

**San José State University**  
**Political Science Department**  
**POLS 157, International Security, Fall 2022**

**Course and Contact Information**

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Office Hours: Fridays 12.30-2.30 PM  
Class Days/Time: Friday 9.30-12.15  
Classroom: Clark 234

**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 once 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 each | Due dates   |
|-----|---|-------------|---|
| 1/2 | Reading quizzes (complete on Canvas before class) | 4           | 1,8,15, 22 and 29 September, 13, 20 and 27 October, 3 and 17 November |
| 3/4 | Film Analysis                                     | 8           | November 18   |
| 1/2 | Midterm (in class)                                | 10          | October 7   |
| 3   | Simulation participation                          | 3           | October 7-December 2  |
| 3/4 | Simulation memos                                  | 4           | October 14, 21, 28 and November 4                                     |
| 3/4 | Simulation oral presentation                      | 4           | December 2  |
| 4   | Professional writing proposal                     | 1           | October 7   |
| 4   | Professional writing final submission             | 8           | November 28   |
| 1/2 | Final exam (in class)                             | 15          | December 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 film analysis assignment is a group project where you identify course concepts in a feature film. A list of films will be provided each week. Reading quizzes, related to the reading for the day, will be available on Canvas. You should take the quiz **AFTER** doing the reading and **BEFORE** class.

After the midterm, there will be a simulation that is four weeks long. 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 a professional writing assignment. You can choose to write a memo as a policy adviser to your Congressperson, or a media article related to international security. 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 2022 Course Schedule

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

### Course Schedule

| Date         | Topics                            | Required Readings  | Assignment  | Film or Documentary           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|
| August 19    | What is security?                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolfers, 481-92</li> <li>• Der Derian, start from page 3</li> </ul>                         |   |                               |
| August 26    | Critical perspectives on security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smith</li> <li>• Jepperson, Wendt, &amp; Katzenstein, 33-65</li> </ul>                      | Q0  |                               |
| September 2  | Security dilemma                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tang, 587-98 and 616-23</li> <li>• Baker</li> </ul>   | Q1  | <i>Arrival</i> (2017)         |
| September 9  | Security dilemma (2)              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Kaufman</a> 138-51</li> <li>• <a href="#">Fearon</a>, 394-98, 403-12</li> </ul> | Q2  | <i>No Man's Land</i> (2001)   |
| Sep 16       | Nuclear weapons                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perry &amp; Collina, 28-46</li> <li>• <a href="#">Sagan</a></li> </ul>                      | Q3  | <i>Thirteen Days</i> (2000)   |
| September 23 | Nuclear weapons                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waltz</li> <li>• <a href="#">Cohn &amp; Ruddick</a></li> </ul>                              | Q4  | <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> (1964) |
| September 30 | Weak(er) states                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jervis 2009</li> <li>• Ayoob</li> </ul>   | Q5  |                               |
| October 7    |                                   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midterm</li> <li>• Proposal for professional writing assignment</li> <li>• Read background articles for simulation (emailed to you)</li> </ul> |                               |
| October 14   | Hegemony                          | <a href="#">Mearsheimer</a> , pages TBA  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simulation memo 1</li> <li>• Q6</li> </ul>   | <i>Syriana</i> (2005)         |
| October      | Intervention                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crawford</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simulation memo 2</li> </ul>   | <i>Green Zone</i> (2010)      |

|             |                   |  |   |                                    |
|-------------|-------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 21          |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Jervis</a></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q7</li> </ul>                              |                                    |
| October 28  | Intervention      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Roberts</a> (71-85, 96-97)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Peksen</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simulation memo 3</li> <li>• Q8</li> </ul> | <i>Sergio (2020)</i>               |
| November 4  | Non-state actors  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshi</li> <li>• Fair</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simulation memo 4</li> <li>• Q9</li> </ul> | <i>Charlie Wilson's War (2007)</i> |
| November 18 | Crisis management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andersen-Rodgers</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Film analysis</li> <li>• Q10</li> </ul>    |                                    |
| Dec 2       |                   |  | In class presentations (group)  |                                    |
| December 8  |                   |  | Final exam 8 AM in class  |                                    |