Fall 2011 Syllabus

INR 2002.0004 International Relations Theory and Practice

Dr. Paul Vasquez, Department of Political Science
Class: Tuesdays, 6:00- 8:50 P.M.; **credit hours:** 3
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1:00-4:00 P.M. and by appointment
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Course Description: There are a lot of countries out there. In fact the world is full of them! In this course we will examine how states and other actors influence the way other states and international actors behave.

In this course, we will begin by exploring the issue of globalization in today's world. Second, we will delve into issues related to war, peace and international security. Our study of these topics will focus on issues related to power politics among states and some alternative perspectives. More specifically, we will consider foreign policy, international conflict, military force and terrorism and as well the role played by international organizations, international law and human rights. In the final half of the course, we will examine issues related to international political economy. We will begin with topics such as international trade and business, move on to issues such as the global environment and the gap between rich and poor countries and international development.

Required text: Required reading for this includes the following text book.

Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2012. *International Relations*. Brief 6th edition. New York: Pearson Longman.

Course goals: In terms of substance, this course is designed to give students a better understanding of: 1) trends and developments in the practice of international relations through history; 2) major theoretical perspectives and scientific insights offered by political scientists for understanding international relations; and 3) the influence of international relations on their own lives. With regards to skill development, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity 4) to use databases for research purposes and 5) to improve their writing ability.

Requirements: I will evaluate your performance in this class in accord with the table below.

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Due Date
Quizzes	15%	to be announced
Team Quizzes	5%	to be announced
Midterm exam	30%	Tuesday, Oct. 11
Bibliography	5%	Tuesday, Oct. 25
Short writing assignment	15%	Tuesday, Nov. 8
Final exam	30%	Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7 P.M.
	100%	

Assignments

Quizzes: Some quizzes will be announced in advance and other evaluations will be pop quizzes. Quizzes may cover any material from the lecture or reading assignments. However, pop quizzes will only be given over material that has already been covered in lecture or reading materials for the last completed chapter, according to the syllabus.

Team Quizzes: Early on in the semester I will assign everyone to a quiz team consisting of not more than five people. Like regular quizzes discussed above, team quizzes may either be announced in advance and others may be pop quizzes and may cover any material from lecture or reading assignments. Students will work together as a team to develop a single set of answers to the questions asked and will be graded on their commonly derived answers.

Midterm Exam: This multiple choice exam will cover information covered in the first half of the class. Warning: Do not assume that multiple choice questions will necessarily be easy. I design my exams to have a mix of questions ranging from those that are easy to those that are difficult, so prepare now accordingly.

Bibliography: This is simply a bibliography of 10 items (5 articles and 5 books) that you would use if you had to write a long research paper on a subject that relates to relations between states or other important international actors. Five of your sources should be books and five should be articles with at least one of the five articles coming from JSTOR, EBSCO/Academic Search Premier, Project Muse, and LexisNexis. At the end of each entry for journals or periodicals, please note which of these four databases was used. Online sources such as Wikipedia can not count as one of your 10 citations.

Short writing assignment: For this assignment you will write a short paper (5 pages maximum, not including bibliography page) on a subject related to international relations. Feel free to write on a subject that you would like to learn about in more depth than the course readings allow. Please draw on three outside sources such as book chapters or newspaper/journal articles and be sure to integrate concepts covered in the textbook and lectures with your topic. If a chapter related to your subject has not been covered yet in lecture by the due date of the paper, you should nevertheless plan to incorporate concepts from that chapter in your paper. Online sources such as Wikipedia cannot count as one of those three outside sources. Include your bibliography as an additional page. Please note that mechanical elements of writing including, but not limited to proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. are all important components of formal writing such as a college paper. Exceptionally poor performance in this regard could lower your paper grade by as much as 20 points, so take steps to avoid this eventuality. Papers should use 12-point font, double-spacing and 1 inch margins.

This assignment will be graded in accord with the following distribution of credit.

Mechanics of writing	20%	Research	30%
Clear and logical analysis	30%	Organization of paper	20%
			100%

Final Exam: This multiple choice exam will be comprehensive, but questions will be slightly weighted to information covered in the second half of the course. See the warning from the Midterm Exam section above about the perils of underestimating how challenging multiple choice exams can be.

Grades scale for course assignments

A	=	100-94
A-	=	93-90
B+	=	89-87
B	=	86-84
B-	=	83-80
C+	=	79-77
C	=	76-74
C-	=	73-70
D	=	69-60
F	=	59-0

Late work and Make-up Exams: Unless otherwise specified, out-of-class assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates listed below. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each full calendar day they are late, up to as much as 30%, unless a compelling and honest explanation is offered. Make-up exams may be given if they are missed for compelling, honest, unexpected, <u>and</u> sufficiently verifiable reasons. However, students making up exams must take them within the week unless health problems keep them from coming to campus. Students making up exams will not be given the same exam that was originally administered.

