COURSE SYLLABUS

INR 2002
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Section:	OW59
Term:	Fall 2012
Course Location:	N/A
Course Time:	Online
Credits:	3 Credit Hours
Office Location:	311-D Phillips Hall
Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday, 10am – 1130am and Online
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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

- Introduction to Global Politics, 2011 Ed., Lamy, et.al. ISBN: 9780195385274

- 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 PROTOCOLS & ASSIGNMENTS

Class Protocols:

Students must adhere to the following discussion post protocols:

1. The syllabus is the governing document for the course. In the event that there appears to be a conflict, the syllabus prevails.
2. The deadline for all assignments, exams, essays, etc. will always be 10:00 pm.
3. Please send all course-related emails to Webcourses Course Mail only. Other emails regarding course concerns and questions may not be answered.
4. Students must make certain to check the site daily. Be sure to read all of my messages, instructions, announcement, etc. Also, be certain to do so before sending emails requesting information already provided there.
5. It is always helpful to begin readings based on the course outline in the syllabus in addition to the lesson module.
6. Patience is a necessity in online courses. Please expect replies to your emails within 48 hours. Do not expect replies to emails over the weekend and holidays.
7. Finally, while students are encouraged to interact with each other in the "Help," "Technical Suggestions," and "Student Coffee House" discussion topics, civility and mutual respect are required of all postings. Please refrain from postings to the contrary.

Lesson Module Essay Assignment:

8. Each student must submit a total of five (5) essays out of the seven (7) lesson module essays based on the readings and questions associated with each module. Please note that only five essays will be graded.

9. After completing the module introduction and assigned readings, locate the essay questions in the lesson module.
10. Go to the corresponding Webcourses discussion link for that lesson then submit the essay for question. Please note that here may be several questions listed for some of the modules.
11. Essays should be 400-450 words in length. Please type out the answers to these questions in a saved word processing document on your computer. Once completed, essays must be copied and pasted directly into the appropriate field/box/column within the Webcourses discussion topic (also referred to as a "journal" thread). Do not attach the essay as a file as it will not be graded.
12. Each is worth 20 points. Essays must be proofed and edited. Also, they will be graded based upon the degree and depth to which they explore the identified questions. Be sure to format answers by using spaces between paragraphs and numbered segments (where appropriate). Do not write using personal pronouns and first-person references. Credit will be deducted if I have difficulty reading your submission.
13. Students are required to provide references for information in the modules that were used in the essays. In other words, sources must be quoted in the essay. In addition to quotes, students can make reference to specific, concepts, arguments, passages, imagery, characterizations, etc., from the readings. Those quotations must then be cited using parenthetical references (i.e. Rodney, p. 145).
14. Do not post answers without first doing the readings! First of all, it is intellectually dishonest to answer questions for readings you have not done. Second, it is not fair to those who have done the readings.

PowerPoint Photo Essay:

Each student will be assigned to one of the themes below according to last names. After locating assigned themes, students must select one of the Issues/Debates (items a-g) and will submit a photo essay in PowerPoint format that explores and illustrates a specific international issue, debate, conflict or crisis within the assigned research theme (only one student per issue/debate).

The photo essays must illustrate the research project by incorporating images available online (or self-scanned images from magazines, newspapers, etc.). The specific focus and title of the photo essays will be left to each student. However, they must NOT be identical to the assigned theme or the issues/debates. Student research topics and titles must be cleared by the Professor via coursemail. The topics for the case studies are as follows:

Theme 1. Africa in World Affairs (Last Names A-D)

Issues/Debates:

a) Democratic Transition in Egypt
b) The United Nations & Conflict Resolution in the Sudan
c) NATO and the Libyan Uprising
d) The International Criminal Court (ICC) & President Omar al-Bashir
e) NATO and the Dispute in Cote d'Ivoire
f) Understanding Piracy in Somalia
g) The Genocide Question in Darfur

Theme 2. U.S. – China Post-Cold War Relations: Détente or Superpower Tensions? (Last Names E-H)

Issues/Debates:

a) Implications of a Chinese Superpower
b) China & the Human Rights Dilemma
c) China & the Global Economy
d) China & the Socialism – Capitalism Debate
e) China & the Korean Crisis
f) Chinese Interests in the Developing World – Sudan
g) Chinese Interests in the Developing World – Venezuela

Theme 3. The Impact of Neo-liberal Globalization: Case Studies in the Global South (Last Names I-L)

Issues/Debates:

a) Structural Adjustment Programs in South Africa
b) Structural Adjustment Programs in Ghana
c) Washington Consensus & Venezuela
d) NAFTA, Mexico & the Zapatista Movement
e) Neo-liberalism & the Haitian Economy
f) The Free Trade Debate & Jamaica
g) The Free Trade Area of the Americas Debate

