PLSC 102: International Relations in an Age of Globalization
Summer 2013

Course Description:
This course will be taught entirely online. That implies that there is no “face-to-face” component. Most of the lectures, discussions and assignments will take place in asynchronous sessions. We will have one synchronous session per week, on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All schedules, course lectures, class meetings, and exams will be delivered through Sakai.

PLSC 102 is designed to introduce students to the major concepts and approaches in the study of international relations. It seeks to treat the subject in an analytical and theoretical manner. We will discuss different approaches used in study of the field, as well as the assumptions and consequences involved in the use of such approaches.

The course will rely on examples from different areas of the world and from different moments in history. Although this is not a course on current events, in our discussions, we will also use examples of events that are still unfolding. It is very important therefore to keep abreast of such international events from the media. Some media sources can be accessed online (see, e.g., http://www.luc.edu/politicalscience/resources.shtml).

The first part of the course will cover the basic concepts and theories used in the study of international relations. We will identify the main “actors” constituting the global system as well as the types of relations that link them. We will also discuss how some of the main theoretical perspectives have evolved.

In the second part of the semester, we will focus on specific issues that are of interest to the study of international relations. We will begin by examining military conflict and war, a traditional concern of both scholars and policy makers. However, we will go beyond this traditional focus to address other issues such as the global economy, the environment, and human rights.

Learning Objectives: Students in this course will demonstrate cultural, societal and self understanding in an international context. They will be exposed to five main aspects of contemporary international relations involving:

- an examination of the three levels of analysis that have traditionally been employed in the field: the international system as a whole, individual actors, and states.
- an exploration of the principal forces motivating international actors.
- an examination of the politics of war and peace, including interstate and intra-state war, terrorism, arms control and international law.
- a study of the main features of international political economy, with an emphasis on global ties of trade, investment and finance as well as the processes of globalization.
- an exploration of human rights, population and environmental issues.
Skill Development

This course will reinforce two skills associated with the Core: Critical Thinking and Dispositions and Ethical Awareness and Decision-Making.

1. Students develop skills of critical thinking by learning to:
   - understand and use the main terms and concepts of the field of international relations; apply these terms and concepts to specific issue areas;
   - apply these terms and concepts to individual regions and countries of the world;
   - employ different methods of examining international relations empirically, including case studies and large-n studies;
   - assess alternative approaches to the international system; and make arguments in defense of particular policy positions.

2. Students gain ethical awareness by learning to:
   - identify the norms underlying various principled approaches to international issues;
   - compare and contrast alternative normative positions;
   - evaluate the relationship between normative claims and real-world problems;
   - employ ethical principles to assess competing policy proposals;
   - appreciate the relevance of normative concerns for everyday political life.

Readings


I will assign several additional readings. All such materials will be available on-line, via Sakai.

Participation/Assignments

As this is a summer course, over a period of six weeks, we will advance at a very brisk pace. It is important therefore to be aware of all deadlines and to prepare in advance for readings, assignments, postings and exams. Consequently, I am providing three separate calendars, to help you organize your work better. You will find below:

1) Essential dates and times
2) Deadlines for readings
3) Deadlines for postings

In addition, you should check on a daily basis the “Schedule” section of the course (also in Sakai). There you will find a schedule for all readings, postings and assignments, based on course modules.

Note: If I make any changes to these dates you will be announced well in advance. It is the student’s responsibility to remain informed about all class activities and to check on a daily basis e-mails that I send and announcements posted on the “Schedule” section of Sakai.
Exams/Essays/Grades
There will be a mid-term and a final exam for this course. The midterm exam is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 7:30 p.m. and is one hour long. The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 7 p.m. and is one and a half hours long.

In addition to these exams, you will write an analytical essay (approx. 5 pages), due on Friday, August 2, at 12 noon. Guidelines for the essay will be posted on July 19.

