

San José State University
Political Science Department
POLS 4
Introduction to International Relations
Section 80,
Spring 2022

Course and Contact Information

Professor:	Dr. Leonard L. Lira
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, or by appointment
Office Location:	On Zoom ; must log in with SJSU Zoom Account
Telephone:	(408) 924-5565
Email:	Primary via Canvas Messenger; or Leonard.Lira@sjsu.edu ;
Class Days/Time:	Jan 26th-May 16 th ; Online, Asynchronously. See Canvas Course Page.
Classroom/Canvas Link:	No Classroom; Canvas: https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1474404/pages/home-page
Prerequisites:	No Prerequisites
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	D

Course Description

An introductory survey of major topics in international relations, including global, national, and individual causes of war and peace, international cooperation, north-south relations, and political economy.

Course Format

This is an Online and asynchronous course. Students will need a computer/cell phone with an Internet connection to view lectures, participate in online discussions, and to complete and submit assignments. The course is asynchronous, which means there are no regular class meetings. However, the second half of the course is driven by a simulation that will require students to meet in country groups and with delegates from other country teams. Students will be responsible for setting their own meeting schedules for the simulation. Students are expected to manage their time and complete the readings, discussions, assignments, quizzes and tests as prescribed in the Canvas course management page.

Faculty Web Page

<https://www.sjsu.edu/polisci/faculty/fulltimefaculty/leonard-lira.php>

GE Learning Outcomes (GELOs)

This is an area D Social Science course. This course will help increase students' understanding of human behavior and social interaction in the context of value systems, economic structures, political

institutions, social groups, and natural environments. Specifically, upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding of the ways in which social institutions, culture, and environment shape and are shaped by the behavior of individuals, both past and present.
2. compare the dynamics of two or more social groups or social systems in a variety of historical and/or cultural contexts.
3. place contemporary social developments in cultural, environmental, geographical, or historical contexts; and,
4. draw on social/behavioral science information from various perspectives to formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

Department of Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

This course supports students' ability to demonstrate achievement in Political Science Program Learning Outcomes upon graduation. The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

- 1) **Breadth**: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- 2) **Application & Disciplinary Methods**: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- 3) **Communication Skills**: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.
- 4) **Citizenship**: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

CLO 1: recognize & discuss major theoretical approaches to the study of international relations and their use in explaining historical and contemporary international political behavior,

CLO 2: use theory and methods to explain contemporary problems in international relations,

CLO 3: identify and explain the role of different actors in international politics, including individuals, states, and international organizations, and

CLO 4: describe how IR theory and methods apply to major international political issues such as international political economy, causes of war, human rights, and global issues such as migration, global health, and global environmental problems.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Karen A. Mingst and Heather Elko McKibben. Essentials of International Relations, 9th edition (NY: W. W. Norton, 2016; ISBN: 978-0-393-44170-3 (pbk));. Access the book and required material through the Course Material Tab in Canvas. Earlier editions do not have the content that students will discuss or that assignments will utilize.

To enhance your learning experience and provide affordable access to the right course material, this course is part of an inclusive access model called First Day. You can easily access the required materials for this course at a discounted price, and benefit from single sign-on access with no codes required in Canvas.

San Jose State will bill you at the discounted price as a course charge for this course.

It is NOT recommended that you Opt-Out, as these materials are required to complete the course. You can choose to Opt-Out on the first day of class, but you will be responsible for purchasing your course materials at the full retail price and access to your materials may be suspended. For more information and FAQs go to customercare.bncollege.com.

Customer Care Contact Information

Customer Care is available to help students with questions about accessing their course material, using their eTextbook, or opting-out or in to the First Day program. Be sure to share the below information with your students.

Customer Care hours of operation are 11pm Sunday – 12am Saturday (Central Time).

