



Saint Louis University
Madrid Campus

**POLS 3630-M01
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION
Fall 2017**

Barah Mikail

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Monday and Wednesday: 16:00-17:15

Padre Rubio Hall 6

Office hours

Monday and Wednesday: 11:00-13:00

Friday (by appointment): 14:00-16:00

Mobile phones and laptops are not allowed in the class

**PLEASE READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY
IT HAS INFORMATION FOR THE COURSE AND
ITS EVALUATION**

Course Description:

This course aims at familiarizing students with each of the main theories of international security and conflict resolution; history of political and strategic thought; concepts and evolution of security and strategic studies from both a historical and a contemporary perspective; main causes of war; traditional classification of actors in conflicts; balance of power; mediation and strategies for avoiding conflict; the role of intergovernmental bodies; the role of new technologies and new emerging challenges.

Beside theory, in order for students to make an appropriate use of the theoretical background that they will earn, classes will focus on a series of case studies based on examples of both past and contemporary conflicts. Case studies will include major conflicts (imperial wars, wars of religion, World Wars I and II, Israeli-Arab wars, wars in Asia...) as well as ongoing situations of unrest in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Other wars that involve new technologies and/or potential new threats (Internet, cyberspace, Weapons of Mass Destruction...) will also be considered next to narcotics and cartel wars, asymmetric wars, the impact of climate change and the consequences generated by humanitarian crises (refugees, migrations...).

Aims of the course

1. Be familiarized with theories of International Security and Conflict Resolution
2. Study the history of political and strategic thought
3. Understand international dynamics and the balance of power
4. Apply concepts and theories to practical examples

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the main theories studied during the semester
2. Understand what are the main contemporary challenges in the field of international security
3. Be able to form their personal ideas, opinions and conclusions based on the readings, materials and class discussions
4. Prove a good sense of demonstration and argumentation

Research Methods:

Students should complete the readings before the date of the course. They will be graded on the basis of a mid-term exam, an oral presentation and a final exam. Participation in class will be evaluated.

Recommendations for oral presentations

- **Students are required not to read their presentations.** The idea for you is to understand well the topic you have studied before you share your findings and ideas with your audience. The more you are comfortable with what you say, the better you will be prepared to engage a debate with your audience.

- **Students have to make their presentation structured, dynamic, provocative when needed and challenging.** The idea is not to get your audience to listen to an enumeration of dates and facts. Instead, you are required to make a clear and concise presentation of the topic before presenting the different views that are part of the debate. You are encouraged to express your personal opinions, to suggest solutions and to bring two or three open questions that will open the floor for a debate with your audience.
- **Your presentation will be evaluated based** on the way you lead and expose your presentation and on the degrees of interest and involvement of your audience. You need to show a good knowledge on the topic of the seminar based on relevant bibliography. You need to make an argument and to provoke a dynamic discussion.

The criteria for evaluation will be

Your knowledge

Your ability to put your argument forward

Your ability to explain the argument and the points you wish to make

Your ability to provoke a dynamic and lead the discussion

Grade Scale:

A	93%-100%
A-	90%-92%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	73%-79%
C	67%-72%
C-	60%-66%
D	50%-59%
F	0%-49%

Methods of Evaluation and Grading (% of Final Grade)

20%	Oral presentation
20%	Mid-term exam
20%	Attendance and participation
40%	Final exam

All the classes will involve discussing the readings and current issues. Therefore, student participation is crucial. An active participation is required. Each recorded absence beyond three will result in a letter grade reduction in your participation and attendance grade.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Textbook

Paul D. Williams (Ed.), *Security Studies: An Introduction*,
2nd edition, Routledge, 2012

Additional Reading:

- Acemoglu Daron, Robinson James, **Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty**, Crow Business, 2013
- Asal, Victor, David Quinn, Jonathan Wilkenfeld, and Kathleen Young, **Mediating International Crises**, Routledge Advances in International Relations and Global Politics, Routledge, 2005
- Beckett, Ian F. W., **Modern Insurgencies and Counter-Insurgencies: Guerillas and their Opponents since 1750**, Routledge, 2001
- Gray, Colin, **War, Peace, and International Relations: An Introduction to Strategic History**, Strategy and History, Routledge, 2007
- Hoffman, Bruce, **Inside Terrorism**, Columbia University Press, 2006
- Ignatieff, Michael, **Blood and Belonging: Journeys into the New Nationalism**, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1995
- Keane, John, **Violence and Democracy**, Cambridge University Press, 2004
- Mogenthau, H.J., **Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace**, McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2005
- Morgan, Patrick M., **International Security: Problems and Solutions**, CQ Press, 2006
- Walzer, Michael, **Just and Unjust Wars**, Basic Books, 1977

CLASSES

The first class will be dedicated to the presentation of the course: syllabus, assignments, guidelines for oral presentations, mid-term and final exams, class rules and expectations.

Then, classes will deal with the topics that follow (sequences and content will be agreed on previously during classes).

