

Course Information



International Politics (SS)

POLS 2100-002

Fall 2025

Course Section Information

Days: On-line

Time: Asynchronous

Campus: N/A

Classroom: N/A

Course Description

Introduction to the basic theories, concepts, processes and relationships in the global arena. Emphasis is placed on conflict and cooperation among nation-states and non-state actors. Students learn about power dynamics among international actors, the influence of theory on explanation as well as important issues that transcend national borders and have global impacts.

Semester: All

Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials



Authors: Stephen McGlinchey

Publication Date: 2017

Title: International Relations

Edition: First

Publisher: E-International Relations

Link: <https://www.e-ir.info/publication/beginners-textbook-international-relations/>

ISBN: 978-1-910814-18-5



Authors: Stephen McGlinchey, Rosie Waters and Christian Scheinpflug (Eds)

Publication Date: 2017

Title: International Relations Theory

Edition: First

Publisher: E-International Relations

Link: <https://www.e-ir.info/publication/international-relations-theory/>

ISBN: 978-1-910814-20-8

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at ads@slcc.edu.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of diverse perspectives through engagement with discipline specific theories, empirical data, major concepts and approaches to the study of international/global politics.
- Analyze and cite information from a variety of sources (e.g., primary documents, case studies, journal articles, etc.), including quantitative and/or qualitative data, that reflect the interconnectedness, interdependence and/or complexity of the global system.
- Identify global issues(e.g., inter-state conflict, terrorism, human rights violations, poverty/inequality, detrimental environmental changes, social unrest, economic downturns), processes, trends, events and structures and assess their interaction

with nation-states, international institutions, global non-governmental organizations and human beings across the international system.

- Demonstrate an understanding of how identity - with its deep roots in culture, language, religion, race/ethnicity, geography and relationship to power - affects processes, institutions, decision-making, and outcomes in international politics.
- Formulate an argument about global-oriented issues involving nation-states, international organizations and/or non-governmental entities and be able to express that argument clearly and cogently in writing.
- Make connections between seemingly distant international events and one's more immediate world, and demonstrate an understanding of how the international sphere both shapes and is shaped by the social, political, and economic activities of individuals who act collectively.
- Work with others in collaborative projects and/or participate in small-group discussions whether live or on-line and demonstrate the ability to engage a diversity of viewpoints about international politics in a civil and constructive fashion.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
8/29/25	Introduce Yourself via Video	Discussion	5
8/31/25	Course Introduction Quiz	Quiz	10
9/5/25	Mod 2: WRS	Assignment	5

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/7/25	Beginning of Course Survey (worth 3 Extra Credit points).	Quiz	0
9/7/25	Mod 2: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
9/7/25	Mod 2: Map Quiz (Europe).	Quiz	10
9/12/25	Mod 3: WRS	Assignment	5
9/14/25	Mod 3: Content Quiz #1: Levels of Analysis	Quiz	10
9/14/25	Mod 3: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
9/19/25	Mod 4: WRS	Assignment	5
9/21/25	Mod 4: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
9/21/25	Mod 4: Events Quiz #1	Quiz	10
9/26/25	Mod 5: WRS	Assignment	5
9/28/25	Mod 5: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
9/28/25	Mod 5: Map Quiz (Africa).	Quiz	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/3/25	Mod 6: WRS	Assignment	5
10/5/25	Mod 6: Content Quiz #2: IR Theory	Quiz	30
10/5/25	Mod 6: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
10/10/25	Mod 7: WRS	Assignment	5
10/12/25	Mod 7: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
10/12/25	Mod 7: Events Quiz #2	Quiz	10
10/17/25	Mod 8: WRS	Assignment	5
10/19/25	Declare a UN Peacekeeping Operation for Final Presentation Using Link Provided Here	Assignment	0
10/19/25	Mod 8: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
10/19/25	Mod 8: Map Quiz (Asia)	Quiz	10
10/21/25	Mod 9: IR Theory and Afghanistan, First Draft and Video Summary Due	Assignment	160

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/24/25	Mod 9: WRS	Assignment	5
10/26/25	Mod 9: Content Quiz #3: International Organizations, Law, and Civil Society	Quiz	40
10/26/25	Mod 9: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
10/31/25	Mod 10: WRS	Assignment	5
11/2/25	Feedback for IR Theory Essay 20 Points- THIS IS NOT YOUR FINAL DRAFT	Assignment	20
11/2/25	Mod 10: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
11/2/25	Mod 10: Events Quiz #3	Quiz	10
11/7/25	Mod 11: WRS	Assignment	5
11/9/25	IR Theory and Afghanistan, Final Draft	Assignment	50
11/9/25	Mod 11: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
11/9/25	Mod 11: Map Quiz (Americas)	Quiz	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
11/14/25	Mod 12: WRS	Assignment	5
11/16/25	Mod 12: Content Quiz #4: Global Economics, Poverty/Inequality and Security (Pax Americana).	Quiz	40
11/16/25	Mod 12: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
11/21/25	Mod 13: WRS	Assignment	5
11/25/25	Mod 13: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
11/25/25	Mod 13: Events Quiz #4	Quiz	10
12/5/25	Mod 15: WRS	Assignment	5
12/7/25	Mod 15: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	12
12/7/25	Mod 15: Final Map Quiz (World).	Quiz	25
12/10/25	Mod 16: WRS	Assignment	5