Course grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forum Postings</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Grading scale:
94 and above = A; 90.5-93.5 = A-; 87.5-90 = B+; 84-87 = B; 80.5-83.5 = B-; 77.5-80 = C+;
74-77 = C; 70.5-73.5 = C-; 67.5-70 = D+; 60 - 67 = D; Less than 60 = F

Academic Honesty
In writing course papers, students must document all passages, paraphrases, and ideas that are borrowed from any source. Direct quotations must be placed within quotation marks. Papers must represent research conducted for the course in which they are assigned and no other; it is not appropriate to submit a paper that has already been or will be submitted for another course. Finally, papers must be the product of the student’s own work. Papers written by anyone other than the student, including those purchased from commercial services, are unacceptable.

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 in the current Undergraduate Studies Catalogue and at http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml
### Essential dates and times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 3</td>
<td>First online synchronous session 7:30-8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 17</td>
<td>Midterm from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, August 2</td>
<td>Essay is due at 12 noon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 7</td>
<td>Final Exam from 7 to 8:30 p.m.</td>
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### Deadlines for Readings

Please complete the following readings by the date noted below. All readings are from the textbook. They are due by **noon** of the day indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topics/subtopics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| Tuesday, July 2| **Introduction**  
Levels of Analysis                                                                 | Ch. 1                  |
| Friday, July 5 | **Theoretical Approaches:**  
Idealism; Realism and Neorealism  
Critiques of Realism; other theoretical approaches | Ch. 2                  |
| Monday, July 8 | **The State as Actor: Foreign Policy Decision Making**  
Rationality and its assumptions; Cuban Missile Crisis; Models of decision making | Ch. 3                  |
| Wednesday, July 10 | **Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Actors**  
League of Nations and United Nations; EU as an example of regional IO; NGOs; Terrorist groups; Multinational Corporations and other non-state actors | Ch. 6 & 7 (pp. 225-230) |
| Monday, July 15 | **The Concept of Power**  
Power as a reflection of capabilities  
Military power; Economic power; Soft power | Ch. 8                  |
| Wednesday, July 17 | **Relations among actors (Part I)**  
World War II; The Cold War | Ch. 4 (pp. 84-104)      |
| Monday, July 22 | **Relations among actors (part II):**  
Decolonization; Post-Cold War Era; | Ch. 4 (pp.105-115) & Ch. 5 |
| Wednesday, July 24 | **Global Conflict; Paths to Peace**  
Characteristics of conflict; causes of conflict  
International Law; Disarmament | Chs 7 (the rest), & 9 |
| Monday, July 29 | **The Globalized Political Economy**  
International Trade; GATT and the WTO; Globalization | Chs. 10 &11            |
| Wednesday, July 31 | **Human Rights**  
The concept of human rights; Human Rights in the aftermath of WWII; Human Rights in the Cold War and post-Cold War eras; Types of rights | Ch. 13                 |
| Monday, August 5 | **Population; the Environment**  
The tragedy of the commons; Population increase and international politics; Three global environmental problems | Ch. 12 & 14            |
| Wednesday, August 7 | **Conclusions**  
Recent trends in international politics; Conclusions | Ch. 15                 |
**Deadlines for Postings**

All information involving the class postings can be found in the “Forums” section of the course, in Sakai. Please be Careful: some postings are due by midnight on the day mentioned below while others are due by noon (usually so we can discuss the issue later in the day, during the Adobe Connect Session) on the day mentioned below. All postings that are *not graded* are noted below.

The postings that are graded represent 10 points (10%) of total grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day posting is due</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 1, midnight</td>
<td>Questions/comments about syllabus and course format (<em>not graded</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 3, noon</td>
<td>Levels of analysis</td>
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<td>Friday, July 5, midnight</td>
<td>Prisoner’s dilemma</td>
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<td>Monday, July 8, midnight</td>
<td>Emergence and need for intergovernmental organizations</td>
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<td>Wednesday, July 10, noon</td>
<td>Article on terrorism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 15, midnight</td>
<td>Assessing power</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 18, noon</td>
<td>Questions regarding material for midterm (<em>not graded</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 22, midnight</td>
<td>Inequality among states</td>
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<td>Wednesday, July 24, noon</td>
<td>Causes of conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 29, midnight</td>
<td>Pros and cons of free trade and protectionism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 31, noon</td>
<td>Ranking human rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 5, midnight</td>
<td>Problems with increase in population; main environmental problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 7, noon</td>
<td>Questions for final exam (<em>not graded</em>)</td>
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