

POLS 360: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fall 2022

Instructor: Dr. Neil S. Williams (he/him)	Time: M W F 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.
Email: shaun.williams@louisiana.edu	Place: Mouton Hall, Room 110

Course Pages:

1. <http://www.neilswilliams.com/teaching.html>
2. <https://moodle.louisiana.edu/>
3. <https://www.perusall.com/>

Student Hours: 12:00-2:00pm Thursday in Mouton Hall 118, or by appointment.

Required Texts:

- None

Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the concepts and theories that scholars use to study international relations. We will examine the various actors that play a role in international politics (e.g. states, leaders, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, norms), by analyzing how they are defined, their interests, and actions. We will study their interactions with each other in conflict, economic relations, and in building institutions for cooperation. We will also critically examine international relations, evaluating how perspectives deriving from diverse racial, gendered, and indigenous experiences may complicate our understandings of the international system.

Perusall: All readings and lecture slides will be available on [Perusall](#) after class. Perusall is a cool e-reader which allows for collaborative annotation of readings and videos with both me and your peers. Assignment due dates and reminders are also included in Perusall to help you keep track of readings. It is free to create an account. After you have done so, our course can be accessed by entering the code **WILLIAMS-7XQ8P**.

Important Dates: Below are important test and due dates. Note that they, as well as everything else in the syllabus, may be changed as the semester continues. I will notify you in good time of any updates.

Project Proposal due Wednesday, October 12th,
2022
Midterm Due Friday October 21th, 2022
Final Project due ... Friday, December 2nd, 2022
Project Memo due .. Friday, December 9th, 2022
by 11:59 P.M.

Grading

- **Attendance: (5%)**
- **Participation: (20%)** Participation will be evaluated in multiple ways. Active participation implies paying attention in class, engagement with the material and with your fellow student colleagues. Please come prepared to class having read and willing to discuss the assigned material. Keep in mind these points as you read:
 1. What is the main point or argument?
 2. What evidence do they use to support their argument?
 3. Is there contradicting evidence?
 4. How does the author’s argument relate to the other content from the course?

Participation will also be evaluated by your comments, annotations, and responses to the readings, videos, and content on Perusall. The **participation breakdown** is as follows:

- **In-class participation:(50%)**
- **Perusall annotations: (50%)**
- **Midterm: (25%)** The midterm exam will be delivered electronically and will cover content up until this point. Although this exam will be open-note and book, I **HIGHLY** recommend studying before-hand.
- **Final project: (50%)** For the final project you are tasked with teaching non-experts about a concept or idea we’ve learned this semester or something else related to this course. You can use whatever medium you want, except for a standard essay or twitter threads. Otherwise, feel free to be creative. You can record a podcast, create a photo exhibit, write a magazine piece or a long-form blog post, write a set of poems, make a poster collage, write a work of fiction, a graphic novel, make a short film or documentary, a stand-up routine, play, etc. The possibilities are endless, but, regardless of the medium you choose, all projects will be graded on the following criteria:
 - **Project proposal: (10%)**: 1-2 page proposal of your project idea with description of your main points and planned approach
 - **Project: (60%)**: Project graded on the below criteria
 - * (30%):Demonstrates a clear understanding of the concept. While accessibility is important, represent the concept or topic accurately and faithfully.
 - * (30%) Makes clear why the concept is important for some aspects of politics (In a particular case or generally)
 - * (10%) Uses language that is accessible to a broad public
 - * (15%) Demonstrates effort commensurate with a final class project
 - * (15%) Showcases creativity and imaginative thinking
 - **Project reflection memo: (30%)** 3-4 page memo attached explaining your project, its method, and how it relates to your project topic.

Final project adapted from project assignment conceived and developed by Hakeem Jefferson, Stanford University. Contact me in good time for deadlines on make-up work.

Grade Scale

>= 93.00	A	77.00 - 79.99	C+
90.00 - 92.99	A-	73.00 - 76.99	C
87.00 - 89.99	B+	70.00 - 72.99	C-
83.00 - 86.99	B	60.00 - 69.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	<= 59.99	F

Academic Honesty *“The University holds that all work for which a student will receive a grade or credit shall be an original contribution or shall be properly documented to indicate sources. Abrogation of this principle entails dishonesty, defeats the purpose of instruction, and undermines the high goals of the University. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Students shall be assumed to know the acceptable methods and techniques for proper documentation of sources and to avoid cheating and plagiarism in all work submitted for credit, whether prepared in or out of class.”* (From [University of Louisiana Lafayette page on Academic Honesty.](#)) Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and if discovered will be appropriately punished. For more information about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, or intellectual dishonesty, consult me or the university web page.