Phone assistance is available Monday – Friday, 8am to 8pm (Central Time)

- Student Experience Video: <https://youtu.be/bNhSdKueifU>
- Link to Customer Care website and FAQs: <https://tinyurl.com/firstdayfaq>
- Open a ticket Online for the Customer Care team: <https://tinyurl.com/customercarerequest>
- Email the Customer Care team: bookstorecustomercare@bncollege.com
- Call the Customer Care team: 1-844-9-EBOOKS (1-844-932-6657)

Other Readings

Other readings will be posted to Canvas file location or students will be provided MLK library permalinks.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

1. Essentials of IR InQuizitive<access on Canvas, part of course material if purchased through Canvas>.

2. Statecraft Simulation: International Relations sim

Students will be required to purchase access to the Statecraft Simulation for \$35 for the semester. To register, go to statecraftsim.com and click “Login/Create Account” to create a student account. Sign up with passcode: Spartans2.

Accounts need to be created **No Later than 4 March 2022**.

3. Students will need to be familiar with various ways to record themselves for presentation assignments and how to submit recordings.

4. Students need access to Word and PowerPoint.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday
Librarian (Political Science Liaison)
(408) 808-2041
nyle.monday@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Please *review the following policies and resources:*

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>.
- Office of Undergraduate Education's [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>
- [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), *Course Syllabi* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>) requires the following language to be included in the syllabus:

“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.”

In other words, in a normal semester length course (16 weeks) you should spend on average 135 hours (3*45), about 8.5 hrs. per week per course. Therefore, to meet the minimum hours per credit listed above students should expect to apply 8.5 hours per week.

Participation/Contribution to Learning: (20%)

Students will participate and contribute to class learning by providing comments in online discussions and other in-class activities over the course of the semester. There is one getting to know you discussion board, and two module discussion boards. Measurement of contribution to class learning will be observance of students' application of course theories, frameworks, and approaches to discussing topics related to International Relations. Such contributions should be critical, yet respectful of other's opinion, based on factual analysis, and not superficially contrived. Students will also be graded on their contributions to their country group in the course simulation and will be evaluated by peer assessments.

Assignments & Quizzes (20%)

InQuizitive quizzes: After reading each chapter of the text, you will take a multiple choice InQuizitive quiz containing questions from the readings. These are "open book" quizzes. InQuizitive is a new app designed to help you learn efficiently. I think you will like it as they will help you digest the textbook material better. Ensure that you register under Student Set ID: 586105.

Video Exercises: There are five video exercises that allow you to apply what you learned from Chapters 1-5 to real world events.

Chapter Quizzes: There are five quizzes covering Chapters 1-5. These are designed to help check your understanding of the IR fundamentals and readiness for the Mid-Term and Module 4.

Book/Film Analytical Essay6: The purpose of the book or film analysis is to allow you to demonstrate competency in applying the concepts of IR to contemporary popular topics relating to international relations. The style and citation format will follow the APA format. See the SJSU Writing Center Online Resources for APA writing style assistance <
<https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/onlineresources/>> or the MLK APA format guidance<
<https://library.sjsu.edu/start-your-research/i-need-help-citing-sources-apa-format>>

The analytical essay should not exceed 1,250 words (about 5 pages). It should be written in Word Document, 12pt font, Times New Roman, double-spaced.

Book and film titles must be approved by the professor before beginning and should fall into one of the categories covered in Chapters 6 – 11.

The essay should have the following format:

1. Introduction (statement of thesis)
2. Background (synopsis of the movie/book)
3. IR description (description of the theory, method and level of analysis used)
4. IR analysis (the analysis of how IR theory, tools, and/or level of analysis explains what happen in the book/ movie)
5. Conclusion (Summary of the main points, restatement of your thesis, and at least one take away)

The following websites offer potential titles:

<http://www.imdb.com/list/ls031782705/>

<https://mubi.com/lists/must-watch-films-for-international-relations-students>

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2009/05/11/teaching-foreign-policy-with-film/>

Students can get free access to movies and books at the MLK Library and at sjsu.kanopy.com (log in with your SJSU credentials)

Mid-term Exam (20%)

The mid-term exam will consist of an This exam consists of randomly selected True or False Questions, Multiple Choice, and short essay questions. There are 50 questions worth 2 points each. The exam is worth 100 points. You will have 2 attempts to complete this exam, with 180 minutes per attempt. The questions may or may not be the same during each attempt. However, this exam is open book. But do not use friends or copy from friends. The exam time starts when you begin the exam. All questions will be presented at once. All of the questions come from the textbook chapters in Module 1 and 2. To properly answer the essay questions, provide concrete (meaning real & verifiable) examples. Do not just provide a hypothetical example to try to illustrate your answer. Answers to essay questions should be between 250-300 words.

