

**PLSC 102 - Section 004**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN AN AGE OF GLOBALIZATION**  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

**Instructor:** Elisa D'Amico

**Term:** Fall 2021

**Course Dates:** Aug 30, 2021- Dec 18

**Office Hours:** T/Th 11:am - 12:30pm

**Email:** [edamico2@luc.edu](mailto:edamico2@luc.edu)

**Days & Times:** M/W/F 10:50 - 11:40am

**Course Location:** Mundelein - Room 520

**Office:** Coffey Hall – Room 401

**Course Description and Objectives**

International Relations (IR) is the study of the interactions among the various actors that participate in international politics. Though it seems easy to dismiss IR as a study of global elites far away that have little impact on the individual citizen, a short examination of the events in your lifetime should dispel that myth. You are taking this course in following a global health crisis, you have lived your entire life on a planet threatened by climate change, and we are amidst a second worldwide recession in as many decades. Each of these is affected by (and may itself have an effect on) the international system and its various components. It is more crucial than ever for all citizens to understand how the global political system operates and which actors drive its development and change.

Students who complete this course will:

- 1) Understand the fundamentals of the unique schools of thought within International Relations and its diverse subfields.
- 2) Learn to think critically about how and why the international system operates as it does in the contemporary world by understanding its historical evolution from the late 19th Century to the present.
- 3) Consider the contemporary challenges of globalization and state sovereignty including but not limited to climate change, trade, food security, arms proliferation, and terrorism.
- 4) Develop individual and group-level skills in articulating and expressing thoughts through speaking and writing.

Now that I've described what this course is, a quick note on what it isn't. This class is not a venue to learn about or debate current events. Following the news on your own is one of the bare minimum expected behaviors of adulthood. Rather, this class will teach students to observe and analyze the international political system, to whatever extent possible, *objectively*.

**Mask Policy**

In the event the University relaxes its universal requirement for indoor mask-wearing during the Fall 2021 semester, it will remain a principle of this class-section that, out of respect for the health of housemates and others in regular contact with members of our community, in this class we wear masks over nose and mouth at all times we are together in the classroom.

## Required Text

Mingst, K. A., McKibben, H. E., & Arreguin-Toft, I. M. (2018). *Essentials of International Relations*. W.W. Norton & Company.

- ISBN (physical): 978-0-393-67519-1
- ISBN (e-book): 978-0-393-69114-6

Many readings for the course will come directly from the Mingst et al. textbook and students are responsible for getting their own copy. All other readings will be made available for download on Sakai or linked in the Weekly Schedule section of the Syllabus.

Course materials may not be shared with others outside of the class without my written permission.

## Grades

Final grades for the course will be based on the following scale. I reserve the right to make adjustments to individual grades based on overall performance in the course and/or extenuating circumstances.

Grade scale: A: 93.5 - 100 A-: 89.5 - 93.5 B+: 86.5 - 89.5 B: 83.5 - 86.5 B-: 79.5 - 83.5 C+: 76.5 - 79.5 C: 73.5 - 76.5 C-: 69.5 - 73.5 D+: 66.5 - 69.5 D: 59.5 - 66.5 F: 0 - 59.5

The proportion of each assignment as part of your overall grade is as follows:

- Participation 5%
- Attendance: 10%
- Response memos: 10%
- Group Simulation: 15%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final: 25%
  - Final Presentations: 10%
  - Final Exam: 15%

Each assignment's grade will be added to the Sakai gradebook within one week of the due date; Midterm and final grades will be reported in LOCUS. Midterm grades will be reported no later than the ninth week of the semester so that students with grades of C- or lower can make an informed decision of whether to withdraw from the class. The last day to withdraw with a W falls on the tenth week of the semester. Refer to the LUC academic calendar online ([https://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/fall/academic\\_calendar.shtml](https://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/fall/academic_calendar.shtml)) for specific dates.

## Participation

During the second half of class each Friday, students will be grouped together and prompted with several reflection questions from the week's readings. Each group will then have a chance to present their thoughts on their assigned prompt and engage in class discussion to accumulate participation points for the semester.

