INR 2002, Section 1
International Relations – Theory and Practice
3 credit hours
Spring 2012

Professor Mark Schafer
Office: 314A Howard Phillips Hall, (407) 823-3328
Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00 to 2:30 pm, and by appointment.

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

Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce you to the theories and practices of global politics. The course deals with two primary dimensions of international politics. The first covers the important theories and concepts of international relations. This will be covered primarily in class lectures and discussions. You may wish to supplement this with optional textbook readings in *Dynamics of International Relations*, 2004, by Walter C. Clemens; Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. But please note that this book is *optional*. The only *required* book for this course is a novel by Isaac Asimov called *Foundation*. This novel deals fictitiously with many issues pertaining to international relations in general and will be the basis for some provocative discussion throughout the semester. Both books should be available at the UCF Bookstore (and perhaps elsewhere in town).

The second primary dimension of the class deals with current issues, practices and problems in today's international setting. In order to accomplish this you are *required* to read Associated Press ("AP") international news stories. These can be accessed for free by way of yahoo.com, which I'll show you in class early in the semester. Pay particular attention to international and global happenings such as events in Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, the European Union, Africa, the Middle East, global trade and economic issues, and others as they emerge. Note that you must read these stories before class each day. We will spend a portion of class time each week discussing current international topics and how those topics fit into the theories we have studied and discussed in class. In addition to reading AP stories, you can get supplemental international news from the following sources (but remember that the AP stories are required):

1. Listen to National Public Radio (NPR) news programs (particularly "All Things Considered" in the late afternoon and "Morning Edition" in the morning). NPR can be found on the FM dial at 90.7 and is an excellent source of interesting and in-depth international news.
2. Read the international news stories in major magazines such as *Time*, the *Economist* or *Newsweek*.
3. Watch national news on television and pay particular attention to the international news stories.

Course Objectives

- Increased knowledge of international relations theories and practices.
- Increased academic skills in the following areas: reading, writing, communicating, and particular thinking critically.

Course Requirements Portion of Final Grade

1. First exam, February 17…….....25%
2. Second exam, March 23…….....25%
3. Final exam Friday, April 27, 7:00 to 8:30 am……..…….....30%
4. First short paper, due March 2 .....…....10%
5. Second short paper, due April 13.....…....10%

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and medium-length essay questions.

Grading Scale

90% to 100% = A
80% to 89.99% = B
70% to 79.99% = C
60% to 69.99% = D
Below 60% = F

You may also receive an additional bonus to your overeall grade, up to 5%, based on your participation in class discussions (see note below).

Class discussion is a central component of this class. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and current international events. Class participation can take several forms such as commenting on a topic or asking or answering a question. Based on participation in class discussions, students may earn up to 5% bonus added to their final score in the course. Because I won't know everyone's name in this class until later in the semester, I have a system of keeping track of class participation: any time you contribute to class discussion, write down a brief version of what you said on a piece of paper with your name on it and turn it in to me after class**.** That allows me to keep track of how often everyone participates in class. I will also occasionally give pop quizzes and in-class assignments that will count toward your participation bonus, but the majority of the bonus will come from actually participating in class discussion.

Course Calendar

(Note: The following calendar is organized into one or two week segments. There may be some minor deviations from this schedule depending on a variety of scheduling factors.)

Weeks of January 9 and 18: Realism, Idealism, and Interdependence: Core Theories of International Relations.
Read Part I in *Foundation*.
Optional reading: Introduction and Chapter 1 in *Dynamics of International Relations.*

Week of January 23: Foundations of the "Nation-State" System.
Optional reading: Chapters 2 and 8 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

Weeks of January 30 and February 6: International Organizations; Organizing for Peace.
Optional reading: Chapter 14 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

Week of February 13: Catch up, review, and prepare for exam.
Read: Part II in *Foundation*.

***** First Exam: February 17 ****

Week of February 20: Foreign Policy Decision Making and the Levels of Analysis.
Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Part III of *Foundation*.
Optional reading: Chapter 3 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

Weeks of February 27 and March 12: Power, Conflict, and War
Optional readings: Chapters 4 and 5 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

***** First Short Paper Due March 2*****

Week of March 19: Catch up, review, and prepare for exam.
Read the rest of Part III in *Foundation*.

***** Second Exam: March 23 ****

Weeks of March 26 and April 2: Arms Control; International Law
Optional readings: Chapters 9 and 15 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

Week of April 9: International Political Economy: Liberalism, Mercantilism, Neo-Liberalism, and Marxism
Read Part IV in *Foundation*.
Optional reading: Chapter 11 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

***** Second Short Paper Due April 13 ****

Week of April 16: Development and Underdevelopment.
Optional reading: Chapter 12 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

April 23: Contemporary Global Issues and Challenges; and catch up, review and prepare for final exam.
Read Part V in *Foundation*.
Optional reading: Chapter 13 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

***** Final Exam – Friday, April 27, 7:00 to 8:30 am*****

Policies

I welcome and encourage questions, comments and discussion either in or out of the classroom. I love teaching and I love what I teach, so remember my door is open!

Any papers or assignments must be turned in on or before the due date. Emailed papers will not be accepted unless previously arranged with me due to dire circumstances. Exams and quizzes may not be rescheduled or postponed. Exceptions will be allowed only under extreme, documented circumstances. Under such circumstances, you are required to notify me (or, if I am unavailable, the Department of Political Science) prior to the date or as soon as possible if prior notice is impossible.

Late papers are generally not accepted. If I accept a late paper because of circumstances, I will deduct 10% from the paper grade for every day it is late, up to a maximum of 75% deduction.

I cannot respond to grade inquiries by email.

Laptops are not permitted in this class once the class period has started.

Cell phones, pagers, and other such things that might go off and make noise in our class are not permitted in class.

As reflected in the UCF Creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. All work you submit must be your own scholarly and creative effort. UCF's Golden Rule defines plagiarism as follows: "**whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.**" I may require an electronic version of any paper submitted for this class for the purpose of checking for plagiarism.

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus can be made available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must register with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116. After that, the student should contact the professor to request accommodations.

Third parties may be selling class notes and other materials from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.