Statecraft Simulation (20%)

Students will conduct an IR simulation that will allow them to take the reins of power, becoming presidents, kings, military dictators, Secretaries of State and Defense, intelligence chiefs, UN Representatives, and political advisers (among other roles). This is a learning game designed to replicate core dynamics of world politics. You will face the same challenges, opportunities, and tradeoffs that real world leaders confront every day. You will see course concepts in action and be able to apply class

lessons to your success in the Simulation. As a result, you will finish the simulation with insight into a host of critical IR concepts, theories, and real-world cases.

Simulation participation & performance: Each country group will receive performance points. The number of points you receive will depend on your group's results. See the Statecraft student manual for more information. That is why it is critically important that students closely follow the turn schedule listed in the schedule below. To provide an incentive to stay on schedule, students will be penalized for lack of performance or participation in each turn. The penalty for missing a turn is listed below:

- 1 Missed Turn Minus 10% Simulation grade
- 2 Missed Turns Minus 35% Simulation grade
- 3 missed turns Minus 50% Simulation grade
- 4 or more missed turns Minus 100% of your Simulation grade.

Further, failure to participate in the simulation and adhere to the turn schedule will prevent the student from completing the discussion board and journal entry assignments, or to contribute to the final class debrief and presentation.

While this course is being delivered asynchronously, student in country groups will need to schedule and attend internal meetings necessary to establish strategies, make decisions, and implement actions in the simulation. Once students establish their meeting times, attendance is mandatory for these sessions. Meetings can be held on Zoom or a similar platform Google meetup, etc.... During the country meetings, students will plan, strategize, and implement turn actions. Students can and should also request external meetings with students from other country teams. During these meetings, students can negotiate and make deals. Country teams can schedule simultaneous external meetings and have different members of the country's actors meet (i.e., the Presidents and Secretaries can hold separate and simultaneous meetings.) Students will invite the professor to all scheduled meetings (The group leader, or whoever coordinates the meeting can invite the professor). Students can meet on zoom or by chat. Whichever you use, keep e informed of how you are communicating. **Groups that do not share their communication plan with me, will incur a 30-point deduction from their simulation overall grade.** Depending on my teaching schedule, I may or may not be able to attend, but I will attempt to attend as many meetings as possible.

Simulation Journal Entries: Each turn, you must submit a Journal Entry on Canvas before the next turn begins. These entries must be at least 250-300 words in length (the equivalent of one double-spaced page), although you are encouraged to write more if you wish - in a sense, these summaries will become your ongoing "journal" for the simulation experience. They are intended to help ensure that students are actively participating in, and thinking about, the simulation each week. See the instructions in canvas assignments for details on what your memo should include, depending on your governmental position. Late journal entries or entries with shorter than the required length will not be counted.

Final Exam (20%)

The final exam is scheduled for May 19th. No final will be given out ahead of this date or time; please schedule your plans accordingly. Makeups (if necessary & coordinated in advance) will occur on the official makeup day (May 25th) for students with a verifiable emergency, at a time I will set after the student notifies me.

This test will online and consist of a set of 6 essay questions, given to students in advance, and of which one will be randomly assigned to the student. Students are required to write an essay of 2-3 pages, on a topic chosen from a list of topic questions given in class before the exam (no more than a 1000-1200 words). This exam is comprehensive for the class, although topics will be based off the major issue

topics from Chapter 6-11. This means the question will relate to the topics in chapters 6-11 but should be answered with the tools presented in chapters 1-5. Students may use books, notes, or other sources to provide their answers. They may not use other classmates as a resource. Students will be expected to adhere to collegiate level plagiarism rules and norms. Students will have 240 hours to complete the final, and only one attempt.

