COURSE SYLLABUS

INR 2002
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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University of Central Florida

Section:	OW59
Term:	Spring 2012
Course Location:	N/A
Course Time:	Online
Credits:	3 Credit Hours
Office Location:	311-D Phillips Hall
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

International Relations-Theory and Practice is "an analysis of the fundamental principles and factors affecting interstate relations and their application to contemporary global developments."

This is an exciting time to study the many global transformations taking place. At the same time, the current international environment is producing significant levels of change, uncertainty and anxiety. The broad aim of this course is to introduce students to the field of international relations and its theoretical approaches to understanding this global reality. More specifically, the course is a critical examination of the historical contexts, prevailing assumptions and the complex contemporary affairs that comprise the scope of international relations today. Throughout the semester, our analyses will be guided by three central themes. First, the fullest understanding of the contemporary global environment requires an appreciation of the historical forces that shape them. Second, appreciating international realities must be accompanied by a systematic critique of the core assumptions that govern them. Finally, exploring traditional and alternative perspectives in international relations is vital for understanding the totality of contemporary global dynamics. From these perspectives, students will be challenged to both dissect and reflect on important concepts in world affairs such as the state, nationalism, globalization, terrorism and their meaning in international relations discourse.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Relying on lectures by the professor, critical dialog, and student research, the course objective is that at the end of the semester students will have been provided with the ability to:

- Analyze contemporary issues using the fundamental theoretical and methodological approaches in international relations;

- Analyze and understand global systems and organizations.
- Examine and analyze interactions between international actors and institutions;
- Display an understanding of current international transformations, affairs and conflicts; and
- Demonstrate basic skills for critical thinking, analyzing, and discussing matters of international importance.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- World Politics: Trend and Transformation, 12th Ed., Charles W. Kegley, Jr.

- Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics, 13th Ed., John T. Rourke.

GRADING SCALE

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
59 or lower	F

ASSIGNMENT GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Module Essays:	50 percent.
Mid-Term Examination:	15 percent.
Final Examination:	15 percent.
PowerPoint Photo Essay:	20 percent.
Total:	100 percent.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS & PROTOCOLS

PowerPoint Photo Essays:

Each student will submit **separate** Photo Essay in PowerPoint format that presents a case study that is directly connected to his or her assigned theme. This case study must explore and illustrate an international issue, debate, conflict or crisis within the assigned research theme (listed below). Thus, along with writing an essay, students are required to illustrate the research project by incorporating images available online (or self-scanned images from magazines, newspapers, etc.). The specific topic in the assigned theme will be left to each student but must be cleared by the Professor (see proposal below). The themes for the case studies are as follows:

1. Africa in World Affairs
   - Democratic Transition in Egypt
   - The United Nations & Conflict Resolution in the Sudan
   - NATO and the Libyan Uprising
   - The International Criminal Court (ICC) & President Omar al-Bashir
   - NATO and the Dispute in Cote d'Ivoire
   - Understanding Piracy in Somalia

The Genocide Question in Darfur

2. U.S. – China Post-Cold War Relations: Détente or Superpower Tensions?
   - Implications of a Chinese Superpower
   - China & the Human Rights Dilemma
   - China & the Global Economy
   - China & the Socialism – Capitalism Debate
   - China & the Korean Crisis
   - Chinese Interests in the Developing World – Sudan
   - Chinese Interests in the Developing World – Venezuela
3. The Impact of Neo-liberal Globalization: Case Studies in the Global South
   - Structural Adjustment Programs in South Africa
   - Structural Adjustment Programs in Ghana
   - Washington Consensus & Venezuela
   - NAFTA, Mexico & the Zapatista Movement
   - Neo-liberalism & the Haitian Economy
   - The Free Trade Debate & Jamaica
   - The Free Trade Area of the Americas Debate
4. U.S. – Iran Relations: Diplomacy or Confrontation?
   - The 'Axis of Evil' as Foreign Policy Towards Iran
   - The Obama Administration & a New Iranian Foreign Policy
   - Iran & U.S. Interests in the "Middle East": Iran & the Palestinian Question
   - Iran & U.S. Interests in the "Middle East": Iran – Iraq Relations
   - Implications of a Nuclear Iran
   - Mossadeq, the Shah & Iranian Foreign Policy
   - Iran & the Military Option
5. U.S. – Pakistan Policy: Implications for U.S. Interests
   - Pakistan, Afghanistan & U.S. Regional Interests
   - India, Pakistan & U.S. Regional Interests
   - The U.S., Pakistan & the Taliban
   - The "War on Terror" and President Pervez Musharraf
   - The "War on Terror" and President Asif Ali Zardari
   - The Assassination of Benazir Bhutto: Implications for U.S. Interests
   - U.S. – Pakistan Relations: Contrasting Bush & Obama
6. Resolving the Israel – Palestinian Conflict: Prospects for Peace
   - The Palestinian State Debate
   - The Israeli Settlement Debate
   - Prospects for a Two-State Solution
   - Continuity & Change: Contrasting Bush & Obama
   - Israel, Iran & U.S. Influence
   - The Hezbollah Factor in Israel
   - Israel – Palestine & the War in Iraq

Again, note that, although the term "group" is used here, your Photo Essays will be <u>individual</u> projects.

