

San José State University
Political Science Department
POLS 157, International Security, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Karthika Sasikumar

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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 9.30-10.30 AM, Wed 2-3 PM in person; Thu 10-11 AM on Zoom (email for link)

Class Days/Time: Mon/Wed 10.45 AM-12 PM

Classroom: Hugh Gillis Hall 116

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

This course meets in person twice a week. Canvas will be used for content and communication. Students will need to have access to a laptop or desktop computer to effectively complete this course. SJSU has a free equipment loan [program](#) available for students. 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 a few 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 materials, 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.

Course Requirements and Assignments

CLO	Assignment	Points	Due date
1/2	Reading quizzes (complete on Canvas before class)	28	14 quizzes, see syllabus for dates
3/4	Pop Culture report (group work)	6	Oct 4
1/2	Midterm	15	Oct 18
3	Simulation participation	4	Oct 20—Nov 15
3/4	Simulation memos	12	Oct 27, Nov 1, Nov 8, Nov 15
3	Media report	6	Nov 22
3/4	Simulation oral presentation	4	Nov 29 & Dec 1
4	Memo for Congressperson	10	Dec 6
1/2	Final exam	15	Dec 8

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 continuous evaluation, which means that there will be an assignment **every** day that the class meets. Please check the syllabus and Canvas. In case of a conflict, the information on Canvas is correct.

The midterm will be a written exam, with several very short answer questions (such as multiple choice and matching questions). Students will also answer two essays from a list that will be available ahead of time. The first assignment is a group project where you identify course concepts in a feature film. A list of films will be provided ahead of time. Similarly, you will also relate course concepts to media reports. Reading quizzes, related to the reading for the day, will be available on Canvas. You should take the quiz **AFTER** doing the reading.

After the midterm there will be a simulation that is four 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.

The final exam will consist of two take home essays and very short answer questions.

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 classes.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#) (<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>), 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 2021 Course Schedule

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

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Required Readings	Recommended Readings	Assignment
Aug 23 (M)	Intro	NONE!		None
Aug 25 (W)	Security dilemma (theory)	Tang, 587-98 and 616-23	Posen	
Aug 30 (M)	Security dilemma (case study)	Allison		Q1
Sep 1 (W)	Security dilemma (theory 2)	Tan, 19-35	Glaser	Q2
Sep 6 (M)	No class, Labor Day			
Sep 8 (W)	Cooperation under anarchy	Tan 38-53	Oye	Q3
Sep 13 (M)	Democracy and war	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mattes and Weeks 2. McLaughlin Mitchell and Thyne 	Croco	
Sep 15 (W)	Hegemony	Stokes	Fettweis	Q4
Sep 20 (M)	Hegemony case study	Talmadge and Rovner , 548-59, 564-65, 572-75	Mearsheimer	Q5
Sep 22 (W)	Security communities	Cronin		Q6
Sep 27 (M)	Security communities case study	Gheciu	Darkwa	Q7

Oct 4 (M)	Economic interdependence	Crawford, 115-25	Kaldor, pages 263-67, 270-78	Pop Culture report
Oct 6 (W)	Economic interdependence (case study)	TBA		Q8
Oct 11 (M)	Nuclear deterrence	Perry and Collina, 28-46	Narang	Q9
Oct 13 (W)	Nuclear deterrence case study	Sagan		Q10
Oct 18 (M)				Midterm, in class
Oct 20 (W)	Simulation starts	In-class meeting for first round of action		Read background articles for your assigned country that will be emailed to you
Oct 25 (M)	Rogue states	Bilgin and Morton		Q11
Oct 27 (W)	Humanitarian intervention	1. Donnelly & Chesterman 2. Fortna	Welsh	Simulation memo 1 (predictions)
Nov 1 (M)	Great Power intervention	Favretto	Dobbins	Q12
Nov 3 (W)	Intervention case study	China's decision to intervene in Korean War—nuclear angle	Barnett , read 551-75	Simulation memo 2 (action)
Nov 8 (M)	Cyber threats	Singer and Brooking	Rid	Q13
Nov 10 (W)	Cyber threats case study	1. Segal 2. Sagan and Weiner	Darknet Diaries: Operation Glowing Symphony	Simulation memo 3 (responding to new info)
Nov 15 (M)	Conflict resolution	Poggoda, MacGinty, and Richmond		Q14
Nov 17 (W)	Human security	Dalby	Vietti & Scribner	Simulation memo 4 (resolution)

Nov 22 (M)	Human security case study (2)	Albert, Baez and Rutland		Media Report
Nov 24 (W)	No class (Thanksgiving)			
Nov 29 (M)				Simulation Presentations Groups 1-4
Dec 1 (W)				Simulation Presentations Groups 5-7 and Debrief
Dec 6 (M)	Review for final exam/reserve day			Congressperson's Memo
TBA	FINAL EXAM	9.45 to noon in class		