Disability Resources: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Students may call 337-482-5252 or visit the ODS office in the Agnes Edwards Hall, room 126. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with their instructor to make appropriate arrangements for accommodations.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to visit the Counseling and Testing Center page with tips on the [Mental Health & Wellness Resources](#) page. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- Make sure to seek help when needed. FREE counseling is available to you at the University Counseling and Testing Center. For more information, please contact the office at 337-482-6480, counseling@louisiana.edu, or stop by the Saucier Wellness Center (OK Allen Hall).

Technology: I permit laptops and other devices such as Kindles and iPads if they are being used for class-related purposes. If you are off-task (Facebook, Instagram, Myspace, Tik Tok, Neopets, Club Penguin, etc.) while on these devices, it will be deducted from your participation grade.

Coronavirus Information for Students**Fall 2022 Overview****Vaccinations Required**

UL Lafayette students are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, a physician’s certification that the vaccine is medically contraindicated, or a written dissent. Learn more about the vaccination requirement.

Boosters are strongly encouraged.

Face masks recommended on campus

The University’s Face Covering Policy was recently amended to recommend, but not require, that everyone wear face coverings in all indoor settings and outdoors while on University property.

A department or unit may require all individuals wear face coverings over their mouths and noses if it is determined to be necessary during a specific face-to-face course, in a specific classroom, laboratory, and/or private office/workspace, or other areas.

Additional exemptions and face covering guidelines are outlined in the policy. [Read the Face Covering Policy](#) on the University Policies website.

Courses to return to original delivery methods, employees to return to normal work schedules

The transmission rate of COVID-19 remains high in the Acadiana region and throughout the state, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Louisiana Department of Health. However, the University is seeing a decline in positivity rates among its students and employees.

This decrease, combined with the University’s comprehensive testing protocols, is enabling a return to normal course delivery methods and operations. Classes that transitioned to remote learning at the start of the spring semester will begin to transition back to their original course delivery methods beginning Monday, Feb. 7. All courses should have returned to their original modes of instruction by Monday, Feb. 21. Students should check Moodle and with their professors for more details regarding when their classes will transition back.

In-person student organization events, including meetings, socials, and service projects, will continue to be allowed on and off campus provided masks are worn and proper social distancing can be maintained. Additionally, intramural sports will resume.

COVID-19 testing available on campus

COVID testing is available by appointment at Student Health Services on campus.

See a [list of other local COVID-19 testing sites](#) from the Louisiana Department of Health.

University’s COVID-19 testing strategy As of April 7, testing of asymptomatic University employees and students (regardless of vaccination status) is suspended.

Stay home if you do not feel well.

Students

Students who feel ill should stay home and call Student Health Services at (337) 482-1293 to schedule an appointment. Students are required to report illness or a known COVID-19 exposure [via the UL Lafayette Student Quarantine and Isolation form](#).

View pdfs of the CDC’s latest quarantine and isolation guidelines and what to do if you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Staff and Faculty Members

As a reminder, staff and faculty members who test positive for COVID-19 must contact their supervisors and complete the COVID-19 positive test reporting form. Additionally, faculty and staff who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must complete the COVID-19 exposure reporting form.

Reporting forms must be completed by faculty and staff who work on campus or remotely, and by those who are on leave awaiting test results.

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Yellow indicates important information

Week 1: Foundations

Monday, August 22nd, 2022

- Introductions
- Review Syllabus

Wednesday, August 24th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - “70 People Ages 5-75 Answer: Most Important Issue Facing the World?”. 2017. *Glamour*.
 - Why all world maps are wrong. 2016 *Vox*.

Friday, August 26th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - S. McGlinchey. 2017. “International Relations.” *International Relations*. Chapter 1.

Week 2: History of the International System

Monday, August 29th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - S. McGlinchey. 2017. “International Relations.” *International Relations*. Chapter 3.

Wednesday, August 31st, 2022

- *Before class*
 - How did The British Empire rule the World?. 2020. *Knowledge*.
 - 500 Years of European Colonialism. 2015. Ollie Bye.
 - How America became a superpower. 2016. *Vox*.

Friday, September 2nd, 2022

- *Before class*
 - The Cold War Explained In 15 Minutes. 2020. *The Life Guide*.
 - “Nuclear Weapons”. 2014. *Last Week Tonight*.

Week 3: Realism

Monday, September 5th, 2022

- *Reminders*
 - **LABOR DAY NO CLASS**

Wednesday, September 7th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - S. McGlinchey, R. Walters, and C. Scheinpflug. 2017. “Realism.” *International Relations Theory*. Chapter 1.