## Attendance

Attendance will be recorded for each session so it is imperative that students who have to miss class notify me *in advance* via email. In general, examples of excused absences are illnesses, funerals, and other immovable life events but I promise to be as flexible as possible as long as you give me prior notice. Three unexcused absences will be allowed before your attendance grade starts getting lowered by 2 points for each missed session. For example:

- Three unexcused absences = 10/10
- Four unexcused absences = 8/10
- Seven unexcused absences = 2 / 10

## Response Memos

Once a week, students are expected to post a 200 – 300 word response memo in Sakai that addresses readings, concepts, or topics discussed during that week's sessions. Except for weeks where you are not expected to submit (see "Readings & Assignments" below), memos are due each Friday by 11:55pm. Some weeks will include unique prompts about particular questions or activities so it is important to review the Sakai forum before writing. Late memos will be automatically deducted a full letter grade every 24 hours. Memos not submitted within 72 hours of the original due date / time receive an automatic failing grade.

## Group Simulation

During Week Fourteen, students will participate in a class-wide matrix game that simulates acrisis in the international system. You will be divided into small groups (approx. 4-5) to represent certain actors and gameplay will incorporate group discussion, negotiation, and public speaking. Details on the specific scenario will be explained in-class and on Sakai later in the semester.

## Quizzes and Exams

*Quizzes* In total, quizzes are worth 15% of students' grades. There will be three *unannounced* quizzes given throughout the term - one before the Midterm exam and two following. They will take place during class time. The quizzes will cover material between each section (including readings assigned that day) and are not cumulative. Students who miss quizzes without prior advance notice may not be given opportunities to make them up.

*Midterm Exam* The midterm exam is worth 20% of students' grades and is closed book/notes. It will likely be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. **Midterm exam date: October 15<sup>th</sup> during class period**

*Final Exam* The final exam is worth 25% of students' grades and is closed book/notes. The final exam is cumulative—in other words, students should study by reviewing all material taught over the course of the semester. It will likely be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. In line with university policy, I will administer the final exam schedule only on the date and time listed on the university calendar. I will not offer make-ups unless the student has petitioned their dean's office for a change in exam time. **Final exam date: Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am**

### *Exam Review Sessions*

During each class period before the two exams, at least half of the class session will be spent reviewing material for the upcoming exam. I will not be providing study guides - your assignment for those dates will be to ask a question or make a comment on Sakai the day before these sessions about something which you want to review.

### **Final Presentations**

For the final presentations, I will sort you into groups according to your preferences on the substantive book chapters of War and Security, International Political Economy, IOs and NGOs, Human Rights, or Human Security. Once your group is formed, you will collectively decide on a country of your choosing to present on as it corresponds to the topic of choice. This country will need to be approved by me. For example, a group may present on Human Rights in China, War and Security in Argentina, Human Security in Syria, etc. Further details on the presentations will be provided later in the semester. **Final presentation dates: Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am**

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit opportunities may be provided on an as-need basis. If you believe that this need applies to you, please contact me during the semester. Otherwise, extra credit opportunities may arise circumstantially. Stay tuned in class for this potential occurrence.

### **Communication, Office Hours, Question about Grades**

Please direct all communication with me outside class or office hours via email, which can be found in the header of this syllabus. I do my best to reply to student emails as quickly as possible but students should not necessarily expect me to reply immediately, especially regarding last-minute inquiries or questions asked over a weekend. For example, I may not be able to reply to questions about exams or assignments after 7p the day before it is scheduled/due.

Regular office hours will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00am – 12:30pm, except on university holidays (or by appointment). If you can't make those times, email me to schedule a more convenient appointment time.

My office hours exist for you to come to me with questions about this class and other academic thoughts or concerns. Email is only for brief communications; long and complicated questions should be discussed during office hours. With respect to grades, after I have graded and returned your assignments, there is a 24-hour moratorium before I will answer questions about that assignment.

### **Technology Use**

You should only use your laptops to participate in the class activities and take notes but please refrain from distractions. In addition, the use of cell phones is not allowed during class so unless you have an extenuating circumstance, I suggest silencing your phone and putting it face down before class begins.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Loyola University provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD), located in Sullivan Center, Suite 117. Students should provide me with an accommodation notification from SSWD, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Students are encouraged to meet with me individually in order to discuss their accommodations. All information will remain confidential. For more information or further assistance, please call (773) 508-3700 or visit <http://www.luc.edu/sswd>.

## **Academic Integrity**

It is my expectation that this course is a community of integrity. This means that we not only follow Loyola's academic honesty criteria but make a promise to be honest and respectful to each other both inside and outside the classroom. Students are responsible for adhering to university policy on academic honesty and avoiding acts of plagiarism or cheating. Assignments such as the response memos may be submitted via Turnitin.

Students can find more information about what constitutes plagiarism at the Writing Center's website: <https://libguides.luc.edu/workshops/plagiarism>.