I- THEORETICAL APPROACHES

- *Security Studies: Definition and relevance*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 1, 1-12

- *Theoretical Approaches (1): Realisms and Liberalisms*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapters 2 and 3, 15-47

- *Theoretical Approaches (2): Constructivisms and Critical Theory*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapters 5 (63-76) and 7 (93-106)

- *Theoretical Approaches (3): Peace Studies and International Political Sociology*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapters 6 (77-92) and 9 (120-133)

- *Theoretical Approaches (4): Game Theory and Feminisms*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapters 4 (48-62) and 8 (107-119)

II- KEY CONCEPTS

- *Key Concepts (1): Uncertainty and Polarity*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapters 10 and 11, 155-169

- *Key Concepts (2): War and Coercion*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapters 13 and 14, 187-220

- *Key Concepts (3): Terrorism*

Readings: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 15, 221-234

- *Key Concepts (4): Intelligence*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 16, 235-249

- *Key Concepts (5): Human Security*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 19, 279-294

- *Key Concepts (6): Ethnic Conflicts, Genocide and Crimes against Humanity*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapters 17 and 18 (250-278)

III- PEACEBUILDING: KEY ACTORS AND TOOLS

- *The United Nations*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 25, 374-392

- *Regional and Intergovernmental Institutions*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 24, 355-373

- *States and Alliances*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 23, 339-354

- *Peace Operations*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 26, 393-408

IV- THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

- *Weapons Proliferation and the International Arms Trade*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapters 27 (409-424) and 29 (441-456)

- *Insurgency and Counterinsurgency*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 31 (471-485)

- *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 30 (457-470)

- *Migrations and Human Catastrophes*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 34 (520-534)

- *Climate Change*

Reading: Report from the Centre for Science and Policy, *Climate Change: A Risk Assessment*, "Risk Assessment Part 3: Systemic Risks", pp. 109-129 of the report, <http://www.interfacecutthefluff.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/climate-change-a-risk-assessment.compressed.pdf>

- *International Balance of Power and its Impact on International Security*

Reading: Collective, Testing Balance-of-Power Theory in World History, *European Journal of International Relations*, 2007, <http://ejt.sagepub.com/content/13/2/155.full.pdf+html>

Mid-term exam: Monday 16th of October 2017

Final exam: Monday 18th of December 2017, 15:30 – 17:30

SEPTEMBER

Friday-Saturday	1-2	Permanent and Transfer students mandatory Academic Welcome Session and departure for Welcome Days from SLU-Madrid (9:00 a.m.)
Saturday	2	Class of 2021 Convocation at SLU-Madrid (12:00 p.m.-noon) Study Abroad arrival and Housing in host family move-in date
Sunday	3	Study abroad students mandatory Welcome Sessions (10:00 a.m.)
Monday	4	Fall 2017 first day of classes
Sunday	17	Last day to drop a class without a grade of W and/or add a class Last day to choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) options
Friday	29	Exams for MATH - First midterm (2:00-4:30 p.m.)

OCTOBER

Thursday	12	<i>Fiesta Nacional de España</i> - Holiday (University closed)
Friday	13	University closed
Monday	16	Last day to submit Transfer Application for spring semester
Thursday	19	Professors' deadline to submit midterm grades
Monday	30	Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W

NOVEMBER

Wednesday	1	<i>Día de Todos los Santos</i> Holiday - (University closed)
Thursday	2	Registration for Spring 2018 semester begins
Thursday	9	<i>La Almudena</i> Holiday - (University closed)
Friday	24	Exams for MATH - Second midterm (2:00-4:30 p.m.)

DECEMBER

Wednesday	6	<i>Día de la Constitución</i> Holiday - (University closed)
Friday	8	<i>Inmaculada Concepción</i> Holiday - (University closed)
Wednesday	13	Fall 2017 final day of classes
Thursday-Friday	14-15	Fall 2017 final exams
Monday-Wednesday	18-20	Fall 2017 final exams
Monday	18	Mid-Year commencement
Thursday	21	Fall 2017 University Housing move-out date
Saturday	23	Professors' deadline to submit fall 2017 final grades

Holidays

Thursday 12 th of October:	<i>Fiesta Nacional de España</i>
Friday 13 th of October:	<i>University Closed</i>
Wednesday 1 st of November:	<i>Día de Todos los Santos</i>
Thursday 9 th of November:	<i>La Almudena</i>
Wednesday 6 th of December:	<i>Día de la Constitución</i>
Friday 8 th of December	<i>Inmaculada Concepción</i>

Accommodation 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 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.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

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 can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%2006-26-15.pdf.

Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

Information regarding the collection of student work for assessment

In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to accreditation requirements, SLU-Madrid regularly assesses its teaching, services and programs for evidence of student learning. For this purpose, SLU-Madrid keeps representative examples of student work from all courses and programs on file, including assignments, papers, exams, portfolios and results from student surveys, focus groups and reflective

exercises. Copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer SLU-Madrid not to retain your work for this purpose, you must communicate this decision in writing to your professor.

Title IX 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; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

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- 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://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

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 at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext.

230 for 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. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

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

Trips

Students enrolled in this class must participate and make payment for all mandatory trips/activities. The prices posted on the web are approximate; and the final price will be based on the number of students enrolled on the last day of the Add/Drop period. All students, including those who withdraw from the class after this date, are required to pay these fees, which are non-refundable, unless the trip is cancelled due to low enrollment. Please review SLU-Madrid's trip policies, available [on-line](#).

FINAL EXAMS

FALL 2017					
	14 Dec (Th)	15 Dec (Fr)	18 Dec (Mn)	19 Dec (Tu)	20 Dec (Wd)
08:30-11:30	Mn classes that meet at 9:00 & 9:30	Mn classes that meet at 10:00	Mn classes that meet at 11:00 & 11:30	Tu classes that meet at 9:30 & 10:00	Tu classes that meet at 8:00
12:00-15:00	Tu classes that meet at 11:00	Mn classes that meet at 13:00	Tu classes that meet at 14:30	Mn classes that meet at 12:00	Tu classes that meet at 12:30
15:30-18:30	Mn classes that meet at 14:30	Tu classes that meet at 17:00 & 17:30	Mn classes that meet at 16:00	Tu classes that meet at 15:30 & 16:00	Mn classes that meet at 17:30
19:00-22:00	---	---	Mn classes that meet at 19:00	Tu classes that meet at 19:00	---