



# Saint Louis University

*Madrid Campus*

**POLS 4930**  
**STATE RESILIENCE AND STATE FRAGILITY**  
**Fall 2015**

**Barah Mikail**  
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**Monday and Wednesday: 17:30 to 18:45**  
**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:**

The world is still ruled by principles that come in part from the “treaties of Westphalia” (1648) but today, the situation that is going on in some countries and regions suggests that we may have inaugurated the “post-Westphalian” era. Nation-states remain pillars of the contemporary international system but many signs of State fragility have appeared too over the last decades. In Asia, in Latin America, in Africa, in the Middle East as well as in Europe, several examples show that the State sovereignty is challenged by the actions of local communities, parastatal bodies as well as terrorist and criminal groups.

This course will explore the main contemporary risks that have to be identified. After being briefly reminded of some theoretical principles of the international system, students will explore a series of concrete case studies where challenges to sovereignty and risks of country fragmentation have already happened or could prevail in the future.

This course requires from students a serious following of the international news and of publications dealing with international affairs. Though not mandatory, students are also advised to take the course on international security in complement.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Understand why the concepts of Nation, State and Stability matter
2. Be aware of the constant cyclical mutations of the international order
3. Deepen your understanding of how institutions and societies work and interact with each other
4. Be aware of the shifts and changes that are ongoing in many regions and/or countries of the world
5. Be able to analyze State-related dynamics by differentiating general trends from specific singularities
6. Form your own 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.**

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Textbook

Dan Caldwell, Robert E. Williams Jr., **Seeking Security in an Insecure World**, 2nd Edition, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2011

### Additional Reading:

- Acemoglu Daron, Robinson James, **Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty**, Crow Business, 2013
- Alexandre, Marc et al., **Societal Dynamics and Fragility: Engaging Societies in Responding to Fragile Situations**, World Bank Publications, 2012
- Davies, Norman, **Vanished Kingdoms: The Rise and Fall of States and Nations**, Penguin Books, 2012
- Diener Alexander, Hagen Joshua (Eds.), **Borderlines and Borderlands: Political Oddities at the Edge of the Nation-State**, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010
- Garthoff, Raymond L., **Détente and Confrontation: American-Soviet Relations from Nixon to Reagan**, The Brookings Institution, 1985
- Hobsbawm, Eric J., **The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991**, Vintage Books USA, 1996
- Moisi, Dominique, **The Geopolitics of Emotion**, Anchor Books, 2010
- Opello Walter C., Rosow Stephen J., **The Nation-State and Global Order: A Historical Introduction to Contemporary Politics**, Lynne Rienner Publications, 2004
- Patrick, Stewart, **Weak Links: Fragile States, Global Threats, and International Security**, Oxford University Press, 2011
- Rotberg, Robert I., **When States Fail: Causes and Consequences**, Princeton University Press, 2003

## CLASSES

### ***Wednesday 2nd September***

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

### ***Monday 7th September***

*Why stability matters?*

Reading: Dan Caldwell, Robert E. Williams Jr., Chapter 1, 1-24

## I- THE FOUNDATIONS

### ***Wednesday 9th September***

*Concepts of Geopolitics*

Reading: Kinga Smolen, *Evolution of Geopolitical Schools of Thought*, 2012,  
<http://www.pan-ol.lublin.pl/wydawnictwa/TPol7/Smolen.pdf>

### ***Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September***

*The Imperial Moments*

Reading: Sir John Glubb, *The Fate of Empires and Search for Survival*, 1976,  
[http://www.newworldeconomics.com/archives/2014/092814\\_files/TheFateofEmpiresbySirJohnGlubb.pdf](http://www.newworldeconomics.com/archives/2014/092814_files/TheFateofEmpiresbySirJohnGlubb.pdf)

### ***Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September***

*The Thirty Years' War and the Peace of Westphalia*

Reading: Ove Bring, *The Westphalian Peace tradition in International Law: From Jus ad Bellum to Jus Contra Bellum*, International Law Studies, Vol. 75, 2000.

Additionally, read the text of the Treaty of Westphalia (1648) at:  
<http://pages.uoregon.edu/dluebke/301ModernEurope/Treaty%20of%20Westphalia%20%5BExcerpts%5D.pdf>

### ***Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September***

*The Era of Independence*

Reading: Eric J. Hobsbawm, Chapter 7, 199-223

### ***Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September***

*The Cold War and the Post-Cold War Era*

Reading: Raymond L. Garthoff, Chapter 1, 1-23

## II- STATES AND POPULATIONS: A TYPOLOGY

### ***Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September***

*Failed States and collapsed States*

Reading: Robert I. Rotberg, *Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators*, Brookings, 2002,

[http://www.brookings.edu/press/books/chapter\\_1/statefailureandstateweaknessinatimeofterror.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/press/books/chapter_1/statefailureandstateweaknessinatimeofterror.pdf)

### ***Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September***

*Weak States and Strong States*

Reading: Marina Ottaway, *Rebuilding State Institutions in Collapsed States*, Development and Change 33, 2002,

[http://archives.cerium.ca/IMG/pdf/Ottaway\\_Rebuilding\\_Collapsed\\_States.pdf](http://archives.cerium.ca/IMG/pdf/Ottaway_Rebuilding_Collapsed_States.pdf)

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

*Civil Society and Civil Society Movements (CSMs)*

Reading: Patrick Heller, *Challenges and Opportunities: Civil Society in a Globalizing World*, United Nations Development Programme/Human Development Report Office, 2013, pp. 1-16, [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdro\\_1306\\_heller.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdro_1306_heller.pdf)

