

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
POLS-1600-02 Intro to International Politics  
3 Credit Hours  
Spring 2020

Dr. Emmanuel Uwalaka  
MWF: 3:30 - 4:45  
Classroom: McGannon Hall 211  
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Office: McG 150  
Phone: 977-3035/**3039**  
Hours: MW: 2-3  
T: 10-11 and by  
appointment

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to the basic concepts of international politics/relations and the theories that have been developed to interpret problems faced by nation-states in dealing with each other. Emphasis will be placed in using different theoretical perspectives to interpret concrete international situations. The course is organized into three broad sections: (1) history, methods, and theories of international politics, (2) actors in international politics, and (3) contemporary international relations issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This course fulfills the College of Arts & Sciences Global Citizenship requirement and the Political Science major and Foreign Service minor requirements.

II. REQUIRED BOOK(S) READINGS

Mingst, Mckibben and Arreguin-Toft, 2019. Essentials of International Relations. 8th edition New York, W.W. Norton. (Required)

Mingst, Karen and Snyder, Jack. 2017. 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Essential Readings in World Politics. New York, W.W. Norton & Company. (Reserve Desk)

Daily reading of a major newspaper: The New York Times, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, etc.

Additional reading assignments will be placed in the reserve collection of the University Library, if the need arises.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. To introduce the student to the basic concepts, history, approaches and theories of international politics
2. To provide the student with contextual understanding and sufficient factual background to assess international relations theories and concepts.
3. To discuss the essential elements in the governing process through illustrations from various political systems; and
4. To provide the necessary foundation for advanced courses in Political Science.

#### 1V. LEARNING OUTCOMES

After taking this course, students will be able to:

Explain differences in the normative and scientific approaches to international politics;

Recognize and apply major concepts in the study of international politics;

Illustrate the role of international politics in their everyday lives;

Able to assess analytical arguments; and

Write clearly about international politics events and effectively defend their opinions and interpretations.

#### V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually. Students are required to sign the roll at each session, and a record of attendance will be maintained. Students should notify instructor of class absence(s) or provide documentation when possible. Students will be expected to complete assigned readings before the next day's class and participate in class discussions. Students should be aware of how politics affects their everyday lives. Most of the time, the instructor will begin class by asking "what is the latest?" The idea is to allow you express yourself on what you have observed about politics at the international level. Your participation efforts at this level will be recorded toward class participation points. During class, **cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate mode**. If you need to respond to a call, please step outside the room. Use of laptop computers during class is only allowed to take lecture notes.

A class session might be changed to discussion session depending on how the class responds to lectures, readings and issues in international politics. Students will be informed of discussion topic in advance.

#### OFFICE VISITS

Students are encouraged to visit the instructor during office hours in connection with their work in this class, or to discuss any career-related problems. If unable to visit during posted hours, an appointment will be made convenient to both the student and the instructor.

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU GET TO KNOW YOUR TEACHERS AND TO MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO THEM. IT IS THE ONLY WAY TEACHERS CAN BE OF HELP TO YOU OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
POLICIES ON ...**

## Attendance (An University policy on Attendance has been copied here)

Students must meet course objectives and attendance policies as outlined in the course syllabus.

In cases where absences prevent students from meeting course objectives, students may be required to drop the course or be administratively dropped or withdrawn.

Additionally, students are responsible for:

1. Being on time and attending all class meetings for courses in which they are registered.
2. Making every effort to schedule classes that will minimize conflicts caused by foreseeable activities and related travel.
3. Monitoring their attendance and absences throughout the term.
4. Reviewing course syllabi with regard to the instructor's policy on absences and consulting the instructor if any portion of the attendance policy outlined in the syllabus is not understood.

In regard to absences, whether excused as an authorized activity or at the instructor's discretion, students are responsible for:

1. All material covered in class and must work with each individual instructor to complete any required work and obtain any class notes or other course material missed due to these absences.
2. Coordinating with instructors prior to any examination or presentation in order to explore the impact of the missed assignments and options.
3. Providing written notification, as outlined below, of all other absences as soon as possible, for events not foreseen at the beginning of the semester. (See [Authorized Absence Activities](#) below and the [Bereavement Policy](#) for additional information)

## Absences

In addition to authorized absences, instructors have the authority to excuse absences for other reasons.

Documentation for short-term absences may be required at the instructor's discretion.

In the event that several classes have been missed and students are unable to meet course objectives they should consult with the instructor and academic advisor about course extensions (see the [Incomplete Course](#) policy) or a course withdrawal (see [Course Withdrawal](#) policy).

Medical documentation may be required in cases of serious illness or medical conditions which impact a student's ability to participate in courses for an extended period.