Please Review [University policy S17-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) which states that:

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

Assessments & Learning Objectives:

Assessment for this course will consist of in class contribution to learning (participation in discussion & group work), two in-class exams (a Mid-term and Final), and two essays (one topical, of the student’s choosing, one a book/film review) valued as follows:

<u>Graded Items</u>	<u>Weighted %</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>CLO</u>	<u>PLO</u>	<u>GELO</u>
Contribution to Class Learning	20 %	--	--	--	--	--
Getting to Know you Discussion	--	100	1/29	--	3 & 4	2 & 3
Module 1 & 2 Discussion	--	100 ea	See Schedule	1 - 3	2 & 3	1- 3
Peer Evaluation	--	100	5/16	1 & 3	4	1
Assignments & Quizzes	20%	--	--	--	--	--
11 x Chapter InQuizitive	--	100 ea	See Schedule	1	1	1
5 x Video Exercises	--	100 ea	See Schedule	3	2	2
5 x Chapter Quizzes	--	100 ea	See Schedule	1 & 3	2	1 & 2
Topic selection for Book / Film Analytical Essay	--	100	2/25	1 - 4	2 & 3	4
Book / Film Analytical Essay	--	100	5/13	1 - 4	2 & 3	4
Midterm Exam	20%	100	3/18	1 & 2	2 & 3	1 - 3
Statecraft Simulation	20%	100	--	--	--	--
Group Performance		50+	5/16	4	2 - 4	1 & 4
8 x Journal Entries		100 ea	See Schedule	1 & 3	2-4	2 & 3
Simulation Summary & Discussion		100	5/16	1 - 4	2 & 3	1 - 4
Final	20%	100	5/19	1 - 4	1 - 4	1- 3

<u>Graded Items</u>	<u>Weighted %</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>CLO</u>	<u>PLO</u>	<u>GELO</u>
Total	100%	--	--	--	--	--
Extra Credit: Completion of Start Here Module and	--	10	--	--	--	--

Grading Information

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 95.99%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92.99%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89.99 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85.99%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82.99%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79.99%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 75.99%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72.99%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>66 to 69.99%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 65.99%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62.99%</i>

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted. Assignments will not be available after the deadline. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact me by Canvas messenger (email) before the assignment is due to make alternate arrangements.

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to read the entire syllabus. Any syllabus updates will be provided on Canvas. All communications (class announcements & email) will be sent over Canvas. Students are required to check Canvas daily to receive messages and announcements. If you miss an announcement sent over Canvas and miss a deadline or change to the syllabus, any resulting late work or missed assignments will not be excused. **READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY.** Students are expected to read all of the assigned materials; recommended readings are for enrichment learning and are not assigned. Students are expected to complete all threaded discussion postings on or before the deadline, to complete online quizzes, the midterm exam, the final exam, and the assigned essay on-time.

If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from class, please email me and request alternative assignments. Otherwise, I will penalize late assignments. In any case, please do not enroll in an online course if you know that you are going to be away from your Internet access for more than 3 or 4 days during the length of this winter course.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Additional Information

Policy on Submitting Written Work in this Course

I expect my students to submit written work that fits the grammatical, stylistic and citation expectations for college-level work in English. All written assignments in this course are therefore graded in two ways: both in terms of content (information in terms of logic, quality of evidence, etc.) and in terms of writing. If you are at all uncomfortable with writing at the college level, you seek assistance with the [SJSU Writing Center](#). The SJSU Writing Center has many [resources](#) that will help you be successful. Be sure to seek their online tutoring prior to turning in your essay. All essay assignments will be cited and referenced using the APA format. The link below provides access to the Citing and Writing Help webpage from the MLK library:

<https://libguides.sjsu.edu/writeandcite>

Announcements

Announcements will be posted in CANVAS on a regular basis. They will appear on your CANVAS dashboard when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly through your preferred method of notification from CANVAS. Please make certain to check them regularly, as they will contain any important information about upcoming projects or class concerns.

Email

In this course we will use the Canvas Messaging, a feature on the left hand blue ap tray in INBOX corner (located in navigation links) to send email for private messages. You can either check your messages in the CANVAS system or set your notifications to your preferred method of contact. Please check your messages regularly. To email me, use the CANVAS EMAIL app, that is the fastest email method to contact me.

Discussion Forums

Discussion Forums are a way for you to engage with each other about the course content. Each lesson module will have a question that links to a forum. You can also access each forum by clicking on the DISCUSSIONS button in the course navigation links. To get full credit for each discussion, you will need to post a thoughtful, well-written response to the question and respond to the required number of your classmates' answers as described on the Canvas discussion post instructions.