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

*The “New Technologies”*

Reading: National Intelligence Council, *Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds*, December 2012, pp. 83-97,

<https://globaltrends2030.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/global-trends-2030-november2012.pdf>

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

*No classes*

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October  
Mid-Term Exam**

**III- CONTEMPORARY THREATS: A GEOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW  
OF INTRASTATE AND INTERSTATE CONFLICTS**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

*Dynamics and Conflicts in East and South East Asia*

Reading: The Asia Foundation, *The Contested Corners of Asia: Subnational Conflict and International Development Assistance*, 2013, Chapters 2 (pp. 11-35) and 8 (pp. 135-149), <http://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/ContestedCornersOfAsia.pdf>

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

*Central Asia: Natural Resources and beyond*

Reading: International Crisis Group, *Central Asia: Decay and Decline*, Asia Report N. 201, February 2011,

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/asia/central-asia/201%20Central%20Asia%20-%20Decay%20and%20Decline.pdf>

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

*South Asia: The Clash of Nationalisms*

Reading: Robert D. Kaplan, *South Asia's Geography of Conflict*, Center for A New American Security, August 2010,

[http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/South%20Asias%20Geography%20of%20Conflict\\_Robert%20D.%20Kaplan\\_0.pdf](http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/South%20Asias%20Geography%20of%20Conflict_Robert%20D.%20Kaplan_0.pdf)

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

*East Africa and the Dynamics of State Fragmentation*

Reading: USAID, *East Africa Regional Conflict and Instability Assessment: Final Report*, March 2012, Parts 1(pp.1-9) and 3 (pp. 16-25),  
<http://conflict.care2share.wikispaces.net/file/view/USAID+East+Africa+Conflict+Assesment+March2012.pdf>

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

*The Sahel-Saharan Nexus*

Reading: International Crisis Group, *The Central Sahel: A Perfect Sandstorm*, Africa Report N. 227, June 2015, <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/africa/west-africa/227-the-central-sahel-a-perfect-sandstorm.pdf>

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

*North Africa: Building on the Security Complex*

Reading: Clingaendel/Netherlands Institute of International Relations, *The Crisis in North Africa: Implications for Europe and Options for Policymakers*, June 2015, Introduction and Part 1 (pp.10-33),  
<http://www.clingendael.nl/sites/default/files/The%20crisis%20in%20North%20Africa%20report%202015.pdf>

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

*No classes*

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

*The Coming Middle East*

Reading: Aaron Reese, *Sectarian and Regional Conflict in the Middle East*, Institute for the Study of War, Middle East Security Report 13, July 2013,  
[http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/SectarianandRegionalConflictintheMiddleEast\\_3JUL.pdf](http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/SectarianandRegionalConflictintheMiddleEast_3JUL.pdf)

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

*Latin American Shifts and Perspectives*

Reading: UNDP/PAPEP, *Understanding Social Conflict in Latin America*, 2013, pp. 16-52,  
<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/Understanding%20Social%20Conflict%20in%20Latin%20America%202013%20ENG.pdf>

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

*Lessons from the Balkans*

Reading: R. Craig Nation, *War in the Balkans*, Strategic Studies Institute, Online Publication, Chapter 1, pp. 1-33,  
<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB123.pdf>

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| <b>IV- DEFINING THE COMING WORLD</b> |
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**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

*Arms Race and its Implications*

Reading: Dan Caldwell, Robert E. Williams Jr., Chapter 2, 25-46

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

*Human Migrations: Causes and Consequences*

Reading: Dan Caldwell, Robert E. Williams Jr., Chapter 11, 195-212

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

*Political Legitimacy and Popular Claims*

Reading: Dominique Moïsi, Chapter 5, 123-136

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

*Criminal Transnational Networks: A State in the State?*

Reading: John P. Sullivan, *How Illicit Networks Impact Sovereignty*, in Michael Miklaucik, Jacqueline Brewer, *Convergence: Illicit networks and National Security in the Age of Globalization*, NDU Press, Chapter 10, pp. 171-188,

<http://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/Books/convergence.pdf>

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

*Defining the Coming World*

Reading: Dan Caldwell, Robert E. Williams Jr., Chapter 14, 247-261

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**FINAL EXAM**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**15,30-18,30hs**

**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<br>– 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   |
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## Holidays

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|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Monday, October 12:  | <i>Nacional de España</i> (University Closed)            |
| Monday, November 9:  | <i>La Almudena</i> Holiday (University Closed)           |
| Tuesday, December 8: | <i>Inmaculada Concepción</i> Holiday (University Closed) |

## 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**

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**

| <b>AUGUST</b>    |    |  |
|------------------|----|--|
| 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   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> |    |  |
| Tuesday          | 1  | Fall 2015 First Day of Classes   |
| Friday           | 4  | Monday Classes Meet<br>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<br>Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   |    |  |
| 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<br>Fall 2015 University Housing Move-Out Date |

### FINAL EXAMS

|               | 14 Dec (Mn)                           | 15 Dec (Tu)                           | 16 Dec (Wd)                   | 17 Dec (Th)                         | 18 Dec (Fr)                           |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 08:30 - 11:30 | 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         |
| 12:00 - 15:00 | 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         |
| 15:30 - 18:30 | 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 |
| 19:00 - 22:00 | ---                                   | ---                                   | Mn classes that meet at 19:00 | Tu classes that meet at 19:00       | ---                                   |