Extra credit: By verifiably attending designated lectures and presentations throughout the semester related to this class, students can extra credit (2.5 points per event up to a maximum of 5 points total) to their final course grade.

Important Advice: You should attend class each day to internalize lecture material and participate in other classroom activities as they come along. As you attempt to internalize the course content, you should come to class having read the material assigned for that day. You should be prepared to be quizzed over any course readings by the day for which that material is assigned. For example, you could be quizzed over the material for Chapter 3 on September 13th or any day afterwards. Take notes when you read and attend class lectures. Doing so will set you up to succeed on quizzes and exams. **<u>Read this syllabus and assignments carefully to put yourself in position to succeed.</u>**

Academic Support Services

Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) (Phillips Hall, Room 113/ (407) 823-5130): If you have trouble succeeding in this class and comprehending the material, you might benefit from contacting this office for assistance with improving your study skills.

University Writing Center (UWC) (MOD 608/ (407) 823-2197)**:** The Center is free for all UCF students. At the UWC, a writing consultant can work with you on anything you are writing, whether it is brainstorming or editing. While recommended, appointments are not required.

UCF Counseling Center (Building #27/ (407) 823-2811): Students experiencing formidable mental health challenges, including, but by no means limited to stress, anxiety, or depression, that are hindering their ability to be the best they can be should contact this office for help.

Students with Disabilities (Ferrell Commons, Room 132/ phone (407) 823-2371): Students with disabilities that need special accommodations regarding class attendance or assignments should have proof of their disability on file with Student Disability Services They should also inform the instructor of their within the first day of class or once they become aware of it, should such realization occur during the course of a semester.

Behavior

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." President Theodore Roosevelt.

Disruptions: If circumstances require you to arrive late for class, please do so in as discreet a manner as possible. Please try to limit distracting noises in class (for example, whispering, cell phones, etc.) as much as possible. Such behavior bothers others who are paying good money to learn and it may be distracting to me as I attempt to do my job.

Cheating: **Do not cheat** as this clearly violates the Golden Rule Student Handbook and violates several aspects of the UCF Creed. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor (such as on team quizzes), your work must be your own. Cheating can come in many forms, including plagiarism. Plagiarism is when writers use other people's words or ideas and do not give them credit. Use footnotes or endnotes to give credit for direct quotes, paraphrased quotes, or borrowed ideas. Feel free to discuss readings and ideas with fellow students, but if you use their ideas, please reference them accordingly. If you don't know what footnotes or endnotes are, please ask me. Do not quote or paraphrase without giving credit in footnotes or endnotes. Do not copy or use papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources. I assume that all students in this class could write a better term paper than the junk sold on the Internet and will not resort to such dubious sources for their assignments. In the event that I suspect a paper of being plagiarized, I will use Turnitin.com to help with that determination. Instances of cheating that result in a grade being penalized will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Assignments on which cheating occurs will be penalized with an F and the weight of that assignment when factored into the final

grade will be increased two-fold. For example, cheating by plagiarizing a portion of the short writing assignment would mean that 30% of your final grade would be a 0.

Class Schedule

Tuesday, Aug. 23	Welcome and Lecture
Tuesday, Aug. 30	Lecture, Chap. 1: The Globalization of International Relations (pp. 34)
Tuesday, Sep. 6	Lecture, Chap. 2: Realist Theories (pp. 28)
Tuesday, Sep. 13	Lecture, Chap. 3: Liberal and Social Theories (pp. 44)
Tuesday, Sep. 20	Lecture
Tuesday, Sep. 27	Lecture, Chap. 4: Conflict, War and Terrorism (pp. 55)
Tuesday, Oct. 4	Lecture
Tuesday, Oct. 11	**Midterm exam,** Lecture using UCF's online resources for research
Tuesday, Oct. 18	Lecture, Chap. 5: Trade and Finance (pp. 44)
Tuesday, Oct. 25	Lecture, **Due: Bibliographic assignment**
Tuesday, Nov. 1	Lecture, Chap. 6: International Organization, Law and Human Rights (pp. 52)
Tuesday, Nov. 8	Lecture, **Due: Short research and writing assignment**
Tuesday, Nov. 15	Lecture, Chap. 7: North-South Relations (pp. 48)
Tuesday, Nov. 22	Lecture, Chap. 8: Environment and Technology (pp. 39)
Tuesday, Nov. 29	Last regular class day: Lecture, review and course evaluations
Tuesday, Dec. 6,	**Final exam:** 7:00-9:50 PM