Today the world of international politics is at one of those critical times when it faces a major fork in the road. The choices are both exciting and fraught with danger. What we choose now will determine whether we live in a world of peace and prosperity or, through a series of missteps, we create a world of unraveling institutions, rising and unstable powers, and growing waves of regional strife which might ultimately engulf the planet. As informed citizens of a democracy, in the case of the US, I encourage you to take this course as a first step in helping your country make the right choices.

This course is not a class in current events, although I highly recommend the practice of daily newspaper and weekly news magazine reading. Rather it seeks to provide the student with the background and conceptual tools for understanding international politics. It will also demonstrate the many ways we in the United States are affected by events and developments emanating from the international arena. Three major sections comprise this investigation: Background Components of the International System, The Changing American Role in International Politics, and the Contemporary Challenges of the Post Cold War Era. The conceptual tools presented are the Levels of Analysis Framework and the concept of the Paradigm as well as the theories and debates between balance of power and realism versus collective security and idealism, deterrence and military intervention, theories of the North-South dilemma, and competing visions of the future.

As an introductory survey course, the responsibilities of the students are to do the assigned readings prior to each class, attend all classes, and to participate in class discussions when opportunities present themselves. Despite the large class, lecture format to this course, class attendance with a good set of notes is essential to learning the course material. The course is organized into a weekly diet of two lectures with opportunities for questions and some discussion. Attendance will be taken and active participation will serve as a marginal factor in your grade (that is, if you are on the border between two grades, it can tip your grade up a notch).

The instructor of this course comes to SLU after having taught at Duke University and, most recently, at the US Military Academy at West Point. He grew up in India on
the mission field and later served two tours in the army in Vietnam. Courses in international relations, Asian politics and its political thought, asymmetric warfare, and the politics of the future have been his main staples in the classroom. His research has focused on the lessons of the Vietnam War in terms of modernization theory, military strategy, and political legitimacy. His current projects are on the politics of military intervention in the 9/11 Era and on the political thought of Asia. He is also at work on a memoir of his Vietnam service.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Saint Louis University takes the issue of academic honesty seriously. Please read the following statement carefully:

*Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations should be reported to the instructor and will be investigated and adjudicated according to the Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University.*

**DISABILITIES**

Students with university-certified disabilities should identify themselves to the professor so that the appropriate modifications can be arranged.

**TEXTS**

The following books will serve as the texts for the course. They are listed in order of their appearance in the syllabus.

John T. Rourke, *International Politics on the World Stage*, 12th ed. (’08)

**GRADE**
The class grade will be derived from two "midterm" exams and a final exam in these proportions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm I</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm II</td>
<td>30%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must take the exams at the scheduled times. Make-ups will be given only for bona fide emergencies and university-excused absences.

* For those students interested, a ten-page paper on a topic approved by the professor may be substituted for the second Midterm Exam. It is due on the day of the second Midterm. Those students not able to make this paper deadline will automatically revert back to taking the second Midterm. In other words, no extensions or Incompletes will be given for the paper. Students choosing this option must have their topics approved by the professor. There is a separate hand-out for this assignment.

My grading scale for each component is as follows: A= 92% and above. In my classes, 95%, historically, is the maximum grade, though there are occasional exceptions. A-= 90%-91%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80%-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73%-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70%-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67%-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63%-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60%-62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCHEDULE**

**I. BACKGROUND COMPONENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

**A. CONCEPTS**

Aug 25 (T) #1 Introduction: International Politics and You  
Reading: None

Aug 27 (R) NO CLASS: MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sep 1 (T) #2 International Politics as an Academic Concern-I: Levels of Analysis  
Reading: Rourke, Chs. 1,3  
Lieber, Ch. 1

Sep 3 (R) #3 International Politics as an Academic Concern-II: The Paradigm  
Reading: Rourke, Ch. 5 (pp. 155-160)
B. HISTORICAL FOUNDATION AND STRUCTURE

Sep 8 (T)  #4 Origins of the State System-I: External Sovereignty
Reading: Lieber, Ch. 2
Rourke, Ch. 2

