Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides the student with the background and conceptual tools for understanding international politics. Four sections comprise this investigation: (1) where we are today, (2) international security, (3) globalization and transnational issues, and (4) global issues in the 21st century.

In the first section, we discuss the origins, nature, and theories of international relations (IR). Second, we learn what war is, what causes it, and how it is fought. Third, we study economic dimensions of international relations, globalization, international institutions, NGOs, and norms that shape and constrain the behavior of actors in global politics. Finally, we extend our discussion to contemporary political issues and apply IR theories and concepts to some of the most important global problems we face today, including the events on September 11, the war in Iraq, global economic crisis, China’s rise, and cyber security.

The course is organized into lectures and discussion sessions, although lectures might occasionally spill into the discussion sessions. The discussion days are designed to ensure that the student gain proper understanding of reading materials and lecture content through the exchange of thoughts.

This class fulfills the College and Arts and Sciences Global Citizenship requirement and the social science requirement. For Political Science majors, it counts as an international relations course.

Note that the use of computers, laptops, cellphones, smart-phones, or any other electronic and digital devices is prohibited in this class. Violation of this policy will negatively affect your final grade.

Required Texts


There are supplementary articles and book chapters in addition to textbook use. They are placed on e-reserve at the library.

Course requirements and grading:

Mid-term exam: 30% of final grade

This exam will be given in class on March 6, Monday. The exam will cover lecture content and reading materials assigned through that date. A make-up exam will be given only if you provide the instructor with
evidence of family and medical emergency (notes from doctor, copy of flight tickets, etc.) or university-sponsored activities that force your absence. The same rule applies to the final exam.

Final exam: 50% of final grade
The final exam will be comprehensive. It will be given during the assigned final exam period for our class (Friday, May 12th, 12:00-13:50) in the classroom. Students taking this course for honors credit are required to write a 4,500-6,000 word (rough equivalent to 15-20 pages) research paper in addition to the final exam. Honors students must receive instructor’s approval on the paper topic by February 10, Friday, and start working on the paper immediately afterwards. The Honors papers are due at noon, May 12th.

Class participation: 20% of final grade
Your attendance and active participation are vital to the success of this course. At a minimum, you should come to class on time having completed and thought about the assigned readings for that class. We will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and we will not cover every single point from the readings in class). A record of attendance will be maintained, and it is your individual responsibility to sign the class roster at each session. Your absence will be excused only if you provide the instructor with evidence of family and medical emergency (notes from your doctor, copy of flight tickets, etc.) or university-sponsored activities. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not.

I expect that all students will contribute to class discussions through analysis, questions, and criticisms of the assigned readings. In assigning participation grades, quality of participation will take precedence over quantity of participation (hence, students who participate frequently but without giving much thought to their comments/questions are not at an advantage compared to students who offer occasional but insightful analysis and questions).

Final letter grades will be assigned that correspond to the following numeric scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>93-100</th>
<th>87-89</th>
<th>77-79</th>
<th>60-70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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</table>

Classroom courtesy:
Note that the use of computers, laptops, cellphones, smart-phones, or any other electronic and digital devices is prohibited in this class. Violation of this policy will negatively affect your final grade.

Student success:
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. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor and University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to www.slu.edu/success.
Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 314-977-8885 or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

**Academic integrity:**
The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonesty such as soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of work submitted toward academic credit. While not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, examples include copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed book exam, submitting materials authored by or revised by another person as the student’s own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination or quiz without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, sharing or receiving the questions from an on-line quiz with another student, taking an on-line quiz with the help of another student, and colluding with another student or students to engage in academic dishonesty.

All clear violations of academic integrity will be met with appropriate sanctions. In this course, academic dishonesty on an assignment will result in an automatic grade of 0 for that assignment and a report of academic dishonesty will be sent to the Academic Honesty Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences. In the case of Class B violations, the Academic Honesty Committee may impose a larger sanction including, but not limited to, assigning a failing grade in the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University.

Students should refer to the following SLU website for more information about Class A and B violations and the procedures following a report of academic dishonesty: [http://www.slu.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences-home/undergraduate-education/academic-honesty](http://www.slu.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences-home/undergraduate-education/academic-honesty).

**Course schedule:**

**Section 1: Where We Are Today**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18 (W)</td>
<td>Course Overview</td>
<td>Start reading for the next session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23 (M)</td>
<td>Origins and Theories of International Relations</td>
<td><em>Essentials</em>, pp. 3-18.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**January 25 (W)**  
**History of International Relations 1: The 17th century to World War II**
- *Essentials*, pp. 21-44.

**January 27 (F)**  
**History of International Relations 2: The Cold War**
- *Essentials*, pp. 44-56.

**January 30 (M)**  
**History of International Relations 3: After the Cold War**
- *Essentials*, pp. 56-68 (skip 64-65).

**February 1 (W)**  
**Discussion**

**February 3 (F)**  
Dr Emmanuel Uwalaka lecture
- *Reading assignments forthcoming.*

**February 6 (M)**  
**Levels of Analysis**

**February 8 (W)**  
**Leadership and People’s Power in International Relations**

**February 10 (F)**  
**Power in International Relations**
February 13 (M)  Power, Deterrence, and Coercion
  - *Essentials*, pp. 156-161, 303-305.

February 15 (W)  Discussion

February 17 (F)  Classical Realism
  - *Essentials*, pp. 76-83.

February 20 (M)  Structural Realism

February 22 (W)  Liberalism, Institutionalism, and Democratic Peace

February 24 (F)  Liberalism and Capitalist Peace

February 27 (M)  Constructivism
  - *Essentials*, pp. 92-95.

March 1 (W)  Discussion

March 3 (F)  Midterm exam review

March 6 (M)  Midterm exam
Section 2: International Security

March 8 (W) War and Peace
- Essentials, pp. 249-283.

March 10 (F) The Security Dilemma

March 13-17 Spring break (no class)

March 20 (M) Conflict between Civilizations
- Essentials, pp. 170-175.

March 22 (W) War, Peace, and Nuclear Weapons
- Essentials, pp. 277-291.

March 24 (F) Discussion

Section 3: Globalization and Transnational Issues

March 27 (M) Globalization
- Essentials, pp. 317-332.

March 29 (W) Globalization and Its Discontents

March 31 (F) International Institutions and NGOs
- Essentials, pp. 209-228, 246-258.
April 3 (M)  Human Rights and Norms

- Essentials, pp. 361-393.

April 5 (W)  The Environment


April 7 (F)  Transnational Problems


April 10 (M)  Discussion

Section 4: Global Issues in the 21st Century

April 12 (W)  Assessing Problems and Threats in International Relations


April 14-17  Easter Break (no class)

April 19 (W)  Explaining the September 11


April 21 (F)  Iraq War (2003-2011)

April 24 (M)  Politics in the Cyber Space

April 26 (W)  Discussion

April 28 (F)  Global Financial Crisis

May 1 (M)  China’s Rise and the World’s Response

May 3 (W)  Russia’s Resurgence and International Politics
- *Essentials*, pp. 120-121, 194-195, 298-299.

May 5 (F)  US Foreign Policy in the 21st Century

May 8 (M)  Final exam review

May 12 (F)  Final Exam (12:00-13:50)