & Foreign Policy)*

International Institutions
June 4th: Ch. 5 (lecture Alliances & lecture International Institutions)

June 6th: Midterm

International Trade
June 11th: Ch. 7 (lecture International Political Economy) (lecture on Globalization and MNCs)*

Environmental & Population Issues
June 13th: Ch 13 (lecture on environment) Ch 10 (lecture on poverty) Ch 12 (lecture on human rights)

The Future of International Politics
June 18th: Chapter 6 (lecture Civil War) (lecture Terrorism)

June 20th: Final

*potential site visit days, TBD
Loyola University Plagiarism Policy
Taken from the Department of English Website at http://www.luc.edu/english/writing.shtml#source

Please see above website for additional information and examples.

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional appropriation of ideas, language, or work of another without sufficient acknowledgement that the material is not one's own. Although it is generally recognized that everything an individual has thought has probably been influenced to some degree by the previously expressed thoughts and actions of others and that therefore no thought can be considered purely original, such influences are general ones, affecting an entire way of seeing things and expressing thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the taking of specific words or ideas of others without proper acknowledgement.

Some students seem to believe that there are different degrees of plagiarism, some of which are not as bad as others. The English Department wishes to make it clear here that no distinctions should be made between the following acts and that all should be regarded as serious and wrong:

- Copying from a published or online source, or a source in any medium, without proper documentation
- Purchasing a pre-written paper
- Letting someone else write a paper for you or paying someone to do so
- Submitting as your own someone else’s unpublished work, either with or without permission

Regardless of how you found the information, if you use another person's work to further your own understanding of a topic, you must give that person credit by documenting your source.

A. Word-for-Word Copying
Material taken directly from a source must be enclosed in quotation marks and the source identified in a footnote, endnote or parenthetical citation. Your instructors will specify which form of documentation to use for each course.

B. Mosaic
Mosaic, the embedding in the student's own prose of unacknowledged words and phrases from a source (or sources), is equally unacceptable.

C. Paraphrase
All ideas which originate in a student's source must be acknowledged in a footnote, even if those ideas are expressed entirely in the student's own words.

D. Summary of a single source
A condensation of ideas taken from a single source must be given proper acknowledgement.

E. Summary of several sources
It is acceptable to summarize the ideas from several different sources in a single paragraph or section of a paper, but only if you acknowledge all sources used. A collective footnote may be use to advantage here.