International Politics

Spring 2022
Room: Coates 103
Time: TTH 12:00 - 1:20

Dmitriy R. Nurullayev
Office: Howe Russell 153
Email: dnurul1@lsu.edu

"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." -John F. Kennedy

Course Description

This is an introductory course on International Relations in the context of war and peace. The subject of international politics can span a wide array of topics from defense to global climate change and there is no course that could cover the full range of issues impacting international politics. Further, the list of problems which enjoy high issue salience differs from one administration to another and is often based more on domestic politics rather than objective levels of threat presented by specific issues. This course will largely focus on more traditional issues that impact global politics.

The course is designed to give you a sampling of readings related to war and peace between nation states. The objective is NOT to provide you with definitive answers, but instead, to raise philosophical questions and grapple with written works that have attempted to create theoretical foundations focused on answering these questions. The course does not, on its own, prepare you for any kind of career in the field of international relations. However, if you do have an interest in such a career, the course can serve as a helpful gateway to start thinking about the issues in a structured way.

We will take a discussion based approach in this course, and you, as students, will be expected to make frequent contributions, ask good questions, and be helpful colleagues to your peers. Additionally, you are expected to manage your time in a way that allows you to be prepared for each class meeting.

It is important that you carefully familiarize yourself with the syllabus. Throughout the semester you will be responsible for following all of the course regulations and policies.

Required Text

Silence of the Rational Center by Stefan Halper (Availible on Moodle)
Arms and Influence by Thomas Schelling (Availible on Moodle)
The Evolution of Cooperation by Robert Axelrod (Availible at LSU Bookstore and Amazon)

Course Policies

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is of paramount importance and evidence of plagiarism or cheating will result in a referral to the office of the dean.

Late Submissions and Arrivals: I do not accept late work or allow late walk-ins. Please make arrangements to arrive in class on time and to turn in your work by the deadline .

Electronic Devices: All electronic devices, including laptops, are prohibited. If you have a disability or a special circumstance that necessitates the use of an electronic device, please let me know.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken every class period. This is a discussion based course and requires regular attendance. I understand that things come up; you are allowed to miss 4 classes without a penalty. Any additional absences will result in 1 point reduction in your total course grade per absence. Missing 6 class meetings (beyond the allowable 3) will automatically result in a failing grade for the course.

Grades: Grades will be allocated according to the following schedule.

Score	**Grade**	**Score**	**Grade**	**Score**	**Grade**	**Score**	**Grade**
97-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+
93-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
						< 60	F

Special Needs: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and with me, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please contact the Disability Services at 115 Johnston Hall, (225) 578-5919.

Requirements and Evaluation

Reading Reflections – 10 points each, 40 points total

Four times during the semester you will be required to turn in a written assignment. Please note that this should not be merely a summary of the readings, but a reflection piece. The length must be at least 1000 words. Please keep in mind that the length requirement is only a minimum necessary to "pass". A properly completed assignment may require more than 1000 words. This reflection paper is due at the start of class (on the respective due date) and must be submitted both in hard copy and online. It is your responsibility to make arrangements so that your work is submitted on time. We will discuss these assignments in more detail at the start of the semester.

Participation - 20 points

This is a discussion based course and as such requires active participation on your part. I will make a concerted effort to call on all students, but it is your responsibility to be engaged and participate in the discussion. Participation makes up (intentionally) a large portion of your total grade. Throughout the semester I will update your participation grade on Moodle to give you an idea where you stand.

Final Exam - 40 points

The final exam will cover all of the material studied throughout the semester. We will discuss the exam structure and expectations in detail. I have posted a sample final exam on Moodle (Please note that this sample final exam is from a different course. The questions in the sample final exam are not necessarily related to this course. It is there to show you the general structure of the exam and give you an idea of what to expect).

Weekly Reading and Assignment Schedule

Please see the course Moodle page for a detailed reading and assignment schedule.