



**Saint Louis University**  
*Madrid Campus*

**POLS 3930  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY  
Fall 2015**

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**Tuesday and Thursday: 09:30 to 10:45  
SIH C**

**Office hours  
Tuesday and Thursday: 11.00-13.00  
Wednesday 13:30-15:30 (by appointment)**

**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...).

### **Objectives:**

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
5. Understand what are the main contemporary challenges to international security
6. Form your personal ideas, opinions and conclusions based on the readings, materials and class discussions

### **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*,  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### ***Tuesday 1st September***

Presentation of the course: syllabus, assignments, guidelines for oral presentations, mid-term and final exams, class rules and expectations

### ***Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September***

*Security Studies: Definition and relevance*

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

## I- THEORETICAL APPROACHES

### ***Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September***

*Theoretical Approaches (1): Realisms and Liberalisms*

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

### ***Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September***

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

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

### ***Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September***

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

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

### ***Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September***

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

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

## II- KEY CONCEPTS

### ***Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September***

*Key Concepts (1): Uncertainty and Polarity*

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

### ***Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September***

*Key Concepts (2): War and Coercion*

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

### ***Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September***

*Key Concepts (3): Terrorism*

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

### ***Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October***

*Key Concepts (4): Intelligence*

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

### ***Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October***

*Key Concepts (5): Human Security*

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

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

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

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

<p><b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b> <b>Mid-Term Exam</b></p>
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<p><b>III- PEACEBUILDING: KEY ACTORS AND TOOLS</b></p>
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**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

*The United Nations*

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

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

*Regional and Intergovernmental Institutions*

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

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

*States and Alliances*

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

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

*Peace Operations*

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

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

*Private Bodies and Institutions*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 28, 425-438

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

*Wilsonian Collective Security*

Reading: Patrick M. Morgan, Chapter 7, 133-152

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

*No classes – Teacher travelling*

Students are required to write a short paper (1-2 pages maximum, Word document) that answers the following question:

*What are the main pillars for guaranteeing international security? List the 3-5 relevant actors and/or institutions and briefly mention their respective roles.*

(Papers must be sent to my email address [mikailb@slu.edu](mailto:mikailb@slu.edu) no later than Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 18:00. They will be part of your semester evaluation).

## IV- THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

***Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November***

*Weapons Proliferation and the International Arms Trade*

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

***Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November***

*Insurgency and Counterinsurgency*

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

***Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November***

*Transnational Organized Crime*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 33 (503-519)

***Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November***

*Terrorism and Counterterrorism*

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

***Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November***

*Migrations and Human Catastrophes*

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

***Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November***

*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>

***Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December***

*Energy Security*

Reading: Paul D. Williams, Chapter 35 (535-552)

## V- TRENDS OF THE FUTURE

***Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December***

*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>

***Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December – NO CLASSES***

***Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December***

*General conclusions – Review of key points – Preparation for the final exam*

**FINAL EXAM**  
**TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
**09:30 – 11:30**

**Important Dates**

- Tuesday, September 1 – First Day of Classes
- Friday, September 4 – MONDAY CLASSES MEET!!!!
- Monday, September 14 – Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and /or Add a Class  
– Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Options
- Thursday, October 29 – Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W

**Holidays**

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- Monday, October 12: *Nacional de España* (University Closed)
- Monday, November 9: *La Almudena* Holiday (University Closed)
- Tuesday, December 8: *Inmaculada Concepción* Holiday (University Closed)
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## **Accommodation Statement**

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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](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](mailto: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 Honesty and Plagiarism**

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The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity, such as would be expected at a Jesuit, Catholic institution. As members of this community, students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility to maintain this environment. Academic dishonesty violates it. Although not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, it can be said in general that soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of any work submitted toward academic credit is dishonest. It not only violates the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University's evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students. Further, it is the responsibility of any student who observes such dishonest conduct to call it to the attention of a faculty member or administrator.

Examples of academic dishonesty would be 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.

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. The complete SLU Academic Honesty Policy can be found at the following link: [http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic\\_advising/docs/Academic\\_integrity.pdf](http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf)

## **Information regarding the collection of student work for assessment**

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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 any exams, oral presentations, assignments, submitted papers and/or portfolios 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.

## Academic Calendar

AUGUST		
Friday	28	Permanent and Transfer students Arrival to Madrid and departure for their Welcome Weekend at 5 pm from SLU-Madrid
Sunday	30	Study Abroad students' Arrival and University Housing Move-In Date
Monday	31	Study Abroad students' Welcome Session and Class of 2019 Convocation
SEPTEMBER		
Tuesday	1	Fall 2015 First Day of Classes
Friday	4	Monday Classes Meet Application Deadline for Fall Semester Degree Candidates
Monday	14	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
OCTOBER		
Friday	2	Exams for MATH
Monday	12	<i>Nacional de España</i> Holiday (University Closed)
Thursday	15	Last Day to Submit Transfer Application for Spring Semester
Monday	19	Professors' Deadline to Submit Midterm Grades
Thursday	29	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W

<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
Wednesday	4	Registration for Spring 2016 Semester begins
Monday	9	<i>La Almudena</i> Holiday (University Closed)
Friday	20	Exams for MATH
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
Tuesday	8	<i>Inmaculada Concepción</i> Holiday (University Closed)
Friday	11	Fall 2015 Final Day of Classes
Monday-Friday	14-18	Fall 2015 Final Exams
Thursday	17	Mid-Year Commencement
Sunday	20	Professors' Deadline to Submit Fall 2015 Final Grades Fall 2015 University Housing Move-Out Date

### FINAL EXAMS

	<b>14 Dec (Mn)</b>	<b>15 Dec (Tu)</b>	<b>16 Dec (Wd)</b>	<b>17 Dec (Th)</b>	<b>18 Dec (Fr)</b>
<b>08:30 - 11:30</b>	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	Mn classes that meet at 9:00 & 9:30	Mn classes that meet at 10:00
<b>12:00 - 15:00</b>	Tu classes that meet at 14:30	Mn classes that meet at 12:00	Tu classes that meet at 12:30	Tu classes that meet at 11:00	Mn classes that meet at 13:00
<b>15:30 - 18:30</b>	Mn classes that meet at 16:00	Tu classes that meet at 15:30 & 16:00	Mn classes that meet at 17:30	Mn classes that meet at 14:30	Tu classes that meet at 17:00 & 17:30
<b>19:00 - 22:00</b>	---	---	Mn classes that meet at 19:00	Tu classes that meet at 19:00	---