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
12/11/25	Mod 16: Content Quiz #5: Transnational Terrorism, Human Rights, and Environment	Quiz	40
12/11/25	Mod 16: Critical Thinking Response- Write, Respond and Record	Discussion	17
12/11/25	Mod 16: Final Events Quiz	Quiz	25
12/13/25	GE Signature Assignment Upload (Final Draft of IR Theory Essay).	Assignment	10
12/13/25	End of Course Survey (worth 4 Extra Credit points).	Quiz	0
12/13/25	GE Signature Assignment Reflection- (Final Draft of IR Theory Essay).	Assignment	17
12/16/25	Mod 17: Video PowerPoint (or similar) Presentation on a UN Peacekeeping Operation- OPEN 11-24 and DUE 12-16	Assignment	200

Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

Overview

Course Introductory Quiz: 10 points

- Complete the Course Introductory Quiz

"Introduce Yourself": 5 points

- Complete the Introductory Discussion.

Weekly Reading Summaries (WRS): 65 points

- Most weeks you will summarize the main points from the weekly readings by FRIDAY NIGHT. Completing the summaries will provide a solid foundation for understanding the content and better prepare you to complete the critical thinking responses.

Critical Thinking Responses (CTR): 168 points

- Most weeks you will complete an analysis of the week's content through three critical thinking questions by SUNDAY NIGHT. Completing CTR's will not only provide a deeper understanding of the content but also develop your analytical skills. There is one exception, which is the shortened Week 16.

Content Quizzes: 160 points

- You will take five quizzes in specific weeks which will deal with five specific sections of course content. The quizzes will be in multiple choice and short answer format and will be completed by each respective SUNDAY NIGHT.

Map Quizzes: 65 points

- You will take five map quizzes. The first four will be worth 10 points each and you will have multiple attempts to take them. The final map quiz will be worth 25 points and you will only have one attempt.

Event Quizzes: 65 points

- You will take five event quizzes. The first four will be worth 10 points each and you will have multiple attempts to take them. The final events quiz will be worth 25 points and you will only have one attempt.

Main Essay-Two Drafts: 220 points (IR Theory Essay first draft/Video Summary= 160/Final Draft 50)

- There is one main essay in this course and one possibility to turn in a final draft. The main purpose of the essay is to require you to demonstrate research skills, develop a thesis, construct a rational argument on a specific topic and present a video summary of your work. The main essay is on IR Theory and will be 3 pages. For the IR Theory essay, you will turn in a first draft and then a final draft. The first draft is worth 160 points and the final draft is worth 50 points. Details on the essays will be in Canvas at their respective assignment portals.

Feedback on First Draft of IR Theory: 20 points

- You will respond, in your own words, to the feedback I gave you for the first draft of your IR Theory Essay. I want you to process how I have corrected your essay and, thus, how to become a better writer.

Final- PowerPoint (or similar) Presentation on a UN Peacekeeping Operation: 200 points.

- 10-12 minutes. Deadline to choose a date/ and topic= 11-3. I will determine each person's grade in the following way. 120 points=Content, 50 points= Organization, 30 points= Oral Delivery. You will record yourself giving an oral presentation that summarizes the slides you have created.
- *The United Nations has a number of peacekeeping operations around the world. You can find the current locations at <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/where-we-operate>. You will choose ONE to focus on for the presentation. Your PowerPoint will have four sections: describe the background to the conflict, the conditions on the ground today, why it is difficult to solve and the prospects for the resolution of the crisis.*

Signature Assignment: Upload=10 Points Reflection= 17 points (Total=27)

- You will upload your corrected IR Theory Essay

- You will then write a reflection on the process of completing the assignment, how the material connects to other academic disciplines and your key takeaways.

More details related to each assignment can be found by clicking on the assignment and reviewing the assignment instructions. You can review the instructions to any assignment by clicking on the Assignments tab and then clicking on a specific assignment.

