



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY
MADRID

MLNG 1100 M01
Contemporary Issues

Course: MLNG 1100 M01 Contemporary Issues
Schedule: M/W/F 11:00-11:50
Professor: Hilary Plass

Office hours: M/W 13:00-14:00
Credits: 3
Email: hplass@slu.edu

Course Description and Purpose:

This course provides a thematic introduction to contemporary global issues with the ultimate objective of developing the awareness, analytical tools, and action toward global citizenship. Special attention will be given to issues of poverty and human rights. Through this course students will identify and analyze contemporary global issues from a variety of perspectives while reflecting on related experiences and materials in class discussions, readings and assigned films. In order to do this, international students will apply academic English skills such as reading university-level texts in English, discussing university-level texts in class, taking notes, writing reflective blogs, writing researched term papers, presenting on course material, collaborating on academic assignments, among others.

Required Texts:

- Course packet and Blackboard.

Objectives and Outcomes: Upon successful completion of MLNG 110 Contemporary Issues, international students will be able to:

- Identify multiple perspectives on international issues including globalization, conflict, peace, poverty, and human rights.
- Develop tools to critically analyze the causes and implications of these global issues and to evaluate claims made about these global issues.
- Identify ways in which students' choices and actions impact these global issues.
- Apply reading, writing, listening, speaking, and presentation skills learned in skills courses to a university level course in English.

Grading scale:

98-100 = A+	77-80 = B-
94-97 = A	73-76 = C+
90-93 = A-	69-72 = C
85-89 = B+	65-68 = C-
81-84 = B	64 and below = F (fail) or INC (incomplete)

Attendance:

Attendance is obligatory. If you have three (3) unexcused absences, the teacher will file an "At Risk" report and you are in danger of failing the class. Your ESL advisor will contact you. Three (3) lates (arriving more than 10 minutes after the class starts) equal one unexcused absence.

Assignments

Assignments must be handed in on time. Late assignments, quizzes and exams will not be accepted unless you have a doctor's note. Emailed late assignments will not be accepted.

Description of Assignments:

- 1. Class Attendance, Participation, Homework and Discussion 30%** - You are expected to be actively engaged in class discussions and will be given participation and discussion marks for selected class periods.
- 2. News Brief Presentation 5%** - One of the objectives of the contemporary issues course is to develop an awareness of global issues, which will transfer beyond the classroom. One way to develop this awareness is by reading the news! Therefore, in pairs you will give a news brief in class, which summarizes, analyzes, and evaluates a newspaper article, provided by the instructor, over a fortnightly topic discussed in class. You will be graded on your presentation, summary, analysis and evaluation of the article. An outline and rubric for your news brief are posted on Blackboard.
News Brief Questions:
 - What is the topic of your news article?
 - What are the main points of the article that we read for class, and are they different from your news article?
 - What does your news article say about the topic? Does your news article agree/disagree with the reading we read for class? Compare the two articles.
 - Which article do you think makes a better argument? Evaluate and give your opinion.

*You do not have to answer each question one-by-one. These questions are just supposed to help you in brainstorming and planning for your presentation.
- 3. Term Papers 25%**- You will write a 3-page midterm paper and a 5-page final paper incorporating information from class discussions, readings, and research. Prompts and rubrics will be posted in Blackboard at least 4 weeks prior to the due date.
- 4. Exams 25%** - There will be a midterm exam and a final exam, which will include multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and essay questions and will cover material from class discussions, films and readings. A study guide for these exams will be posted to Blackboard one week prior to the exam. We will also have review sessions one class prior to the exams.
- 5. Panel Discussion 15%** - In weeks 7 and 15 there will be a group panel discussion in which your group will research and argue for one side of a chosen global issue. A description and rubric are posted on Blackboard.

*Requirements for all assignments will be discussed in class.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

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 Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). 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.

Title IX Syllabus Statement

- 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 deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858 ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy 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 SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858 ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 91-700-1979) To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: http://spain.slu.edu/student_life/docs/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT:

Copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed-book exam, submitting materials authored by or editorially revised by another person but presented 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, tampering with another student's work, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in an act of academic dishonesty are considered to be examples of academic dishonesty.

Where there is clear indication of such dishonesty, a faculty member or administrator has the responsibility to apply appropriate sanctions. Investigations of violations will be conducted in accord with standards and procedures of the school or college through which the course or research is offered. Recommendations of sanctions to be imposed will be made to the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Possible sanctions for a violation of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University.

ASSESSMENT:

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. Thus, copies of your work for this course, including exams, assignments, and submitted papers may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

Writing Center

Any SLU international student may make visit the Writing Center in Padre Rubio Hall, Room 12, where tutors are specialized to work with second-language concerns. In one-on-one consultations and workshops, our writing coaches provide feedback and offer strategies to improve your writing at every stage, from brainstorming for ideas to polishing final drafts.

Use of first language in the classroom:

You are expected to use English only in the classroom.

Reminder: The professor reserves the right to change this syllabus in order to meet the needs of the students in a better way. Any changes will be announced in advance.

MLNG 1100 M01 Weekly Schedule

Spring 2018

NOTE: All assignments are due **Monday** unless otherwise stated.

Week/ Date	Classwork	Assignment
Week 1 Jan 10-12	Introduction to Global Issues What are our class goals?	
Week 2 Jan 15-19	Globalization What is globalization? Does it benefit everyone? <i>Note: Sunday 21st is the last day to DROP a class without a "W" and/or to ADD a class, and the last day to choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) options</i>	
Week 3 Jan 22-26	Millennium Development Goals What are the goals? How were they drawn up? <i>Note: Friday 26th is a university holiday. No classes!</i>	News briefs begin
Week 4 Jan 29-Feb 2	MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger What are the causes of poverty and hunger?	Mid-term paper assigned
Week 5 Feb 5-9	MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education What problems do families face when sending children to school?	
Week 6 Feb 12-16	ROUND TABLE Debate on Education Motion to be announced <i>Note: Wednesday 14th Registration for summer classes opens</i>	17 Mid-term paper due
Week 7 Feb 19-23	Review & Mid-term exam <i>Note: Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd are university holidays. No classes!</i>	Mid-term exam
Week 8 Feb 26-Mar 2	MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women What are women's rights?	
Week 9 Mar 5-9	MDG 3 continued Is violence against women and gender discrimination in decline? <i>Note: Friday 9th: Last day to drop a class with W</i>	Final paper assigned
Week 10 Mar 12-16	MDG 4: Reduce child mortality rate How is child mortality measured? What are the differences between LEDCs and MEDCs?	
Week 11 Mar 19-23	MDG 5: Improve maternal health What measures can be taken to protect pregnant women and mothers?	Research proposal for final paper due
Mar 26-30	EASTER WEEK No classes!	

Week 12 Apr 2-6	MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases Prevention or control? <i>Note: Wednesday 4th: Registration for Fall 2017 opens</i>	
Week 13 Apr 9-13	MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability Top-down legislation or bottom-up projects and education?	1 st draft final paper due
Week 14 Apr 16-20	MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development What are the difficulties in creating global partnerships?	2nd draft final paper due
Week 15 Apr 23-27	ROUND TABLE Debate on achieving the MDGs Motion to be announced Review and evaluation	Final paper due
Week 16 Apr 30-May 4	<i>Note: Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd are holidays. No classes!</i> Thursday 3rd Last day of class	

TOEFL: Monday May 7th 8.30 a.m.
Final Exam MLNG 1100: Tuesday May 8th 9:30-11:30
SLUWE: Wednesday May 9th 9.30 a.m.