

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLS-1600-01 Intro to International Politics
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2017

Dr. Emmanuel Uwalaka
MWF: 10:00-10:50 am
Classroom: McG 270

Office: McG 150
Phone: 977-3035/3039
Hours: MWF: 1:00-2:00 p
Th: 10:00-11:00 or by
appointment

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to the basic concept 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 21st 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, Karen and Arreguin-Toft, Ivan. 2017. Essentials of International Relations. 7th edition New York, W.W. Norton. (Required)

Mingst, Karen and Snyder, Jack. 2017. 6th 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.

IV. 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

Students will be able to analyze the values that inform the behavior of nations in the community of nations, 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. This instructor allows only two unexcused and undocumented class absences. The sanction for a breach of this rule is a reduction in class participation points. 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 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 not allowed.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

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 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/x12657.xml>

Student learning, disability statement :

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.
- 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](tel: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.

University Writing Services

We encourage you 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, call 314-977-3484 or visit the [University of Writing Services website](#)

VI. EVALUATION

A. Methods

Writing assignments, 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 are primarily short answers and essays; some problems may be included. Exams are not

cumulative, that is, only the material since the last exam is included.

B. Grading Scale and Distribution of Percentages

1. Writing Assignments15%
2. Mid-Semester Exam 35%
3. Final Exam 35%
4. Class Participation15%

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. 18 Course Overview

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

Jan. 20 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.
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 21-35

Jan. 23 History of International Relations
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 35-44

Jan. 25 History of International Relations (cont'd)
The Cold War
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 44-60.
Mingst and Snyder, X, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” pp. 35-40 or *Foreign Affairs* (July 1947)

Jan. 27-30 Tools Used by Political Scientists to Investigate Political Phenomena:
Traditionalism, Behavioralism, and Post-Behavioralism
Reading(s): Essentials: pp. 6-15
Argyle, Nolan J., “Methods, “Science,” and Politics: Modes of Analysis in Political Science” (will be sent to students via email)

Feb. 1 & 3 Contending Theories of International Relations
Realism

Liberalism
Constructivism
Others
Reading(s): pp. 71-97
Hans J. Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Politics," in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 55-59

Feb. 6 Discussion (Topic will be given in class in advance)

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. 8 The International System: Views from of 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. 10 The International System: Views of Radicals, Constructivism;
Advantages and Disadvantages of the International System as a Level of Analysis
Readings: Essentials, pp. 118-130
Hans J. Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power," in Mingst and Snyder: pp. 124-128

Feb. 13 Discussion: What kind of international system would you like to live in? Why?

Feb. 15 The Nation State
Definitions: Nation, State and Nation-State. Contending Views of the State
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 133-145

Feb. 17 The Nature of State Power
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 145-162

Feb. 20-22 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."
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 162-169

Feb. 24-27 Challenges to the State: Globalization, Transnational Religious and Ideological Movements, etc.
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 169-177

Mar. 1 Individuals in International Relations: Foreign policy elites

Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 181-197

Mar. 3 & 6 Individuals in International Relations- cont'd
Private Persons and Mass Publics
Readings: Essentials, pp. 197-206

Mar. 8 **Discussion (Topic will be provided in advance)**

Mar. 10 **MID TERM EXAMINATION**

Mar. 13, 15, 17 **SPRING BREAK**

Intergovernmental Organizations and International Law:

In this segment of the course, we shall focus on the creation roles of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), with special emphasis on the United Nations. We shall describe the role international law plays in international relations.

Mar. 20, 22 The creation and roles of IGOs
Reading(s); Essentials, pp. 209-214

Mar. 24, 27 United Nations:
Establishment, Principles, Structure, Successes and Failures
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 214-228

Mar. 29, 31 International Law
Functions and Sources
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 240-244

Apr. 3 International Law: Compliance and Enforcement
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 244-245
Rochester, pp. 59-64

Apr. 5 Contending Perspectives on International Law

Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 254-258
Rochester, Chap. 2

Apr. 7 **Discussion: Is International Law Really Law, or a Charade?**
Reading(s): Rochester, pp. 1-48

Section 3

This segment will examine contemporary international relations issues of the 21st century. These areas will be emphasized: (a) Economic issues, (b) Human rights, (c) The Environment, and (d) Global health. We will pay attention as to how contending theories of IR address these issues.

Apr. 10, 12 Contending theoretical approaches to the international political economy

Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 317-324

Apr. 19, 21 International Economic Institutions
The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 320-324

HUMAN RIGHTS

Apr. 24 Religious, Philosophical and Historical Foundations
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 361-367

Apr. 26 States as Protectors and Abusers of Human Rights

Apr. 28 Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 367-372
The Role of the International Community – IGOs and NGOs
Human Rights: What happened to Sovereignty?
Reading(s): Essentials: pp. 371-377
Rochester, Chap. 5

THE ENVIRONMENT

May 1 Protecting the Global Commons
Reading(s): Essentials, pp. 397-402

May 3, 5 The Human Cost of Climate Change
Reading(s); Essentials, pp. 406-414

May 8 **REVIEW**

May 10 **FINAL EXAM** **12:00-1:50**