Fall 2012 Syllabus

INR 2002.0002 International Relations Theory and Practice

Dr. Paul Vasquez, Department of Political Science

Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30- 8:45 A.M.; **credit hours:** 3
Classroom Building 1, Room 318
Instructor's office: 305B Howard Phillips (PH) Hall; **Phone:** (407) 823-3329
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:45-11:30 AM and 12:30-2:45 PM & 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.
Prerequisite: ENC 1102 or consent of the instructor.

Required materials: Required materials for this course include the following text book:

Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2012. International Relations. Brief 6th edition (2012-2013 update). New York: Pearson Longman.

Also, you will need access to MyPoliSciLab online (www.mypoliscilab.com), which includes practice tests, multimedia activities, and other resources to reinforce your understanding of the textbook. To register and gain access to these resources, follow the directions after clicking on the "student" button in the "Register" section of the website mentioned above. You will need the access code you should have purchased along with the textbook.

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.

A	B	C	D	E
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Assignment average (add grades for each row & ÷ by the # of grades for this task)**	**Component Score = column B x column C**	**Due Date**
Quizzes	15			To be announced
Exam 1	20			Tues., Sept. 25
Exam 2	20			Tues., Nov. 6
Writing Improvement Exercise	5			Tues., Nov. 13
Short writing assignment w/ bibliography	15			Thurs., Nov. 20
Final Exam	25			Thurs., Dec. 6, 7:00-9:50 AM
Total	100%	**Add Column D to estimate final grade →**		

Assignments

Quizzes: Quizzes may cover any material from the lecture, readings or assignments from MyPoliSciLab. Some quizzes will be announced in advance and other evaluations will be pop quizzes. In addition to traditional, individually taken quizzes, some quizzes will be taken in teams of roughly five students that you will be assigned to early in the semester to allow for collaboration and discussion. These team quizzes will include questions with more than one correct answer for a question or questions, and you will be graded on your ability to identify all of the correct answers on those quizzes. On these team quizzes you will be aided by knowing the total number of correct answers for the assignment. The lowest quiz grade for each student will be dropped when calculating final course grades.

Exam 1, Exam 2 and the Final Exam: These will be multiple choice exams with each question having only one correct answer. However, only the final exam will be cumulative, as it will cover material covered on the first two exams, as well as the material covered after Exam 2. **Warning:** Do not assume that these exams will be easy simply because they will take the form of a multiple choice exam.

Writing Improvement Exercise: After covering some issues regarding writing in class, you will review and correct a piece of very poor, error-filled writing.

Short writing assignment: For this assignment you will write a short reflection paper (4-5 pages maximum) on one of the course simulations. For these papers, you should:
1) briefly describe the simulation,
2) apply concepts covered in the particular chapter for which the simulation was assigned to different elements within the simulation,
3) discuss what knowledge or greater understanding you gained from doing the simulation, and
4) critique the simulation by explaining in what regard it was unrealistic or how it could have been made more enlightening (not merely more entertaining)

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.

While you will not need a bibliography for the short writing assignment, you will also turn in along with it a **bibliography** including 10 sources (5 articles and 5 books). These sources should all clearly related to a common aspect of international relations that you could use in the future if you had to write a research paper instead of just discussing a simulation as you did in the short paper. Five of your sources should be books and five should be articles with at least one of the five articles coming from each of the four following databases: 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. Other online sources cannot count as one of your 10 citations.

The short paper and the bibliographic assignment will be graded in accord with the following distribution of credit.

Mechanics of writing		20%
Application of concepts		30%
Clear and logical analysis	(in addressing the 4 enumerated tasks of the paper)	30%
Organization of paper		5%
Bibliography		15%
		100%

Grades scale for course assignments

The grading scale for this course is listed below. For more details on the evaluation criteria, see the specific tasks listed under Course Requirements.

Letter Grade Points	
A = 93 – 100 points	C = 73 – 76 points
A-= 90 – 92 points	C-= 70 – 72 points
B+= 87 – 89 points	D+= 67 – 69 points
B = 83 – 86 points	D = 63 – 66 points
B- =80 – 82 points	D- = 60 – 62 points
C+=77 – 79 points	F = 59 and below

Late work/ Make-up Exams/Don't plan on extra credit: 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, and 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. Missed quizzes may only be made up if they are for an officially excused University function, but keep in mind that your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. While I reserve the right to offer extra credit to the entire class, I do not plan on doing so. Thus, you should direct your energies accordingly.

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 readings, videos or simulations (if there had been one assigned) for Chapter 1 on August 28, which is the last day scheduled for lecture over Chapter 1. However, lecture material is fair game for quizzing once it has been mentioned in class. Take notes when you read and attend class lectures. Doing so will set you up to succeed on quizzes and exams. **Read this syllabus and assignments carefully to put yourself in position to succeed.**

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. Students should refrain from using laptops or other electrical devices in class.

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. I strongly recommend that everyone take the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagarism" prior to beginning the short paper so that you will be clear about my expectations of you. I will send out a link to this tutorial during the semester. 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.