Consult the College of Arts and Sciences' statement to learn more about college policy: <https://www.luc.edu/cas/advising/academicintegritystatement/>

I reserve the right to exercise case-by-case discretion in assigning penalties for acts of academic dishonesty. Generally speaking, however, students should expect to receive a score of "0" on any assignment or exam where they are observed plagiarizing, cheating, or passing off someone else's ideas as their own. If more than one instance occurs during the semester, offending students should expect to fail my course. I report all acts of academic dishonesty to the Dean of College of Arts and Science's office.

## **A Note on Civility**

I expect students enrolled in my class to converse with one another respectfully. Political discussions are often challenging since issues affect us on a personal level but this is not an excuse to lose control of yourself or your emotions. This class provides an opportunity for students to practice talking about politics in a public setting, especially with people they may disagree with. Engaging in civil discourse without engaging in personal attacks or hate speech is a necessary skill for living and working in a diverse society.

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Evelyn Beatrice Hall - *The Friends of Voltaire*

## **Readings and Assignments**

All readings and assignments are to be completed *before* the beginning of class on the day listed, unless otherwise noted. Read carefully and be ready to discuss the material, as discussions based around these readings will be integral to your response memos and your other graded assignments. I reserve the right to make changes to the reading list and will inform students in writing of any changes.

## Guidance for COVID-19

**Masking requirement:** Everyone is required to wear a face mask in all public spaces and in all buildings at all Loyola campuses. There are no exceptions or exemptions. This includes in classrooms, labs, meeting rooms, lounges, shared office space, cubicles, hallways, and elevators.

**Seating charts:** Loyola University is requiring seating charts for all classrooms for contact-tracing purposes. By **Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**, please sit in the location that you would like to be in for the entirety of the semester as this is the day the seating chart will be assigned. I will mention this in the classes preceding this date.

**Eating and drinking in the classroom:** In general, students removing their mask to take a drink is acceptable, but removing the mask to eat is not. Students who need to have food available during class should work with the Student Accessibility Center to have that accommodation documented.

**Positive cases:** Any Loyolan who tests positive for COVID-19 should immediately report this diagnosis to COVID-19report@LUC.edu or 773.508.7707. Students will be advised to reach out directly to faculty or through their academic advisor to develop a plan to help the student keep up with readings and assignments.

**Quarantining:** See the most recent CDC quarantining guideless on the Positive Diagnosis Protocol webpage. If you are fully vaccinated when you are exposed, the CDC says quarantining is not necessary, but you need to be tested three to five days after exposure.

**On-Campus COVID Testing:** Fully vaccinated Loyolans are not required to participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing at this time but are strongly encouraged to test as frequently as desired. Please ensure that you have reset your SHIELD Illinois patient portal account so you can schedule testing:

Website: [portal.shieldillinois.com](http://portal.shieldillinois.com)

Student Agency Code: yy5790vw-stu

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1 - August 30<sup>th</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> [\*No memo due\*]

- MONDAY: Introductions and syllabus review
- WEDNESDAY: Foundations of IR  
Mingst et al., Chapter 1
- FRIDAY: How we got here  
Mingst et al., Chapter 2 (pp. 19-42)

### WEEK 2 - September 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup>

- MONDAY: NO CLASS (Labor Day)
- WEDNESDAY: How we got here (cont.)  
Mingst et al., Chapter 2 (pp. 43-65)
- FRIDAY: Theories of IR  
Walt, Stephen M. (1998). "One world, many theories." *Foreign Policy* (110), pp. 29-46

### WEEK 3 - September 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup>

- MONDAY: Idealism  
[Wilson, Woodrow. \(1918\). Transcript of President Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points.](#)
- WEDNESDAY: Classical Realism  
[Hans J. Morgenthau, Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace, Fifth Edition, Revised, \(New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978, pp. 4-15](#)
- FRIDAY: Neorealism  
Mearsheimer, John J. (2002). "Realism, the Real World, and the Academy." In Brecher, Michael and Harvey, Frank P., eds. *Realism and Institutionalism in International Studies*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (pp. 23-33)

### WEEK 4 – September 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup>

- MONDAY: Neoliberal institutionalism  
Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, "The Promise of Institutional Theory," *International Security*, Vol. 20: 1, Summer, 1995, pp. 39-51.

WEDNESDAY: Constructivism  
Wendt, Alexander. (1995) "Constructing International Politics,"  
*International Security*, 20:1, pp. 71-81.

