GOV 108: Introduction to International Politics
St. Lawrence University
Spring 2016
T/TH 12:20-2:10
Hepburn 111

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rolesker@stlawu.edu 315-229-5968
Office Hours: by appointment via email

Objectives

Students taking introduction to international politics should acquire:

1. An introductory, broad understanding of the nature and study of the international relations discipline, including leading theories in the field.
2. An overview of the core concepts and terminology of the field.
3. Familiarity with world events and the functioning of the global system and its actors.
4. Analytical skills appropriate for examining complex political problems and for presenting well reasoned arguments, with a special emphasis on the ability to apply theoretical knowledge to specific cases in a simulation.

Required Readings/Software


In addition to the two textbooks, students must purchase a subscription to Statecraft – the online simulation game played throughout the semester. Subscriptions may be purchased at [www.statecraftsim.com](http://www.statecraftsim.com) course code: GOV108SP16

All other materials are available online through the syllabus on Sakai.

Students will also be expected to read a major newspaper daily and be informed about global events. The *New York Times* is available on campus and you may also access it online at: [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com). Other effective sources of news:
[www.guardian.com](http://www.guardian.com)
[www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)
[http://duckofminerva.com](http://duckofminerva.com)
[http://america.aljazeera.com](http://america.aljazeera.com)
[http://www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)
## Requirements*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Criteria</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statecraft simulation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>simulation participation = 10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>simulation manual quizzes – 2x2% = 4%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>simulation memos (before each turn) = 6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>simulation performance = 5%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (including all class discussions, attendance, daily news report)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (lowest grade dropped)</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Essay Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
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* See further detailed description of these requirements on pages 4-5 of this syllabus. The instructor reserves the right to make any and all necessary changes to both syllabus content as well as requirements at the beginning, during or the end of the semester.

## Grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92-95</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-91</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72-75</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-71</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-68</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>61-64</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>56-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>47-51</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-46</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
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## Expectations:

Attendance is mandatory. Students may miss no more than 2 unexcused classes throughout the semester.
Students are required to complete the reading assignments **before** the discussion in class that day.

All written work is submitted online.

Active, engaged participation is paramount. Do not hesitate to ask questions during lectures and discussions. If there is something you do not understand or have questions about, you should feel free to bring it up. Most likely other students are confused as well. If you feel uncomfortable bringing the issue up in class you may ask me after class or in my office.

Practical application of material enhances knowledge. You will be expected to apply knowledge to real world scenarios. Your success in these exercises depends on your preparation. Reading the course material and attending classes is therefore **CRUCIAL** for your success in this course.

**Classroom policies:**

**Classroom Conduct:** Cell phones and other electronic devices should not be used during class unless otherwise noted. Class is based on students’ participation rather than lectures. This is a student-active course. Come ready to participate and apply your knowledge in class. Attendance is mandatory. You may miss two class sessions without any grade penalty. After that, a grade of 0.25 (out of 4) will be reduced from your overall participation grade for every class missed. Barring any exceptional circumstances, 5 absences or more will result in a failed grade for the course.

**Submission guidelines:** All written work must be types in Times New Roman, 12pt. font, double-spaced which 1-inch margins on top and bottom and 1.5 inches margins on the sides. Do not include a cover page but do include page numbers. You may not exceed allotted pages for each assignment. I will deduct points if you try to manipulate font size, margins or spacing. All written work must be submitted online in a drop box dedicated for each specific assignment and saved as your name or the name of the country you represent in the simulation.

**Academic Honesty:** St. Lawrence University does not tolerate academic dishonesty in its students, nor do I. Cases of cheating or plagiarizing papers, arguments, or any material that is not your original thought but is attempted to be passed as your own will result in a **ZERO** for the assignments and will be referred to Academic Honor Council for further action. If you are stressed-out and panicking over an assignment, quiz, or exam, **COMES SEE ME AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE** and don’t risk your academic standing by cheating. Please note that drawing from readings or other sources in papers without citing the source is plagiarism, this means you are stealing someone else’s work and trying to pass it as your own—this will result in a failing grade. Please use the multiple sources I provide in class, on Sakai, or from your own research, but be sure to acknowledge the works of others. in case of online quizzes, you will be asked to sign a pledge that you will not use your note while taking the quiz, unless otherwise noted in the instructions. Any suspicion of violation of this pledge and use of notes, or any other sources during closed book exams will result in a failed grade for the assignment and possible referral to the Academic Honor Council.