If I determine that there has been any instance of academic dishonesty in the course, I will inform you of my concern and report the violation to Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. At the end of the semester, a letter grade of Z, indicating academic dishonesty, will precede the letter grade earned. For more information about the Z grades and the process for appealing such a finding, please consult the following website: http://integrity.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade .

Assignments on which cheating occurs will be penalized with an F (0 points) 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 and bibliography would mean that the zero on the assignment would count for 30% of your final grade instead of just 15%.

Class Schedule

Tuesday, August 21

Welcome and Lecture

Thursday, August 23

Lecture, Required: Chap. 1: The Globalization of International Relations (pp. 34)

Required: MyPoliSciLab Activity:[1] *Video Case:* August 1991: The Collapse of the Soviet Union

Recommended: MyPoliSciLab Activities: Chapter Pre-Test, Post-Test, Chapter Exam & Flashcards

Tuesday, August 28 Lecture

Thursday, August 30

Lecture, Required: Chap. 2: Realist Theories (pp. 28)

Required: MyPoliSciLab Activities: *Simulations* (w/in the Multimedia options). Complete the Concept Check and do: The Prisoners' Dilemma: You are the Presidential Advisor
Video Cases: Chamberlain's Appeasement & Normalizing Sino-Japanese Relations

Recommended: MyPoliSciLab Activities: Chapter Pre-Test, Post-Test, Chapter Exam & Flashcards

Tuesday, September 4 Lecture

Thursday, September 6 Lecture

[1] If you have trouble with online resources, you may have success if you 1) try reloading the problematic page or 2) try using a different web browser from what you usually use (some options include Internet Explorer and Firefox).

Tuesday, September 11

Lecture, Required: Chap. 3: Liberal and Social Theories (pp. 44)

Required: MyPoliSciLab Activity: *Simulation.* (w/in the Multimedia options). Complete the Concept Check and do: Foreign Policy: You Are the President

Recommended: MyPoliSciLab Activities: Chapter Pre-Test, Post-Test, Chapter Exam & Flashcards

Thursday, September 13	Lecture
Tuesday, September 18	Lecture
Thursday, September 20	Lecture
Tuesday, September 25	**Exam 1**

Thursday, September 27

Lecture, Required: Chap. 4: Conflict, War and Terrorism (pp. 55)

Required: MyPoliSciLab Activities: *Simulation* (w/in the Multimedia options). Complete the Concept Check and do: Military Force: You Are a Military Commander
Video Cases. The Iran-Iraq War, The Cuban Missile Crisis, Western Arm Sales and the Rwandan Genocide, & Civil-Military Relations and Revolution in Egypt

Recommended: MyPoliSciLab Activities: Chapter Pre-Test, Post-Test, Chapter Exam & Flashcards

Tuesday, October 2	Lecture
Thursday, October 4	Lecture
Tuesday, October 9	Lecture, including research advice

Thursday, October 11

Lecture, Required: Chap. 5: Trade and Finance (pp. 44)

Required: MyPoliSciLab Activities: *Simulation* (w/in the Multimedia options). Complete the Concept Check and do: Business: You are a Foreign Market Analyst *Video Cases.* U.S.-China Trade Tensions & Banking Interests and Regulatory Reform

Recommended: MyPoliSciLab Activities: Chapter Pre-Test, Post-Test, Chapter Exam & Flashcards

Tuesday, October 16 Lecture

Thursday, October 18 Lecture

Tuesday, October 23

Lecture, Required: Chap. 6: International Organization, Law and Human Rights (pp. 52)

Required: MyPoliSciLab Activities: *Simulation* (w/in the Multimedia options). Complete the Concept Check and do: Integration: You Are a Citizen of Europe *Video Case.* State Sovereignty and the "Responsibility to Protect"

Recommended: MyPoliSciLab Activities: Chapter Pre-Test, Post-Test, Chapter Exam & Flashcards

Thursday, October 25 Lecture

Tuesday. October 30 Lecture

Thursday, November 1 Lecture

Tuesday, November 6 **Exam 2**

Thursday, November 8

Lecture, Required: Chap. 7: North-South Relations (pp. 48)

Required: MyPoliSciLab Activities: *Simulation* (w/in the Multimedia options). Complete the Concept Check and do: The North-South Gap: You Are a Coffee Farmer
Video cases. Global Migration and Employment, Kenya's Developmental Challenge, China's New Rich

Recommended: MyPoliSciLab Activities: Chapter Pre-Test, Post-Test, Chapter Exam & Flashcards

Tuesday, November 13	Lecture, **Writing improvement exercise due**
Thursday, November 15	Lecture
Tuesday, November 20	**Short paper and bibliography due**

Lecture, Required: Chap. 8: Environment and Technology (pp. 39)

Required: MyPoliSciLab Activities: *Simulation* (w/in the Multimedia options). Complete the Concept Check and do: Transnational Issues: You Are an Environmental Consultant
Video case. Carteret's Climate Refugees

Recommended: MyPoliSciLab Activities: Chapter Pre-Test, Post-Test, Chapter Exam & Flashcards

Thursday, November 22	**Thanksgiving Holiday**—class will not meet
Tuesday, November 27	Lecture
Thursday, November 29	Last regular class day for this class
Thursday, December 6	**Final Exam,** 7:00-9:50 AM