In the event of a chronic medical condition or disability, students are strongly advised to contact the Dean of Students and/or the Office of Disability Services to explore potential accommodations.

## Authorized Absence Activities

As previously stated, in the event that several classes have been missed and students are unable to meet course objectives they should consult with the instructor and academic advisor about course extensions (see the [Incomplete Course](#) policy) or a course withdrawal (see [Course Withdrawal](#) policy).

Each instructor will excuse students from class for authorized activities (see below) and provide an opportunity to complete missed exams, quizzes, and other required work.

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with each individual instructor as soon as they return to complete any required work.

Missed required work may be replaced by alternative assignments at the instructor's discretion.

Authorized activities and required documentation are defined as:

**Participation in Division 1 athletic games and associated travel (excluding practices);**  
**Appearances required as part of a Saint Louis University investigation/hearing;**  
**Short-term service with the military and/or First Responder (see the Military Policy for additional information and notification timeline)**  
**Legal obligation (e.g jury duty, required court appearance);**

**Official notification of required appearance.**

**Religious Holiday Observance**

2. The Office of the Provost, in consultation with Campus Ministry and the Office of the University Registrar, will publish a list of religious holidays likely to affect students.

3. Students must notify instructors in writing by the end of the first week of the semester of all religious holidays they observe that conflict with their course meetings and activities

4. Instructors will notify students promptly if these absences will prevent the student from meeting the course objectives so that the student may drop the course during the add/drop period.

#### **Bereavement**

Official notification from the Dean of Students or Academic Dean.

Upon request to and approval by the Dean of Students Office, students shall be given up to five (5) consecutive days (not including weekends or holidays) of excused absence for bereavement.

In addition, this instructor requires students to sign the roll at each session, and a record of attendance will be maintained. Students will be expected to complete assigned readings before the next day's class, participate in class discussions and prepare for case studies. Students should be aware of how politics affects their everyday lives. Most of the time, the instructor will begin class by asking "what is the latest?" The idea is to allow you express yourself on what you have observed or read about politics at the local, state, national or international level. Your participation efforts at this level will be recorded toward class participation points. During class, **cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate mode**. If you need to respond to a call, please step outside the room. Use of laptop computers during class is only allowed to take lecture notes.

## **Title IX**

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX coordinator, Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, room 36; [anna.kratky@slu.edu](mailto:anna.kratky@slu.edu); 314-977-3886) and share the basic facts of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK. To view SLU's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the [Office of the General Counsel](#).

## **Disability Services**

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact [Disability Services](#) to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services, located within the Student Success Center, at [Disability\\_services@slu.edu](mailto:Disability_services@slu.edu) or 314-977-3484 to schedule an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic

accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor's course roster.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of [Saint Louis](#) University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: [https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy\\_academic-integrity\\_6-26-2015.pdf](https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf).

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites. All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Dean/Director of the College, School or Center in which your program is housed.

## **Student Success Center**

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., [prior experience](#), study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center assists students with academic-related services and is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331). Students can visit the [Student Success Center](#) to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

## **University Writing Services**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University [Writing Services](#) in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit the [Student Success Center](#) or call the Student Success Center at 314-977-3484.

## **Basic Needs Security**

Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources, and who believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office ([deanofstudents@slu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@slu.edu) or 314-977-9378) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so, as this will enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need.

## COURSE EVALUATION

As part of class participation, during the last week of the semester students will be reminded to complete an on-line course evaluation. Students will be notified when screens will be accessible for students to submit the evaluation.

## VI. EVALUATION

### A. Methods

Two quizzes (which will be announced days in advance), class participation, midterm and final examinations will be used in evaluating the performance of students.

1. Students will be required to take the mid-semester and the final examinations.
2. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answers and essays. Exams are not cumulative, that is, only the material since the last exam is included.

### B. Grading Scale and Distribution of Points

- |    |                           |    |
|----|---------------------------|----|
| 1. | Quizzes_ .....            | 10 |
| 2. | Mid-Semester Exam . . . . | 40 |
| 3. | Final Exam . . . . .      | 40 |
| 4. | Class Participation ..... | 10 |

The numerical equivalents of letter grades are:

93-100 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	
87-89 = B+		77-79 = C+	60-69 = D
Below 65 = F			

NOTE: Final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

## VII. COURSE OUTLINE

### Jan. 13 Course Overview

#### Section 1: History, Approaches and Theories of International Politics/Relations

In this section, we examine some of the events that have shaped our ideas of international politics and international relations. We examine 3 methods used by political scientists to

study political phenomena – traditionalism, behavioralism, and post-behavioralism. Also, since the appearance of the works by E. H. Carr and Hans Morgenthau, numerous theories have developed for the study of international politics/relations. We will examine three basic theories: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism.

