

Saint Louis University Madrid Campus
UNIV-1020-M02: THE FIRST-YEAR MADRID SEMINAR
1 Credit
Fall 2017

Instructors: Marta Maruri

Class Meeting Times: Thursdays 11 am -12.15 pm

Classroom: Padre Rubio Hall 5

Office: San Ignacio Hall, 3rd Floor

Office hours: by appointment

E-mail: marta.maruri@slu.edu

Phone: 91.554.5858, ext. 241

Course Description: UNIV 1020 offers a forum for dialogue on the transition to university life within the particular cultural setting of an American campus in Madrid. The course provides time and space for discussion and reflection on a range of topics related to the university experience, leading to useful suggestions and mechanisms to respond to the challenges of adapting to a culturally diverse environment and adjusting academically and socially to the university setting.

Course Goals and Objectives Related to the Five Dimensions of the SLU Experience: Reflective of its mission, Saint Louis University strives to engage its students in five interrelated dimensions contributing to the development of the whole person:

- 1) scholarship and knowledge,
- 2) intellectual inquiry and communication,
- 3) community building,
- 4) leadership and service,
- 5) spirituality and values.

As the outline of topics covered in the Madrid Seminar suggest, this course gives students the opportunity to engage in discussions about and reflect on all five of these dimensions as well as how they relate to their own experiences as first-term university students, and is thus an aid to the successful transition of students to college.

At the completion of the course, students will be able to...

- articulate and reflect on their own values and purpose, especially as they relate to decision-making in college and beyond.
- discuss prevalent college issues including substance abuse and sexual assault.
- identify key campus resources.
- implement effective study skills.
- determine the balance between academic course-load requirements, work and leisure time.
- establish positive relationships with others in class.
- identify options and feel encouraged to get involved on the Saint Louis University campus.
- participate with sensitivity in a diverse society.
- identify key aspects of the Jesuit mission and articulate how they relate to their lives.
- recognize the effects of personal life experience on achievement.

Required Text: Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

Attendance Policy: As each student plays an important role in the course, attendance is key to classroom learning and student success. After two or more absences, excused or unexcused, you will be asked to

withdraw from the course, and the grade of “W” will appear on your permanent transcript. If you do not withdraw, the grade of F will be assigned. If you miss a class, please refer to the policies below:

Missed Classes/Late Work: Please e-mail me, explain why you are going to be absent/were absent. Note from doctor, official appointments are a must if you miss classes for those reasons.

1. It is your responsibility to obtain any assignments you may have missed.
2. If you are absent, please submit your assignments to me on Blackboard as soon as you are able (before next class).

Student Expectations:

1. Be on time. Class will start promptly at the assigned time.
2. Make good use of class time. Much of the learning in this course will take place in the classroom.
3. Participate in the discussions – you will get out of course what you put into it. You are expected to think critically, listen and share your ideas with the class.
4. Be prepared for class – complete the readings or assignments we will be discussing prior to class.
5. Submit homework **on time and via email**.
6. If you have any questions, please ask. I will be happy to talk to you after class or by appointment.

Instructor Commitment: Learning is a partnership between the instructor and the students. As the instructor, I commit to:

1. Follow the objectives of the course
2. Make effective use of our class time
3. Be available for help throughout your first semester at SLU Madrid

Learning Activities, Journals and Assignments:

You will submit all work **on time and via email**. Your reflections are designed to provide connections across topics and experiences, and between you and me, your instructor.

Out-of-Class Reflection Papers: Similar to the in-class reflections, these are one-two page writings which ask you to consider in more detail your personal strengths and goals in regard to the class topics.

Self-Assessment Exercises: Throughout the course, you will be given a variety of opportunities to assess yourself with respect to your learning style, time management abilities, interests, values and plans. These assessments are designed to give you insight into who you are, where you’re going, and how you will get there. They will help you think about yourself, your academic program and your career goals. You should keep these exercises and review them throughout your studies. They are designed to help you study and learn more effectively.

Speech: You will be asked to give a two-minute persuasive speech on decision making at college. The goal of this exercise is to permit you to communicate convincingly, with clarity and precision, your stand on a difficult issue facing college students.

Final Reflection Paper: You will complete a final reflection paper of 3-4 pages, reflecting on your college transition and what you have learned about yourself as a student, and as a person, at the end of the course.

Grading Policy: Your final grade will be based on the following:

- Class attendance and participation: 20% (2 points/session; 1 freebee)
- Learning activities and assignments: 50% (see specifics on Blackboard)
- Speech: 10%
- Final reflection paper: 20%

Withdrawal Policy: Per the Registrar’s Office the last day to drop the course without a “W” is Wednesday, September 14; last day to withdraw with a “W,” Friday, October 28.

University Academic Integrity Statement: *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%206-26-15.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.

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 (marta.maruri@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>.

Academic Accommodations and Learning Resources:

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://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.

Class Schedule: Class meets on the dates (in **bold**) listed below.

Thursday, September 7 - Welcome to SLU - Course Introduction and Jesuit Education & Core Values

Thursday, September 14 – Introduction to Information Literacy. **Class meets in SIH Computer Lab.**

Sunday, September 17: Last Day to Drop/Add a Class without a Grade of W and to choose Audit or Pass/No Pass Options.

Thursday, September 21 – Academic Success and Academic matters for University Students by the **Academic Advising Office**

Thursday, September 28 - Learning Styles and Study Skills/ Decision Making in College

Thursday, October 5 - Managing your Time and Money / Decision Making in College

Thursday, October 12 & 13: Holiday. University Closed.

Thursday, October 19 - Speeches on Decision Making

Thursday, October 19: Deadline for Professors to Submit Midterm Grades

Thursday, October 26 - Stress Management / Managing Priorities.

Monday, October 30, Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W

Wednesday, November 1: Holiday. University Closed.

Thursday, November 2 - Volunteering / Student Government

Thursday, November 2: Registration for Spring 2017 Semester Begins

Thursday, November 9 – Holiday. University closed

Wednesday, November 9: Holiday. University closed.

Thursday, November 16 - Career Preparation / Values as They Relate to Your Career
Class meets in PRH Room 16

Thursday, November 23 – Diversity and Communication / Class Evaluation

Tuesday, November 30: Holiday. University closed.

December 6 & 8: Holiday. University closed.

Wednesday, December 13: Last Day of Classes

Thursday - Wednesday, December 14-20: Final Exams