Friday, September 9th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - International Relations 101 (#25): Militarized Interstate Disputes. 2016. William Spaniel.
 - A Geopolitical Tour of the World. 2020. *WonderWhy*.

Week 4: More Conflict, Liberalism, and Peace?

Monday, September 12th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - “Throughline: Ukraine’s Dangerous Independence”. 2022. *Throughline*.
 - Daniel Drezner. 2022. “Can realism explain the war in Ukraine?”. *The Washington Post*.

Wednesday, September 14th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - S. McGlinchey, R. Walters, and C. Scheinpflug. 2017. “Liberalism.” *International Relations Theory*. Chapter 2. .
 - International Relations 101 (#65): Is War Obsolete?. 2015. William Spaniel.

Friday, September 16th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - International Relations 101 (#32): Democratic Peace Theory. 2015. William Spaniel. .
 - The Logic of Democratic Peace Theory in the Post-Cold War Era – International Relations BINUS University.

Week 5: International Organizations: United Nations

Monday, September 19th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - S. McGlinchey. 2017. “International Organizations.” *International Relations*. Chapter 6.
 - Overview of the United Nations. 2016. UNA-UK.
 - *Optional*. United Nations History. UN GENEVA.

Wednesday, September 21st, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Nations United: Urgent Solutions for Urgent Times, Presented by Thandie Newton. 2020. United Nations.
 - The History Hour: 75 Years of UNESCO . 2022 *BBC World Service: The History Hour*.

Friday, September 23rd, 2022

- *Before class*
 - J. Symons. 75 years of the UN: its triumphs and disasters. 2020. *The Lighthouse*.
 - A journey into UN Peacekeeping’s Protection of Civilians work in Mali. 2022. United Nations
 - China’s growing role in UN peacekeeping missions in Africa. 2021. *South China Morning Post*.

Week 6: International Organizations: European Union and Beyond

Monday, September 26th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - The EU-What it is and what it does. 2021. European Commission.
 - 6 things the EU has achieved, 60 years on from its founding treaty. 2017. *World Economic Forum*.

Wednesday, September 28th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Karp, Jeffrey A., and Shaun Bowler. “Broadening and Deepening or Broadening Versus Deepening: The Question of Enlargement and Europe’s ‘Hesitant Europeans.’” *European Journal of Political Research* 45, no. 3 (2006):
 - How Ukraine brought the European Union together. CNBC International. 2022.

Friday, September 30th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - CARICOM Explained - The Caribbean force?. 2021. Economics in Action.
 - What is NATO, why does it still exist, and how does it work? [2020 version]. 2020. NATO.

Week 7: Constructivism and Human Rights

Monday, October 3rd, 2022

- *Before class*
 - S. McGlinchey, R. Walters, and C. Scheinplug. 2017. “Constructivism.” *International Relations Theory*. Chapter 4.
 - *Theory in Action: Constructivism*. 2011. Soomo Publishing.

Wednesday, October 5th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 2017. UN Human Rights.
 - Women’s Rights. 2021. Amnesty International.
 - Women’s rights in Central Asia. 2021. Central Asia Solidarity Group.

Friday, October 7th, 2022

- *Reminders*
 - **FALL BREAK–NO CLASS**

Week 8: Midterm, Proposal, and More Human Rights

Monday, October 10th, 2022

- *Reminders*
 - **MIDTERM STUDY DAY–NO CLASS**

Wednesday, October 12th, 2022

- *Due:*
 - **Project proposal due**
- *Distribute*
 - **Midterm exam becomes available.**

Friday, October 14th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. “Transnational advocacy networks in international and regional politics.” *International Social Science Journal* 51(159): 89–101.
 - Tyranny comes home: How the ‘boomerang effect’ impacts civilian life in the U.S. — Abigail Blanco. 2020. *The Big Think*.

Week 9: Race in International Relations

Monday, October 17th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Zvobgo, Kelebogile and Meredith Loken. 2020. “Why Race Matters in International Relations.” *Foreign Policy*.
 - Bhambra et al. 2020. “Why is Mainstream International Relations Blind to Racism?.” *Foreign Policy*.

Wednesday, October 19th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Delatolla, Andrew, Momin Rahman, Dibyesh Anand, Mary Caesar, Toni Haastrup, Nassef Manabilang Adiong, Swati Parashar, and Jeremy Youde. ”Challenging Institutional Racism in International Relations and Our Profession: Reflections, Experiences, and Strategies.” *Millennium* 50, no. 1 (2021): 110-148.
 - **Optional:** Wood, Carlo. 2020. Racial Security: The Unobserved Threat in IR Optional. eInternational relations.