FRIDAY: Marxism, World Systems & Dependency  
Mingst et al., Chapter 3 (pp. 92-94 – “The Radical Perspective”)  
Watch: [World-Systems Theory, Dependency Theory and Global Inequality](#)

**WEEK 5 – September 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, & October 1<sup>st</sup>**

MONDAY: Levels of Analysis  
Mingst et al., Chapter 4 (pp. 107-123)

WEDNESDAY: Levels of Analysis (cont.)  
Mingst et al., Chapter 4 (pp. 124-147)

FRIDAY: International Organizations  
Mingst et al., Chapter 9 (pp. 319-349)

**WEEK 6 – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup>**

MONDAY: International Orgs. (cont.)  
Mingst et al., Chapter 9 (pp. 350-364)

WEDNESDAY: European Union  
[Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#)

FRIDAY: Brexit  
Watch first hour of [“Brexit Behind Closed Doors” Documentary](#) and be prepared to discuss

**WEEK 7 – October 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup> [\*No memo due\*]**

MONDAY: NO CLASS (Mid-Semester Break)

WEDNESDAY: Exam Review Day  
Post questions / topics you wish review to Sakai by 5pm on October 12<sup>th</sup>

FRIDAY: IN-CLASS MIDTERM

**WEEK 8 – October 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup>**

MONDAY: Interstate Conflict  
Mingst et al., Chapter 6 (pp. 187-211)



WEDNESDAY: Interstate Conflict (cont.)  
Layne, Christopher. (1994) "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace." *International Security*. 19(2). NOTE: Read pp. 1-15, skim 38-49

FRIDAY: Extranational Conflict  
Tilly, Charles. 2004. "Terror, Terrorism, Terrorists." *Sociological Theory* 22(1): 5- 13.

**WEEK 9 – October 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup>**

MONDAY: Extranational Conflict (cont.)  
Watch ["Secret History of ISIS" film \(PBS\)](#) and be prepared to discuss

WEDNESDAY: Human Rights  
Mingst et al., Chapter 10 (pp. 365-383)

FRIDAY: Human Rights (cont.)  
Mingst et al., Chapter 10 (pp. 384-399)

**WEEK 10 – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> [\*No memo due\*]**

MONDAY: Human Rights (cont.)  
Q&A with guest: Adam Hii, former Peace Corps member in Botswana  
NOTE: Submit Qs for Mr. Hii on Sakai by Sunday at 11:55pm

WEDNESDAY: Foreign Policy  
Lissner, Rebecca. (2018) "What is Grand Strategy? Sweeping a Conceptual Minefield." *Texas National Security Review*. 2(1): pp. 53-73.

FRIDAY: Foreign Policy (cont.)  
[Nye, Joseph. \(June 2013\). "Do Presidents Really Steer Foreign Policy?" \*The Atlantic Monthly\*.](#)

**WEEK 11 – November 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup>**

MONDAY: Human Security  
Mingst et al., Chapter 11 (pp. 401-416)

WEDNESDAY: Human Security (cont.)  
Mingst et al., Chapter 11 (pp. 417-432)

FRIDAY: Climate Change  
Busby, Joshua. (July 2018) "Warming World: Why Climate Change Matters More Than Anything Else." *Foreign Affairs*.

**WEEK 12 – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup>**

MONDAY: International Political Economy (IPE)  
Mingst et al., Chapter 8 (pp. 269-296)  
\*Group Project Topic Preferences

WEDNESDAY: IPE (cont.)  
Mingst et al., Chapter 8 (pp. 297-318)

FRIDAY: Being a global citizen  
Find a recent news article about an IR issue of interest to you. Be prepared to discuss.

**WEEK 13 – November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup> [\*No memo due\*]**

MONDAY: Being a global citizen (cont.)  
Continue discussion from Friday

WEDNESDAY: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

FRIDAY: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

**WEEK 14 – November 29<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> [\*No memo due\*]**

MONDAY: Simulation Day One  
Read preparation materials in Sakai

WEDNESDAY: Simulation Day Two

FRIDAY: Simulation Wrap-up  
Each group will give a short (5-10 min.) report on their experience and outcomes.

**WEEK 15 – December 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup> [\*No memo due\*]**

MONDAY: Presentations Day 1

WEDNESDAY: Presentations Day 2

FRIDAY: Exam review day  
Post questions / topics you wish review to Sakai by 5p on December 9<sup>th</sup>

**FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am**

Final exam times are set by the university and cannot be rescheduled without approval from the Dean's Office. See full schedule here:

[https://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/spring/exam\\_schedule.shtml](https://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/spring/exam_schedule.shtml)