Syllabus
Semester/Year

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Mark Schafer
Office	314 Howard Phillips Hall
Office Hours	Mondays and Fridays 9:00 to 10:30 am Wednesdays 1:30 to 2:30 pm
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Course Information

Course Name	International Relations – Theory and Practice
Course ID & Section	INR 2002 – 0W58
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Fall 2012
Location	Online only

Course Description

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.

Required Text

- *Foundation* by Isaac Asimov
- International AP wire stories

Optional/Supplemental Text

- *Dynamics of International Relations*, 2004, by Walter C. Clemens; Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

Course Requirements

Assignment	Date	Percent of Final Grade
First Exam	September 21	25
Second Exam	October 26	25
Final Exam	December 4	25

First Short Paper	October 5	7.5
Second Short Paper	November 9	7.5
Class Discussion	semester	10

Exams will be multiple choice questions and medium-length essay.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Any papers or assignments must be turned in on or before the due date. 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.

Evaluation and Grading

Final Percent for Course	Grade
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89.99%	B
70% - 79.99%	C
60% - 69.99%	D
Below 60%	F

Academic Honesty

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.

Disability Statement

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-party Notes

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.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software, such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** provide any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally, identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.