Friday, October 21st, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Freeman, B., Kim, D.G. and Lake, D.A., 2022. Race in International Relations: Beyond the “Norm Against Noticing”. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 25, pp.175-196.
- *Due:*
 - Midterm due

Week 10: Postcolonialism

Monday, October 24th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Nair, Sheila. 2017. “Post-colonialism.” *International Relations Theory*. Chapter 9.
 - “Four Days in August”. 2019. *Throughline*.

Wednesday, October 26th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - The History Hour: Algeria’s War of Independence. 2022. *BBC World Service: The History Hour*.
 - “How France’s Colonial Past Explains Its Racism Today”. 2021. *Al Jazeera*.

Friday, October 28th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - “Witness History: The anthem of the Arab Spring”. 2021. *BBC World Service: Witness History*.
 - “Witness History: The women of Egypt’s Arab Spring”. 2021. *BBC World Service: Witness History*.
 - “Ten years after the Arab Spring, democracy remains elusive in Egypt”. 2021. *PBS News Hour*.

Week 11: Wealth and Development

Monday, October 31st, 2022

- *Before class*
 - S. McGlinchey. 2017. “Global Poverty and Wealth.” in *International Relations*. Chapter 10.
 - “The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank”. *Explained in One Minute*.
 - “Aid in reverse: how poor countries develop rich countries”. 2017. *The Guardian*.

Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Shaikh, Alanna. “What is international development really?”. 2017. *Ted Archive*.
 - “Mongolia’s Goats Produce A Third Of World’s Cashmere And Are Trampling The Landscape”. 2016. *NPR*.
 - Nour, Nawal. “Development Studies, International Relations, and Obstetrics”. 2012. *TEDx Talks*.

Friday, November 4nd, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Shaikh, Alanna. “What is international development really?”. 2017. *Ted Archive*.
 - “Mongolia’s Goats Produce A Third Of World’s Cashmere And Are Trampling The Landscape”. 2016. *NPR*.
 - Nour, Nawal. “Development Studies, International Relations, and Obstetrics”. 2012. *TEDx Talks*.

Week 12: Indigenous Perspectives and Global Justice

Monday, November 7th, 2022

- *Before class*

- Corntassell, Jeff and Marc Woons. 2017. “Indigenous Perspectives”. in *International Relations Theory*. Chapter 18.
- “Indigenous Sovereignty: One Land Plot at a Time”. 2018. *KQED*.
- “Brazil’s indigenous land is being invaded”. 2019. *Vox*.

Wednesday, November 9th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - “Indigenous Communities Are on the Front Lines of Climate Change”. 2018. *Hot Mess*.
 - “Indigenous knowledge meets science to take on climate change: Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim”. 2020. *Ted*.

Friday, November 11th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Dietzel, Alix. 2017. “Global Justice”. in *International Relations Theory*. Chapter 12.
 - “What is Indigenous Environmental Justice?”. 2018. *The IEJ Project*.

Week 13: Climate and Migration

Monday, November 11th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Hendrix, Cullen S., and Idean Salehyan. ”Climate change, rainfall, and social conflict in Africa.” *Journal of Peace Research* 49, no. 1 (2012): 35-50.
 - “As climate change parches Somalia, frequent drought comes with conflict over fertile land”. 2018. *PBS News Hour*.
 - **Optional:** Tir, Jaroslav, and Douglas M. Stinnett. 2012. “Weathering climate change: Can institutions mitigate international water conflict?” *Journal of Peace Research* 49(1): 211–225.

Wednesday, November 13th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - “Migration”. *Globalization 101*.
 - What’s the Difference Between a Migrant and a Refugee? Migration Explained. 2019. *World101*.

Friday, November 15th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - “Climate Migration- Bangladesh on the move”. 2015. *UNSW Community*.
 - “India has ramped up border security to stop refugees from Myanmar”. 2021. *DW News*.

Week 14: Feminism and Break

Monday, November 21st, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Smith, Sarah. 2017. “Feminism”. in International Relations Theory. Chapter 8.
 - Sisters on the planet series. 2008. *Oxfam GB*.

Wednesday, November 21st, 2022

- *Reminders*
 - **BREAK–NO CLASS**

Friday, November 21st, 2022

- *Reminders*
 - **BREAK–NO CLASS**

Week 15: Conclusions

Monday, November 28th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - **Open day: Will decide what this day is based on class interests.**

Wednesday, November 30th, 2022

- *In class*
 - Final class wrap-up and reflection
 - **Discuss your final projects!!**

Remember: Final project due Friday, December 2nd, 2022 by 11:59 P.M.

Remember: Final project Memo due Friday, December 9th, 2022 by 11:59 P.M.