Sep 10 (R)  #5 Origins of the State System-II: Internal Sovereignty
Reading: Rourke, Ch. 6

Sep 15 (T)  #6 Power: Hard and Soft—and other measures
Reading: Nye, Ch. 1
Rourke, Chs. 8 and 10 (pp. 306-315)

Sep 17 (R)  #7 Realism and Balance of Power Politics
Reading: Lieber, Ch. 7
Nye, Ch. 3

Sep 22 (T)  #8 Idealism and the Politics of Collective Security
Reading: Lieber, Ch. 12
Nye, Ch. 4

Sep 24 (R)  ### MIDTERM-I ###
(covers lecture Nos. 1-8)

C. ISSUES AND "ISMS"

Sep 29 (T)  #9 Modernity: The Industrial Revolution and Liberalism
Reading: Rourke, Ch. 12

Oct 1 (R)  #10 Modernity: The Counter Paradigm of Marxism-Leninism
Reading: None

Oct 6 (T)  #11 Nationalism and Ethnicity: The Power of Myths
Reading: Rourke, Ch. 4

Oct 8 (R)  #12 Imperialism, Hegemony, and Globalization
Reading: Rourke, Ch. 5
Nye, Ch. 7

Oct 13 (T)  #13 Case Study: The Anomaly of Yugoslavia/Serbia/Bosnia: The Sucking Vortex—And Anarchism
Reading: Rourke, Ch. 4 (re-read instances of break-ups)
Lieber, Ch. 11 (pp. 253-257)
II. AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Oct 15 (R)  #14 Origins of the Cold War and the Policy of Containment
            Reading: Lieber, Chs. 3, 4 (pp. 60-78)
            Nye, Ch. 5 (pp. 116-133)

********* Fall Break, Oct 19-20**********

Oct 22 (R)  #15 The US Foreign Policy Decision-Making Establishment: The Third Level-of-Analysis
            Reading: None

Oct 27 (T)  # 16 Nuclear Deterrence: The Journey from MAD to NUTS—And Beyond
            Reading: Lieber, Ch. 6
            Nye, Ch. 5 (pp. 145-160)
            Rourke, Ch. 10 (pp. 328-337), and Ch. 11

Oct 29 (R)  #17 The Cuban Missiles Crisis and the Stability of Bi-Polarity: Neorealism
            Reading: Lieber, Ch. 8

Nov 3 (T)    #### MIDTERM-II ####
            (Covers Lecture Nos. 9-17)

*** Student Papers due***
(Students whose papers are not ready at this time, must take Midterm-II)

Nov 5 (R)    #18 Superpower Defense of Secondary Interests-I: The Case of Vietnam--"Hell in a very small place"
            Reading: Lieber, Ch. 9
            Nye, Ch. 5 (pp. 133-138)

Nov 10 (T)   #19 Spy vs. Spy: The Gray World of Intelligence
            Reading: Greene, The Quiet American, entire

III. CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: ENGULFING INSTABILITY OR A NEW WORLD ORDER

Nov 12 (R)   #20 The Third World-I: Development by Evolution
            Reading: Lieber, Ch. 5
Nov 17 (T)  #21 The Third World-II: Mobilization by Revolution  
Reading: Lieber, Ch. 10  
Rourke, Ch. 13

Nov 19 (R)  #22 The Second World: Dissolution of the Socialist Commonwealth into a Common European Home?  
Reading: Lieber, Ch. 4 (pp. 78-87)  
Nye, Ch. 5 (pp. 138-145)

Nov 24 (T)  #23 The 90s Futures: Zones of Peace and Turmoil or a Clash of Civilizations  
Reading: Nye, Ch. 9

*****Thanksgiving Vacation, Nov 25-27*******

Dec 1 (T)  #24 “9/11” and the War on Terror—and the rise of China  
Reading: Nye, Ch. 6 (pp. 182-196)  
Rourke, Chs. 10 (pp. 315-328) and 11 (pp. 360-372)

Dec 3 (R)  #25 Course Reprise and Plato's Cave  
Reading: None—Course Evaluations

Dec 10: ####### FINAL EXAMINATION #######  
12:00-1:50 PM