Regarding actual structure of the Photo Essay, a good way to look at it is that you will submit a thoughtful and well-written essay that is illustrated with images that depict whatever perspective or hypothesis you are exploring. There should be some clear focus that you are trying to convey that determines the pictures you select and the paragraphs you write per each slide. The Photo Essay must include at least the following:

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14. First slide = title slide with a cover photo and student information.
15. Second slide = introductory PARAGRAPH detailing focus of the photo essay. No photo needed. Slide text fonts should be either size 14 or 16.
16. Content slides = the main body of the essay including content paragraphs coupled with images that illustrate the point being expressed in the text. Minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 content slides. Slide text fonts should be between size 14 and 18. Multiple pictures are allowed on one content slide but should not exceed 4 per slide. The source of the images should be pasted in the caption (no need to cite the sources).
17. Final four slides = a four (4) item annotated bibliography using ONLY scholarly and non-website sources including books and journal articles (1 source per slide). These sources must be cited in the content slides/body of the essay using any version of the Chicago style.
    a. No Internet encyclopedias (i.e. Wikipedia) will be accepted as scholarly sources.
    b. Use of course textbooks as sources is not allowed.
    c. Newspapers, magazines, news websites and blogs are not considered scholarly. Exceptions must be approved after consultation with the professor.
    d. Be sure to cite all your sources in the body of the photo essay.
    e. Sources must include at least 1 book and at least 1 journal article.
    f. Full text scholarly journal articles posted at online library databases are acceptable for your bibliography. Be sure to cite the source (journal or periodical) first, followed by the URL.
    g. Annotations should be at least 5 sentences long per each source. Text fonts for bibliography slides must be size 12.
18. Essay line space must be 1.5.

Module Essay Assignments:

Students will submit essays based on the readings associated with each module. Please note that here may be several listed for some of the modules. Students should choose one question to answer per module. Please type out the answers to these questions in a saved document on your computer. Once completed, copy and paste your work directly into the appropriate field/box/column within the Webcourses assignment dropbox. Please do not attach it as a file. Be sure to number each answer and format it appropriately. Credit will be deducted if I have difficulty reading your submission. Each student must submit a total of five (5) essays out of the seven (7) modules. Each is worth 10 points. Essays will be graded based upon the degree and depth that they answer the identified questions. You are required to reference information in the modules when writing essays. Thus, students must include parenthetical references which identify the sources you are using for your essay.

Useful Research Sites:

The following format should be used for annotations:

- http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/AnnBib_content.html

The following sites are useful examples of photo essays:

- http://www.cbc.ca/arts/photoessay/rexdale/index.html
- http://www.pbs.org/now/photo_essay20/1.html
- http://www.pbs.org/now/photo_essay20/1.html

The following sites are useful examples of citations:

- http://www.lib.usm.edu/research/guides/turabian.html
- http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html
- http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/legacylib/mlahcc.html

Exams:

All exams will be completed in Webcourses. Exams will open on the assigned day in the "Assessments" link. Students are allowed two hours to complete the exam. Please note that answers will not be provided online and students must visit the professor to discuss scores. The Final will not be cumulative. Please see Webcourses protocol below for technical difficulties during exams.

COURSE POLICIES & PROTOCOLS

Regarding technical difficulties, missed/late assignments & make-up examinations:

19. ***<u>Students citing technical difficulties with Webcourses as responsible for a missed or incomplete assignment, exam or posting deadline must record and provide the following information immediately</u>:***
    a. The name of the technical support staff person you consulted for help;
    b. The day and time you called for help;
    c. The instruction(s) they provided you; and
    d. The outcome after your attempts to correct the problem(s).
20. Students who miss an assignment as a result of an excused reason must submit the assignment upon return to coursework.
21. Excuses for medical reasons must be accompanied by a doctor's (or health professional's) signed statement on their business letterhead.
22. Students who miss an exam as a result of an excused absence must consult the professor upon return to coursework in order to schedule a make-up exam (within one week).
23. Students who miss an assignment for any unexcused reason will have three (3) days after the due date to submit it. Please note that the assignment grade will be dropped one letter for each day. No assignments will be accepted after the third day.
24. Students who miss the mid-term or the final examination for any unexcused reason will not be allowed a make-up.

Regarding student conduct:

25. **<u>Students caught cheating or found guilty of plagiarism will be automatically issued a grade of "F" for the course and pursued under any applicable university-level sanctions</u>.** Please note the following definitions of plagiarism:
    - Using another student's work, meaning anything from borrowing one phrase to copying an entire paper.
    - Submitting a paper or report (or any portion of such a paper) purchased from a commercial source.
    - Borrowing the exact words of another writer without acknowledging the debt by quotation mark and either a citation or an overt, explicit reference to the source in the body of your writing.
    - Borrowing the ideas of another writer by paraphrasing or rewording without acknowledging the source.
26. Please consult the University of Central Florida's "Golden Rule" policy. <u>http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/</u>

Additional Policies & Protocols:

27. Please remember to send all course related emails to Webcourses Course Mail and not GroupWise. Your GroupWise emails regarding course concerns and questions will not be answered.
28. Patience is necessity in online courses. Please expect replies to your emails within 48 hours. Do not expect replies to emails over the weekend and holidays.
29. Students with disabilities and requiring alternative arrangements must register with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116. Students should then inform the instructor and provide any relevant documents.
30. **Copyright notice: I have taken steps to ensure that all course material, including this syllabus and the lectures associated with this class, are protected by copyright law as my own original expression. Students are authorized to take notes in class and thus create their own "derivative work" from my lecture, but this authorization extends only to your personal use. Reproduction, distribution, or publication (on-line or otherwise) of transcribed or taped versions of my lecture or course material is not permitted without my express written consent.**
31. The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus as needed. Students will be notified accordingly.
32. All students opting to remain in this class demonstrate an agreement with the policies outlined above.