**Penalty for late paper/exam submissions:** All assignments/quizzes/exams must be submitted on time. No extensions will be allowed (with the exception of extraordinary cases in which prior instructor’s consent is required **before the deadline for the assignment**). Students who do not submit their work on time will be penalized 0.25 points (out of 4) for each day they do not submit their work. Work that is submitted three days or more after the deadline will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. The due date of assignments is clearly marked in this syllabus and it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to know when assignments are due.
Disability and Accessibility Studies Office (DASO) Accommodation: Any student with special needs requiring academic adjustments or accommodations should speak to me as early as possible. I will ensure that you will receive any and all the help that you need and all disclosures will remain confidential. In addition, any student with a documented disability who is eligible for, or has questions regarding accommodations, should contact the DASO Director at (315) 229-5076, or at: Matt McCluskey mmccluskey@stlawu.edu. Together we will ensure that you will receive any and all the help that you require. Although not required, I would like to know of any accommodations that are needed at least 10 days before a quiz or assignment is due so please see me soon. For more specific information visit the DASO website: http://www.stlawu.edu/disability-and-accessibility-services

Academic Support Office: This office offers opportunities to learn about time management, critical reading skills, strategies for large assignments, note-taking, academic planning, and test preparation. We also administer the early warning grading system, organize the autumn study skills workshop series, and help students with academic problem-solving. This office is located in the Whitman Annex. Please find out more at: http://www.stlawu.edu/academic-support

Health and family emergencies during scheduled assignments: Only health and family emergencies will exempt you from submitting work on time. Such emergencies include serious medical illness and a death in the family, and must be explained in a written and signed letter by the academic dean and/or health provider. If you miss your assignment at the appointed time without the written consent, you will receive a failing grade on that assignment.

Course Assignments:

Quizzes: throughout the semester, I will assign seven quizzes that will be taken online or in class. All quizzes are closed book unless I specifically indicate otherwise. You must study the material before taking the quiz. The lowest grade on the quizzes will be dropped from the calculation of the final grade. If you miss a class when a quiz is scheduled, you will receive a grade of zero, unless you have received explicit authorization from me at least 24 hours before the quiz to take it at another time.

Class participation: aside from attendance and active engagement in class discussions, students are expected to read world news on a regular basis while taking this course. To ensure that you are reading international political news, I will begin each class by calling on one to three students to share some interesting news report that relates to what we are discussing in class at the time. If you are not prepared to share a news report when called upon, you will receive a grade reduction. ALL students will be called upon to share their news reports several times throughout the semester.

Midterm Exam: the midterm exam is closed book and in class on March 17 – The Thursday before spring break. Barring any exceptional circumstances such as a recorded death in the family or severe injury with a note from the Dean of Students, I will not allow students to take the midterm exam on a different date. Please plan your spring break travels accordingly. Those with accommodation may take the exam in the Whitman Annex.

Final Exam: there will be an in class, open-book, final exam in the form of an essay questions and short questions/answers, which will apply IR concepts and theories in the realm of Statecraft and compare your Statecraft experience with the dynamics of real world politics. These questions require critical thinking and application and NOT description of concepts or theories. Mere descriptions will NOT earn you points on the final exam. Final exam is scheduled for May 9 at
1:30pm. All students must be present for the exam. Those with accommodation may take the exam in the Whitman Annex.

**Statecraft Simulation:** for 8 weeks during the semester, we will be playing online and in class a world simulation game in which students will represent various fictional countries around the world, with varying forms of governments, resources, and populations. The objective of the game is to enhance your interests and expand your resources, while avoiding costly wars. Students are required to purchase a subscription and create an account at www.statecraftsim.com using class code: GOV108SP16 (ALL CAPS). The subscription can be paid using Paypal or a credit card. The simulation counts for 25% of the course grade. Each week, or “turn” as it is called in the game, is played in class, on Tuesdays, allowing groups to conference, negotiate with others, and formulate their policy for that turn. All actions for the week must be completed by Saturday at 11:30PM. Simulation participation grade counts for 10% of the grade. Before each turn, groups are required to submit a simulation memo of at least 300 words, describing their planned actions and objectives they hope to achieve. These memos count towards 6% of your total grade. Memos are not specifically graded, but must be submitted and taken seriously. I reserve the right to not count superficial memos towards the necessary submission requirement of 7 total memos. Groups that submit all memos in high quality will receive a 4.0 for their memo assignments. Groups that do not submit 1 memo receive a total memo grade of 3.0, groups that do not submit 2 memos will receive a grade of 2.0, groups that do not submit 3 or more memos will receive a 0 for this part of the simulation grade. Simulation performance, as opposed to mere participation (how well you achieve your objectives, how well you match your ends to means, whether your actions demonstrate an understanding of the course materials as you apply them to the simulation) is worth 5% of the grade. Additional information about the simulation is provided in the simulation manual, which is required reading and you will be quizzed on the manual twice, each quiz counting for 2% of your grade, for a total of 4%.