Netiquette

When posting on the discussion boards and chat rooms it is important to understand how to interact with one another online, netiquette. You can read more about the rules of netiquette at <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1413152/pages/netiquette>.

Syllabus Modification Disclaimer

All information in this syllabus may be subject to change with fair notice by the instructor, the Department of Political Science or San Jose State University.

POLS 4
Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2022
Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 1 activities			
1	1/26-28	Course and Individual Introductions Readings to be assigned	Getting to Know you – due 1/28
Module 1: Foundations			
2	1/31-2/4	Approaches to IR Mingst & McKibben Chap 1	Ch 1 InQuizitive due 2/2 Ch 1 Video Exercise due 2/3 Ch 1 Quiz due 2/4
3	2/7-2/11	History & IR Mingst & McKibben Chap 2	Ch 2 InQuizitive due 2/09 Ch 2 Video Exercise due 2/10 Ch 2 Quiz due 2/11
4	2/14-2/18	Theories: Realism & Liberalism Mingst & McKibben Chap 3	Ch 3 InQuizitive due 2/18
5	2/21-2/25	Theories: Constructivism & Radicalism Mingst & McKibben Chap 3	Ch 3 Video Exercise due 2/23 Ch 3 Quiz due 2/24 Module 3 Discussion due 2/25
Module 2: Tools of the Trade			
6	2/28 -3/4	Levels of Analysis Mingst & McKibben Chap 4	Ch 4 InQuizitive due 3/2 Ch 4 Video Exercise due 3/3 Ch 4 Quiz due 3/4
7	3/7-3/11	Mingst & McKibben Chap 5 Statecraft Turn 0, Part 1: Orientation; Statecraft Manual quiz #1	Ch 5 InQuizitive due 3/9 Ch 5 Video Exercise due 3/10 Ch 5 Quiz due 3/11 Statecraft Manual quiz #1 due 3/11
8	3/14-3/18	****Mid-Term Exam**** Due 3/18	Module 2 Discussion due 3/17
Module 3: Applications			
9	3/21-3/25	Statecraft Simulation start; War & Security Mingst & McKibben Chap 6 Statecraft Turn 0, Part 2: Planning Statecraft Manual quiz #2 Statecraft, Turn 1	Statecraft Manual quiz #2 due 3/21 Turn 0, parts 1 & 2 Journal Entry 3/23 Chapter 6 InQuizitive 3/23 Turn 1 Journal Entry 3/25
10	3/28-4/1	****Spring Break****	
11	4/4-4/8	International Cooperation & Law Mingst & McKibben Chap 7	Ch 7 InQuizitive 4/6 Turn 2 & 3 Journal Entry 4/8

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
		Statecraft, Turn 2 Statecraft, Turn 3	
12	4/11-4/15	Political Economy Mingst & McKibben Chap 8 Statecraft, Turn 4 Statecraft, Turn 5	Ch 8 InQuizitive 4/13 Turn 4 & 5 Journal Entry 4/15
13	4/18-4/22	IGOs & NGOs Mingst & McKibben Chap 9 Statecraft, Turn 6 Statecraft, Turn 7	Ch 9 InQuizitive 4/20 Turn 6 & 7 Journal Entry 4/22
14	4/25-4/29	Human Rights Mingst & McKibben Chap 10 Statecraft, Turn 8 Statecraft, Turn 9	Ch 10 InQuizitive 4/27 Turn 8 & 9 Journal Entry 4/29
15	5/2-5/6	The Environment Mingst & McKibben Chap 11 Statecraft, Turn 10 Statecraft, Turn 11	Ch 11 InQuizitive 5/4 Turn 10 & 11 Journal Entry 5/6
16	5/9-5/13	Human Security, Migration, Population, & Global Health Statecraft, Turn 12	Ch 12 InQuizitive 5/10 Turn 12 Journal Entry 5/13
17	5/16	Simulation Wrap up & Book/Film Analytical Essay completion	End of Simulation Discussion & Video Presentation due 5/16 Analytical essay due 5/16
Final Exam	5/19 Make up is 5/25	Online at Canvas, Final Exam available all day during primary and make up dates; Exam length is 3 hours (plus one additional 3 hr attempt).	