Late Work

- Each assignment has a due date. That date is designed to keep you on an appropriate pace. However, given life's complexities, I have a late policy for some assignments.
- (Late Policy for the Interest Group Essay drafts, Quizzes, or the Signature Assignment= 1. If completed or turned in three days AFTER the due date, penalty= -10%. 2. If turned in at a later date up to 8-12-24, penalty = -25%.
- (WRS and CTR ASSIGNMENTS DO NOT APPLY TO THE ABOVE LATE POLICY, IF YOU WISH TO TURN IN A LATE WRS OR CTR YOU MUST USE A LATE PASS- SEE BELOW)

*****EXCEPTION- I will allow 2 "FREE" passes for these same assignments plus the weekly discussion questions. If you complete or turn in the late assignment in up to one week late, then no late penalty will be assessed*****

Grading Scale

A 90-100

B 80-86.4 B+ 86.5-89.4

C 70-76.4 C+ 76.5-79.4

D 60-66.4. D+ 66.5-69.4

Engagement Plan

- I will respond to email within 24-48 hours. I will offer feedback on major assignments within two weeks. The best way to contact me is through [the Canvas

Inbox], as I will prioritize this method over other modes of communication.

- Additionally, I will be participating in the discussion forums with you to share my perspective within the discipline.

How to Navigate to Canvas

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

General Education Information

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This course fulfills the above requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning.

General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

How to Succeed in the Course

Become familiar with the course structure in Canvas.

Complete all assignments in a timely manner.

Communicate with your instructor as needed throughout the course.

Pay close attention to any course announcements.

Understand the basics of each section on International Relations and understand the connections among the sections.

Additional Class Policies

Policy for Use of AI

The use of Artificial Intelligence programs can have a place in certain disciplines and scenarios in college courses. However, in the fields of History, Anthropology, and Political Science the use of AI to initiate, write, or edit your assignments is prohibited unless permission is expressly given by the instructor. Part of the reason for a higher education degree is for you to learn how to learn by expanding your knowledge base and your ability to express your ideas through writing and other medium. Thus, programs such as Chat GPT, IBM Watson, Otter, Grammarly and all other AI programs similar to the above are not acceptable for this course. Their use constitutes cheating and plagiarism. If AI is suspected as used, the student will have to resubmit the assignment or receive a zero as a grade.

Details of Plagiarism and AI Policy

Matching Score Policy (plagiarism or copying language of sources)= Assignment must be redone if over 30%

AI Score Policy= Assignment must be redone if over 50%

If you think you may cross the line, how can you know what your score is? READ BELOW

For CTR Assignments, Quizzes, Essays, Analyses

****Canvas has no corresponding % score (like WRS) for other assignment types, so if you are worried about your Matching Score or AI Score then you need to do the following

below****

- 1) Once you have submitted an assignment in Canvas, open up a second window in our Canvas course that shows ALL the Modules
- 2) Find the "Copyleaks Teacher Scanner Tool" below Week 17
- 3) Click on "Teacher Scanner Tool" and open
- 4) For simply copying and pasting text into the program, click on the "three dots" to the left of "Scan Documents" then click "Scan Text"
- 5) 'Copy and Paste' the text into the program, then click "Scan" at BOTTOM and wait for results
- 6) When scan is completed, there will be a Plagiarism (Matching) Score and an AI Score
- 7) Remember, Matching Score must be 30% or less and AI Score 50% or less

Again, all this is only necessary to deal with if you fear your material will cross the acceptable line

Incomplete Policy

Contact me if the last day to withdrawal has already passed and circumstances beyond your control prevent you from successfully completing this course. This course will follow Salt Lake Community College's Incomplete policy. More information is available here (Links to an external site.).

Extra Credit

There are currently no extra credit opportunities in this course. If an extra credit opportunity is added, it will show up in the "Assignments" tab and I will send out an Announcement to let you know about it.

Course Content Advisory

Please be advised that this course may include discussions, readings, and other content that some students might find distressing or triggering. Specifically, the course may cover topics

such as:

- Violence or traumatic events
- Sensitive social and political issues
- Discussions of mental health, including depression and anxiety
- Graphic or explicit descriptions and imagery
- Any other specific content relevant to the course

Our aim is to explore these topics thoughtfully and respectfully, understanding their importance in our field of study. However, we recognize that such material can be challenging. If you have concerns about your ability to engage with certain course materials due to past experiences or personal reasons, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. We can explore alternative ways for you to engage with the material while ensuring your educational experience is not compromised.

Your well-being is important, and support services are available through the college's counseling support services should you need them.

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Online Tutoring

Students at SLCC have access to online tutoring through Canvas. From your Canvas course click Online Tutoring in the course navigation and follow the steps to set up an appointment. If this is your first time using the Online Tutoring we recommend you click "Take a Tour" to familiarize yourself with the service.

Note that students only receive 480 minutes of tutoring time each semester. After that we encourage you to use the resources found through this link:

<https://www.slcc.edu/tutoring/index.aspx>

If you have any additional questions reach out to elarningsupport@slcc.edu.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

International Politics (SS)

POLS - 2100 002

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)