I should note that I am completely new to this game/software and so there may be issues with the technology, timing of turns, assignments, etc. Please be patient as I learn with you how this game works. We are all students in this process together. This may also mean that the grading for this section of the course might not always be as transparent as I would like to be because I will be learning about the rewards and awards as the game progresses. Realize that this game is about learning, applying knowledge, and having fun. If these are all motivating factors for you then you will enjoy this course, if not, then this is not the course for you.
Course schedule:

INTRODUCTION – 1/21
Syllabus overview

CORE CONCEPTS – 1/26
Goldstein: Chapter 1 (The Globalization of International Relations)

ANARCHY AND POWER – 1/28 (ONLINE SESSION)
Goldstein: Chapter 2 only pp. 35-48.
John Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power”
Practice Quiz (not calculated into course grade) should be taken online

SIMULATION PREPARATION – 2/2
Review of Anarchy and power politics – Game of Cards
Read the complete Student Simulation Manual
Simulation set up – bring laptops to class.

REALISM – 2/4
Goldstein: Chapter 2 only pp. 56-58.
Quiz 1: Anarchy, Power and Realism

COOPERATION UNDER ANARCHY: GAME THEORY – 2/9
Goldstein: pp. 58-60.
Online simulation manual quiz
Simulation Turn 0

THE SECURITY DILEMMA – 2/11
Quiz 2 (after class): Game Theory and the Security Dilemma

ALLIANCES – 2/16
Goldstein: pp. 49-56.
Online simulation manual quiz
Simulation Turn 1

MID-SEMESTER BREAK – 2/18

LIBERALISM – 2/23
Goldstein: chapter 3 only pp. 63-77.
Art/Jervis: Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs
Simulation Turn 2

CONSTRUCTIVISM AND SOCIAL THEORIES – 2/25
Goldstein: pp. 86-98 (up to “Gender in War and Peace”)
Quiz 3: Liberalism and Constructivism

WARS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS – 3/1
Goldstein: Chapter 4 only pp. 107-145.
Simulation Turn 3

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS – 3/3
Goldstein: pp. 207-240

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS – 3/8
Goldstein: pp. 240-255.
Simulation Turn 4

INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION – 3/10
Art/Jervis: pp. 328-352
Quiz 4: International Organizations, International Law and Human Rights

REVIEW FOR MIDTERM – 3/15
Simulation Turn 5

MIDTERM – 3/17
***Please note that midterm is CLOSED-BOOK, IN CLASS the Thursday before spring break. There are no exceptions – please plan your vacation accordingly.

THE USE OF FORCE – 3/29

TERRORISM – 3/31
What is Terrorism?
Goldstein: pp. 145-149
Quiz 5: Use of Force and Terrorism
NUCLEAR WEAPONS – 4/5
Goldstein: pp. 149-157
Scott Sagan, “Nuclear Instability in South Asia”
Kenneth Waltz, “Nuclear Stability in South Asia”
Simulation Turn 6

GLOBALIZATION – 4/7
Watch: The World Is Flat

SIMULATION DEBRIEF – 4/12

IPE – 4/14
Quiz 6: Globalization and IPE

NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS – 4/19
Goldstein: Chapter 7 (North-South Relations)

ENVIRONMENT – 4/21
Goldstein: Chapter 8 only up to pp. 335
Quiz 7: North-South Relations and the Environment

CATCH-UP WEEK – 4/26-4/28

FUTURE PROSPECTS – 5/3

CONCLUSIONS AND REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM – 5/5

FINAL EXAM – 5/9 1:30-4:30
Exam will be in class and all students must take it on the scheduled date/time. No exceptions will be made.