- Jan. 15** The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 19-32
- Jan. 22** History of International Relations (cont'd)  
The Cold War  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 32-59  
Mingst and Snyder, X, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," pp. 35-40 or *Foreign Affairs* (July 1947)
- Jan. 27, 29** Tools Used by Political Scientists to Investigate Political Phenomena:  
Traditionalism, Behavioralism, and Post-Behavioralism  
Thinking Theoretically: What is a theory and what are the components?  
Reading(s): Essentials: pp. 5-17; 67-73  
Argyle, Nolan J., "Methods, "Science," and Politics: Modes of Analysis in Political Science" or Gamble & Co, "Approaches to Political Science" ( available via electronic mail)
- Contending Theories of International Relations**
- Feb 3, 5** Realism and Liberalism  
Readings: Essentials, pp. 73-85  
Hans J. Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Politics," in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 67-104
- Feb. 10** Constructivism and The Radical Perspective: (Marxism, Dependency Theory, and Feminism} Essentials, pp. 86-98
- Feb. 12** Discussion: Theory in Action: Analyzing the 2014 ( and Beyond) Russia-Ukraine Conflict. Groups will do the discussion.

### Levels of Analysis

- Section 2:** **Actors in International Relations: International Relations/Politics differ in specific ways from internal politics. In this section of our course, we will examine the Basic Actors/Levels of Analysis that play a role in the international arena.**
- Feb. 17** Actors/Levels of Analysis in international politics: Characteristics  
The question of interest here is: **What is it about our unit of analysis our we trying to explain, understand or "predict?"**  
Readings: Essentials, pp. 107-110
- Feb. 19** The International System: Views from Realists, Liberals  
Reading: Essentials, pp. 107-118



J. Ann Tickner, "Man, The State, And War: Gendered Perspective on National Security," in Mingst and Snyder: pp. 115-122

**Feb. 24** The International System: Views of Radicals, Constructivism;  
Readings: Essentials, pp. 118-123  
Hans J. Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power," in Mingst and Snyder: pp. 124-128

**Feb. 26** **Mid Term Exam Review**

**Mar. 2** The State and The Individual: International Relations Perspectives  
Readings: Essentials, pp. 124-146

**Mar. 4** **MID TERM EXAM**

**Mar. 9, 11** **SPRING BREAK**

**Mar. 16** The Nation State  
Definitions: Nation, State and Nation-State.  
The Tools of Statecraft  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 149-165

#### Foreign Policy

In this segment of the course, we shall focus on the structures and processes of foreign policy decision making. Foreign policies are defined as "the strategies used by governments to guide their actions in the international arena" which "spell out the objectives state leaders have decided to pursue" and "the general means by which they intend to pursue those objectives."

**Mar. 18** Models of Foreign Policy Decision Making  
The Rational Model: The Realist Approach  
The Liberal Approaches  
Constructivist Alternatives  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 165-173

**Mar. 23** Challenges to the State: Globalization, Transnational Religious and Ideological Movements, etc.  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 173-184

#### **International Cooperation and International Law**

In this segment of the course, we shall focus on the question why states cooperate with one another and contending paradigms on this question. We shall describe the role international law plays in international relations.

**Mar. 25** International Cooperation  
Realism and the Cooperation Problem  
Liberalism and Cooperation  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 233-243

**Mar. 30** International Law

Historical Development  
Readings: Essentials, pp. 246-247

**Apr. 1** Functions and Sources of International Law  
Compliance and Enforcement  
Reading(s); Essentials, pp. 247-257  
Rochester, pp. 59-64

**Apr. 6** **Discussion: Is International Law Really Law, or a Charade?**  
**Class will be divided into two groups. Use lecture notes and Rochester, 1-48**

**Apr. 8** Law of the Sea (A Body of International Law)  
Conferences  
Issues and Management of Resources of the Deep Seabed  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 261-266

Some of the contemporary international relations issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century include (a) Economic issues, (b) Human rights, (c) The Environment, and (d) Global health. In this segment we examine economic issues.

**Apr. 13** **EASTER BREAK**

**Apr. 15** The Evolution of International Political Economy: Ideas and Institutions  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 269-279

**Apr. 20** How the Globalized Economy Works Today  
International Finance  
International Monetary Policy  
International Trade  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 279-285

**Apr. 22** **Discussion: Topic will be given before class**

**Apr. 27, 29** International Development  
Strategies to Achieve Economic Development  
Criticisms  
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 295-306

**May 4 REVIEW**

**May 8** **FINAL EXAMINATION 2:00 – 3:50**

