

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences/Political Science Department**  
**POLS 157, International Security, Fall 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Karthika Sasikumar
Office Location:	NA
Telephone:	Please use email
Email:	karthika.sasikumar@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 4.30-5.30 PM, Thursdays 9-10 AM, on Zoom (OR by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	MW 9-10.15 AM (synchronous or live classes 13 times per semester only)
Classroom:	<a href="https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1370090">https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1370090</a>

**Course Description**

Examines theories of international security, debates over sources, conduct and termination of conflict, including but not limited to inter-state war; security decision-making; military and economic strategy; crisis management; regional security; intelligence; new and complex security issues along the war-peace continuum.

**Course Format**

**Online Courses**

This is an online course. Content will be delivered asynchronously through documents/videos that are uploaded to the Canvas site for the course. There will be around 13 synchronous (live) classes during the semester (see syllabus for dates). These are optional, attendance will not be taken. However, participating in these classes is one option for students to earn participation points. Synchronous classes will be held on Zoom and will not be recorded. My plan is to use these classes so that you can get to know me/your classmates, and to ask questions and clarify your doubts. I will not introduce any new material in these classes.

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan [program](#) available for students. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative.

## Content and communication

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the page for this course on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Please make sure that you are able to receive emails and notifications through Canvas (you can check that the system has the correct email for you by clicking on Account, and then Settings in Canvas).

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1. Define and summarize the main concepts used by scholars and practitioners in discussing international security issues.

CLO 2. Describe and evaluate the functioning of the major tools employed by the practitioners of international security, such as international organizations, international law, diplomacy, economic and military policy, and strategic analysis.

CLO 3. Apply concepts and techniques to specific and topical areas, such as cyber-security, Weapons of Mass Destruction, civil wars, and international security organization.

CLO 4. Formulate and defend a position in oral and written argumentation, demonstrating rhetorical awareness for professional audiences

## Required Texts/Readings

There is no textbook for this class. All materials that you need will be provided (with the exception of two films, that you can rent for less than \$3 each). I will be using Modules in Canvas to link to the readings (most of them through SJSU Library). If you are unable to access them, it is your responsibility to inform me at the earliest. Full citations for the articles and videos are provided in a separate document on Canvas. Do not search for material using Files in Canvas.

## Library Liaison

Please contact Paul Kauppila at [paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu](mailto:paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu). Due to COVID restrictions, some library services may not be available so please check with the library/liaison about the services you need.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

CLO	Assignment	Points	Due date
1	Midterm (oral)	10	10 minute slot on Oct 12 or 13
3	Simulation participation	4	Oct 14—Dec 2
3/4	Simulation oral presentation	4.5	Nov 30 & Dec 2
3/4	Simulation memos	10	Oct 19, Oct 26, Nov 2, Nov 9, Nov 18
3/4	Creative or Media report	5	September 28
4	Memo for Congressperson	7	Nov 16
4	Response to memo for Congressperson	2.5	Nov 30

3/4	Online discussions	12	Sep 2-3, Sep 14-16, Oct 5-6, Dec 7-8
1/2	Reading quizzes	24	12 quizzes, see syllabus for dates
4	Participation	5	Various
1/2	Final exam	16	December 14-15

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### Final Examination or Evaluation

This course is based on the principle of constant evaluation, which means that there will be an assignment every other day. Please check the syllabus and Canvas. In case of a conflict, the information on Canvas is correct.

The midterm will be an oral exam. Students will get two questions from a list that will be available ahead of time. They will answer the question without any external aids, in a Zoom meeting with the instructor. The final exam will consist of two take home essays and multiple choice questions in a Canvas quiz. The first assignment is a report where you connect the course concepts to either current events (as reported in the media) or a fictional event (movie or novel). Reading quizzes, related to the reading for the day, will be available on Canvas. Each quiz will have multiple choice and short answer questions. You should take the quiz AFTER doing the reading. Answers may be discussed during synchronous classes. Online discussions will require you to read and respond to a post by the instructor, as well as your classmates' posts. You will have a 72-hour period to do these assignments.

After the midterm there will be a simulation that is six weeks long. The students will be assigned in groups to various countries and organizations and respond to an imaginary international crisis. At the end of the semester they will present their lessons learned in a group presentation. During the simulation students will write memos to their chief executives. The final assignment is to write a memo as a policy adviser to your Congressperson. Then, pretending to be the Congressperson you will respond to the memo.

### Grading Information

Grade	Points
A plus	Over 100
A	95 to 100
A minus	90 to 94
B plus	85 to 89
B	80 to 84
B minus	75 to 79
C plus	70 to 74
C	65 to 69
C minus	60 to 64
D plus	55 to 59
F	Less than 55

Please note: the course is based on 100 points. Percentages do not count. The grades are not curved. All grades, including extra credit points, will be available on Canvas. Each assignment, including class participation, will have a specific rubric indicating the criteria that will be used in grading. Please make sure to review the rubric before submitting your assignment. As per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, I cannot discuss your grades via email. You must make an appointment to discuss grades.

