INR 4603
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

COURSE SYLLABUS

Dr. Robert Bledsoe
12:30-1:20 MWF
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OFFICE: Main Campus/Phillips Hall 302"I"
HOURS: 8:00-10:00 MWF

OFFICE: Daytona Campus/Bldg 150-Rm 200"A"
HOURS: 5:00-5:50 M

Course Purpose: This one semester course is designed to provide you with an in-depth introduction to a variety of theoretical approaches to the study of international relations. It will initially focus on such "major" theoretical traditions in the discipline as realism, liberalism, the so-called English school and a variety of alternative theoretical approaches, including Marxism (a somewhat pivotal approach viewed as both a major theoretical tradition and an alternative theoretical approach), constructivism (viewed by some as a new contender as a "major" theory), poststructuralism/postmodernism, critical theory, feminism, and global justice/environmentalism.

Course Requirements: The course will consist of a series of lectures/discussions revolving around each of the theoretical approaches to the study of international relations. Reading assigned chapters before we discuss them is critical to your success in the course, since we will be discussing substantive material from the chapters in your textbook. The textbook for the course is:

Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith, *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity* 2d ed. Oxford University Press. 2010.

The textbook can be purchased in the UCF Bookstore as well as commercial and rental sites. Reading the assignments and keeping up with lectures is your responsibility. Pace yourself according to the topics under consideration during lecture periods as reflected in the Assignments section of the syllabus. In addition, each student will have the **option** of writing a paper on an individual from the attached list of thinkers that reflect various of the theoretical approaches under study. Thus, the course will nurture your critical thinking and writing skills. I will need to know by Friday, September 8th if you want to do the optional assignment. E-mail me by midnight of that day if you want to do the optional assignment and which theorist you want to research. You will **not** have the opportunity after the 8th of September to suddenly decide that you want to do the optional paper. Your decision to do the optional assignment can be revoked at any time. Your report must be typed, properly footnoted, with a bibliography, and a minimum of 10 pages in length (double-spaced). You may use any professionally-accepted style except that I require that both the author and page numbers be included in your footnotes. The structure of the paper is as follows: (1) a biography of the individual you have chosen, (2) the school he or she falls within, (3) an extended analysis of the individual's thinking, (4)

the individual's contribution and significance to the field relative to others, and (5) weaknesses/flaws in the individual's thinking as identified by others in that field.

Examinations: There will be 4 examinations during the course on the following days.

Monday, September 19
Wednesday, October 12
Friday, November 4

The final examination is scheduled for **Friday, December 9 from 10:00am-12:50pm.** Each examination will consist of ten short answer essay questions. Please provide me with 4 test booklets ("blue books"), which will be used for your exam answers. When giving them to me, please make sure they are in new condition and not crumbled, folded, or soiled. Would you want to take you exam in one in that condition? Give me all 4 at the same time to make it easy for me to record that you have given them to me. Put your name in the upper right hand corner of one of the four when you hand them in to me. This is a course requirement and failure to comply will result in a grade reduction at the end of the course. It is not my responsibility to provide you with exam booklets. **There are no makeup examinations**. Furthermore, there will be no early final, so plan your marriage, holiday vacation, etc. for after finals week. All exams will be written in pen (not pencil). Once exams have started, no one may leave the classroom. Make sure you are ready to stay for 50 minutes without a break (or up to 3 hours in case of the final).

Grading Scheme: There are 5 possible grades for the course.

4 midterm exams (25 points each)	= 100 points
optional paper (25 points)	= 25 points

Students will need a total of 100 points, thus you will drop your lowest grade if you do all five possible grades or you may skip an exam (including the final) or not do the student paper. Just remember, there are no makeup exams. Plan wisely!

Course Grade:

90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
< 60 = F Note: no +/- grades

Assignments: These are Chapters in the course textbook.

Introduction	
IR and Social Science	(1)
Realism: Classical and Neoclassical/Structural	(3-4)

---First Midterm (Monday, September 19)---

Liberalism: Variations on the Theme	(5-6)
The English School: International Society	(7)
Marx	(8)

---Second Midterm (Wednesday, October 12)---
Note: withdrawal deadline is Thursday, October 27

Constructivism: Rationalist Theory	(9)
Feminism	(10)
Poststructuralism	(11)
Postcolonialism	(12)

---Third Midterm (Friday, November 4)---

Normative Theory	(2)
Green Theory	(13)
Globalization	(14)
Conclusion	(15)

---Final Midterm (Friday, December 9)---

WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY AND MAY YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL FALL SEMESTER

Some Ground Rules

Classroom: No attendance is taken but continued absences will be reflected in your course grade, as what we do in class is not always in the textbook

If you are late for class, please come in anyway but try not to disturb the class when doing so

No food, drink (except water), or smoking in classroom

Use of laptops or tape recorders are ok but all cell phones, iPods, etc. are turned off

Communications: In addition to normal office hours, you may reach me via e-mail (see top of front page of syllabus – please note that the

University e-mail is accessible to the public, so my private e-mail address should be used if you are concerned about confidentiality) or via telephone

Main campus (407-823-2608)
Daytona campus (386-506-4031)

Final grades: During the term, grades are handed back with exams and are not posted on myGrades. Only the final course grade is posted for you to retrieve online. If you wish materials returned to you, provide me with a stamped, addressed mailer and I will do so at the end of the grading period. No grades will be given out by the Department staff, so please do not call them

Attachment

Thinkers in International Relations

Note: Changes in the syllabus during the course are at the discretion of the Instructor

Key Thinkers in International Relations List

Realism

Raymond Aron
John Herz
Samuel Huntington
George Kennan
Stephen Krasner
Stephen Walt

Liberalism

Karl Deutsch
Ernst Haas
Stanley Hoffman
Richard Rosecrance
Joseph Nye
Robert Keohane

Economics

Adam Smith
David Ricardo
Susan Strange
Robert Gilpin
Kenneth Boulding

English School

Barry Buzan
John Vincent
Martin Wight

Constructivists

Friedrich Kratochwil
Nicholas Onuf
Christian Reus-Smit
John Gerard Ruggie

Positivism, Critical Theory, Postmodernism

Andre Gunder Frank
Stephen Gill
Jurgen Habermas
Andrew Linklater
Richard Ashley
Michel Foucault
Robert B.J. Walker

Feminism

Jean Bethke Elshtain
Cynthia Enloe
Christine Sylvester

Normative Theory

Charles Beitz
David Held
Terry Nardin
John Rawls
Michael Walzer