

Course Title	LAI202 International Social Issues		Instructor(s)	Rui Saraiva
			E-mail	rsaraiva@miu.ac.jp
Class Style	Lecture		Office Hours	Mondays 14:00~17:00
Track	Global liberal arts		Mode of Instruction	Single
Credits	2		Allocated Year	2 nd year, Spring
Active Learning	2.3. Presentations, 4.1. Interactive lectures, 4.3. Free discussions, 4.4. Case studies, 4.8. Informal debates, 4.9. Group work on questions, 4.10. Think-pair-share and Think-group-share.		Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	This course will explore how international social issues are shaped by political and economic systems, institutional frameworks, and individual choices. We will examine the role of international politics, international economics, and international cooperation in addressing global challenges like poverty, inequality, and development. Through case studies and real-world examples, we will explore complex political and social interactions and their global impact. This course invites students to engage in critical thinking and informed debates about potential solutions to pressing international social issues.			
Course Objectives	This course aims to equip students with a critical understanding of how international social issues like poverty and inequality are shaped by political and economic systems, institutional design, and individual agency. By analyzing diverse approaches to global challenges, students will develop the ability to evaluate the social impact of international politics on societies worldwide. Ultimately, the course seeks to empower students to engage in informed analysis, research, and debates about potential solutions to contemporary international social issues.			
Prerequisite				
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework	
	1	Introduction to International Social Issues & Course Overview	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	2	Thinking, Language, and Conceptualization of International Social Issues	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	3	Environmental Politics and Social Movements	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	4	Identity, Narratives, and International Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	5	Religious Beliefs and International Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	6	Authority and Legitimacy	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	7	Review and Assessment	Midterm Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points	

	8	Media, Information and Disinformation	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	9	Migration, Nationalism and Transnationalism	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	10	Colonialism and Neocolonialism	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	11	From the Local to the Global Political Economy	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	12	Inequality and Poverty	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	13	Political Violence and Conflict	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	14	Rights in 21 st Century International Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	15	Final Review	Final Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points.
Grading	<p>In-Class participation: 20%</p> <p>Assignments and presentations: 20%</p> <p>Mid-term examination: 30%</p> <p>Final examination: 30%</p>		
Textbooks	<p>Students will be asked to read sections of the book listed in the reference section. Other relevant reading materials will be provided by the instructor.</p>		
References	<p>Edkins, J., & Zehfuss, M. 2019. Global Politics: A New Introduction. Routledge.</p>		
NOTES	<p>To succeed in this course, your active participation is crucial. Doing well in this course will also depend on completing the readings before class. Students are expected to discuss textbook materials, readings, and current events during class. A two-hour preparation and review period is required for each class.</p>		