Late submissions will be accepted with lateness penalties. You will lose 5 percent of the total points per six hours of lateness. For example, an assignment is worth 10 points, and is due at 11.59 PM on October 1. You submit at 8 AM on October 2. Your score is 8 out of 10 points, however, I will deduct 0.5 points for late submission, and your net score will be 7.5 points. If you have an emergency, please email me to request an extension (and avoid lateness penalties), and be prepared to provide documentation of said emergency.

## **Classroom Protocol**

Please note that since this is a class about politics, there will (hopefully) be heated discussions. During these discussions, I may pose questions or make arguments that reflect various opinions. These questions or arguments need not be based on my personal convictions. My goal is to keep my own opinions out of the picture and create a positive learning experience for all. If you are concerned about the tone or content of class discussion, please contact me.

University policy ([S12-7](#)) requires consent from all individuals who will appear in a class recording. I will not be recording any of the synchronous classes and expect that you will not do so either.

### **Zoom Classroom Etiquette**

- Mute your microphone: To help keep background noise to a minimum, remember to mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- Be mindful of background distractions: Find a quiet place to “attend” class, to the greatest extent possible. Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc. Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
- Position the camera correctly: Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
- Avoid multitasking: You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).
- Use appropriate names and backgrounds: You need not have your camera on during my synchronous classes. However, you must sign in with your name as listed on Canvas. If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional.

## **University Policies**

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## POLS 157 / International Security, Fall 2020 Course Schedule

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice given through Canvas announcements.*

### Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Required Readings	Recommended Readings	Assignment	Sync class?
Aug 19 (W)	Intro	NONE!			1
Aug 24 (M)	Security dilemma	<a href="#">Jervis</a> Read 329-39	<a href="#">Posen</a>	Q1	no
Aug 26 (W)	Security dilemma case study	<a href="#">Fravel</a>		1. Intro videos 2. Syllabus annotation	2
Aug 31 (M)	Cooperation under anarchy	<a href="#">Axelrod and Keohane</a>	<a href="#">Glaser</a>	Q2	no
Sep 2 (W)	Cooperation under anarchy	<a href="#">Nye and Ury</a> pages 150-58	<a href="#">Oye</a>	Online Discussion 1	3
Sep 7 (M)	No class	Labor Day			
Sep 9 (W)	Cooperation under anarchy case study	Watch <a href="#">Thirteen Days</a>	<a href="#">Blog, podcasts, or short films about the Cuban Missile Crisis</a>	Prepping for Congressperson's memo	no
Sep 14 (M)	Hegemony	<a href="#">Stokes</a>	<a href="#">Fettweis</a>	Online Discussion 2	4
Sep 16 (W)	Hegemony case study	<a href="#">Talmadge and Rovner</a> Pages 548-59, 564-65, 572-75	<a href="#">Mearsheimer</a>	Q3	no
Sep 21 (M)	Security communities	Cronin		Q4	5
Sep 23 (W)	Security communities case study	<a href="#">Gheciu</a>	<a href="#">Darkwa</a>	Q5	no
Sep 28 (M)	Economic interdependence case study	Meierding Chapter 3	<a href="#">Drezner</a>	Creative or Media Report	6

Sep 30 (W)	Economic interdependence	Crawford, pages 115-25	Kaldor, pages 263-67, 270-78	Q6	no
Oct 5 (M)	Nuclear revolution	Perry and Collina, pages 28-46	Sagan	Online Discussion 3	no
Oct 7 (W)	Nuclear revolution case study	Waltz & Sagan 135-74	Zubok & Harrison	Q7	7
Oct 12-13				Midterm (oral). You will need to find a 10-minute slot to videoconference with me.	
Oct 14 (W)	Terrorism	Wilkinson pages 47-59	Barber		no
Oct 19 (M)	Terrorism	Fair 226-43	<a href="#">Ahmad</a>	Simulation memo 1 (predictions)	8
Oct 21 (W)	Human security	<a href="#">Oels</a>		Q8	no
Oct 26 (M)	Human security case study	1. King 2. <a href="#">Ventura</a>	<a href="#">Vietti &amp; Scribner</a>	Simulation memo 2 (action)	no
Oct 28 (W)	Intervention (humanitarian)	1. Donnelly & Chesterman 2. Fortna	<a href="#">Welsh</a>	Q9	no
Nov 2 (M)	Great Power intervention	<a href="#">Favretto</a>	<a href="#">Dobbins</a>	Simulation memo 3 (responding to new info)	9
Nov 4 (W)	Intervention case study	1. Annan, 29-59 2. Power, 491-516	<a href="#">Barnett</a> , read 551-75	Q10	no
Nov 9 (M)	Cyber threats	Singer and Brooking	<a href="#">Rid</a>	Q11 Simulation memo 4 (intervention?)	no
Nov 11 (W)	No class	Veterans' Day			
Nov 16 (M)	Cyber threats case study	Segal	<a href="#">Becker</a>	Congressperson's Memo	10
Nov 18 (W)	TBA—dealing with the election and international security			Lessons learned memo (simulation memo 5)	no

Nov 23 (M)	TBA—dealing with the election and international security			Q12	11
Nov 25 (W)	No class	Thanksgiving			
Nov 30 (M)		Presentations by students		Response to Congressperson's Memo	12
Dec 2 (W)		Presentations by students			13
Dec 7 (M)	Review for final exam			Online Discussion 4	14
Dec 14-15	FINAL EXAM		Canvas	48 hour period	