International Relations 2002
International Relations: Theory and Practice
Spring 2012

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Analysis of the fundamental principles and factors affecting interstate relations and their application to contemporary
global developments.

READINGS

The following text is assigned for this course and is available for purchase at the University of Central Florida bookstore:

Nau, Henry R. *Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, and Ideas* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2008) 2nd edition. ISBN: 978-0-87289-924-7

- Supplemental readings will be assigned by the instructor throughout the course of the semester.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- Three (3) exams (30 points each)
- 4-page Issue/Debate essay (40 points)
  Due in class: **APRIL 12th**
- Class participation (10 points)

EXAMINATIONS

Three (3) essay-style examinations will be given throughout the semester. The first exam will cover reading and lecture material from topics 1-2; the second exam will cover reading and lecture material from topics 3a-3b; the third exam will cover reading and lecture materials from topics 3c-6. Each exam is worth a maximum of 30 points.

ISSUE/DEBATE ESSAYS

From a short list of questions provided by the instructor, the student will be required to examine a salient issue in contemporary international affairs and argue for a particular side of a debate while refuting the arguments of an opposing viewpoint. A student's response must be no more than 4 typewritten (double-spaced) pages in length. The essay is worth a maximum of 40 points.

GRADING

The overall grade for the course will be based on the student's performance on each of the above assignments. The maximum number of points a student can acquire is 140. The grading scale is based on the following point distributions: 126-140=A range, 112-125= B range, 98-111= C range, 84-97= D range and 0-83= F range. Grades will not be based on a curve and will reflect the quality of the work submitted. +/- grades will not be given.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. There will be only four **EXCUSED** absences allowed over the course of the semester. Any unexcused absences will result in five points being deducted from your final course grade for each absence. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class period; therefore, it is important that you arrive to class on time. Should you happen to arrive late for a particular session, be sure to sign the roster after class so that you are not marked absent.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

All students will be expected to take each of the examinations on the scheduled dates. In the event that a student has an excused absence on the date of the exams, he/she will have to take a make-up examination on a date and at a location selected by the instructor. Failure to take the make-up exam on the rescheduled date will result in a score of 0 for the examination.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at the University of Central Florida. Academic dishonesty in any portion of your coursework (such as plagiarism on the paper or cheating on an examination) will result, at the very least, in your being assigned a failing grade for the course. If you're uncertain as to what constitutes cheating or plagiarism or if you have any other concerns related to academic dishonesty, be sure to discuss the matter

with the instructor. “Better safe than sorry” is good advice in matters involving academic integrity.

EXPECTED STUDENT CONDUCT:

The University of Central Florida (UCF) is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at UCF, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or university rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from UCF. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions.

COURSE OBJECTIVE & FORMAT:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with some of the key concepts in the study of international politics today. The course will thus be organized around theoretical issues, which is meant to provide students with the tools necessary to understand todays and tomorrow’s most pressing international and foreign policy issues.

In general, the class will be conducted as a mixture of lecture and discussion and will provide the student with a forum to raise any questions he/she may have concerning the material covered in lectures and in the assigned readings.

COURSE OUTLINE

Here is a week-by-week list of topics, examination dates, and associated readings. The schedule is subject to change if certain topics prove to require more or less time.

Topic 1: **Introduction to International Politics: What do we study? And how do we study it?**

Readings: Text, Introduction

Topic 2: **The Levels of Analysis**

Readings: Text, Chapter 1 (pp. 56-71), Conclusion & Supplemental reading will be assigned

EXAM 1: FEBRUARY 9th

Topic 3a: **System-level Approaches to International Politics: Classical Realism and Neo-Realism**

Readings: Text, Chap. 1 (pp. 22-23 & 28-34), Chap. 2 (pp. 73-92), Chap. 3 (pp. 109-120)
Chap. 4 (pp. 136-138 & 145-156), Chap. 5 (pp. 167-185),
Chap. 6 (205-206 & 218-225), Chap. 7 (pp. 233-234 & 238-244)

Topic 3b: **System-level Approaches to International Politics: Institutional Approaches to International Politics**

Readings: Text, Chap. 1 (pp.23-27 & 34-44), Chap. 2 (pp. 75-76 & pp. 92-98),
Chap. 3 (pp. 109-112 & 120-127), Chap. 4 (pp. 136-145),
Chap. 5 (pp. 167-170 & 194-203), Chap. 6 (pp. 205-218), Chap. 7 (pp. 233-238), Chap. 16

EXAM 2: MARCH 22nd

Topic 3c: **System-level Approaches to International Politics: The Constructivist Challenge**

Readings: Text, Chap. 1 (pp. 27-28 & 44-56), Chap. 2 (pp. 75-76 & 98-107)
Chap. 3 (pp. 109-112 & 127-135), Chap. 4 (pp. 94-96 & 157-166)
Chap. 5 (pp. 167-170 & 185-194), Chap. 6 (pp. 225-232), Chap. 7 (233-235 & 244-250)

Topic 4: **International Political Economy**

Readings: Text, Chapters 8-12

Topic 5: **Global Issues: International Law & Morality**

Readings: Text, Chapter 15

Topic 6: **Transnational Issues in International Politics**

Reading: Text, Chapters 7 (pp. 250-271), Chapter 14

EXAM 3: Thursday, 26 April 2012, 7-950PM

I hope you enjoy the class and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

SPECIAL RULES:

In accordance with state and federal law, instructors at the University of Central Florida cannot release information relating to the academic performance of students to persons other than the staff without the student's written consent. In order for this information to be given out at request of a third party, the student must first sign a consent form to release their educational records.