Theme 4. U.S. – Iran Relations: Diplomacy or Confrontation? (Last Names M-P)

Issues/Debates:

a) The 'Axis of Evil' as Foreign Policy Towards Iran
b) The Obama Administration & a New Iranian Foreign Policy
c) Iran & U.S. Interests in the "Middle East": Iran & the Palestinian Question
d) Iran & U.S. Interests in the "Middle East": Iran – Iraq Relations
e) Implications of a Nuclear Iran
f) Mossadeq, the Shah & Iranian Foreign Policy
g) Iran & the Military Option

Theme 5. U.S. – Pakistan Policy: Implications for U.S. Interests (Last Names Q-U)

Issues/Debates:

a) Pakistan, Afghanistan & U.S. Regional Interests
b) India, Pakistan & U.S. Regional Interests
c) The U.S., Pakistan & the Taliban
d) U.S. – Pakistan Relations after Osama Bin Laden
e) The "War on Terror" and President Asif Ali Zardari
f) The Assassination of Benazir Bhutto: Implications for U.S. Interests
g) U.S. – Pakistan Relations: Contrasting Presidents Obama & Bush

Theme 6. Resolving the Israel – Palestinian Conflict: Prospects for Peace (Last Names V-Z)

Issues/Debates:

a) The Palestinian State Debate
b) The Israeli Settlement Debate
c) Prospects for a Two-State Solution
d) Continuity & Change: Contrasting Bush & Obama
e) Israel, Iran & U.S. Influence
f) The Hezbollah Factor in Israel
g) Israel – Palestine & the War in Iraq

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

15. First slide = title slide with a cover photo and student information.
16. Second slide = introductory PARAGRAPH detailing focus of the photo essay. No photo needed. Slide text fonts should be either size 14 or 16.
17. 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).
18. 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.
19. Essay line space must be 1.5.

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

The following sites are useful examples of citations:

- http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html
- http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.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:

20. ***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:***
    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).
21. Students who miss an assignment as a result of an excused reason must submit the assignment upon return to coursework.
22. Excuses for medical reasons must be accompanied by a doctor's (or health professional's) signed statement on their business letterhead.
23. Students who miss an exam as a result of an excused absence must consult the professor upon return in order to schedule a make-up exam (within one week).
24. Students who miss an assignment, the mid-term or the final examination for any unexcused reason will not be allowed a make-up.

Regarding student conduct:

25. **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.** 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. http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/

Additional Policies & Protocols:

27. 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.
28. **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.**
29. The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus as needed. Students will be notified accordingly.
30. All students opting to remain in this class demonstrate an agreement with the policies outlined above.

COURSE SCHEDULE*

LESSON	WEEK	TOPIC	REQUIRED READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
	8-20	**Course Introduction** **Research Assignments**		Research Topic & Title Selection: **8-25**
1	8-27	**International Relations as a Discipline** Introduction to IR & Global Politics The Evolution of the Discipline	 *Global Politics*, Chapter 1 *Global Politics*, Chapter 2	Module Essay: **9-9**
2	9-10	**IR Theory & Approaches** Traditional Approaches in IR Theory Alternative Approaches in IR Theory ~~Security & Realism~~	 *Global Politics*, Chapter 3 *Global Politics*, Chapter 4 Online: *John J Mearsheimer,* "Hans Morgenthau and the Iraq war: realism versus neo-conservatism"	Module Essay: **9-23**
3	9-24	**Defining & Extending Power** The State & Foreign Policy	 *Global Politics*, Chapter 5 *Taking Sides, Issues 16 & 17*	Module Essay: **10-9**
4	10-10	**International Actors** Intergovernmental Organizations Transnational & Non-State Actors in IR	 *Global Politics*, Chapter 6 *Global Politics*, Chapter 7 *Taking Sides, Issues 5 & 21*	Module Essay: **10-21**
5	10-22	**The International Political Economy I** The Globalization Debate	 *Global Politics*, Chapter 11	Mid Term Examination: **10-25**
	10-27	**The International Political Economy II** International Trade & Finance	 *Global Politics*, Chapter 12 *Taking Sides, Issues 1 & 2*	Module Essay: **11-6**
6	11-7	**International Conflict & Warfare** Collective Security Contemporary Threats & Conflicts	 *Global Politics*, Chapter 8 *Global Politics*, Chapter 9 *Taking Sides, Issue 13 & 14* **Documentary**: The Fog of War	Module Essay: **11-18**
7	11-19	**Sustainability in IR** Sustainability & the People Sustainability & the Planet	 *Global Politics*, Chapter 13 *Global Politics*, Chapter 14 *Taking Sides, Issue 19* **Audio**: Vandana Shiva on Sustainable Living	Module Essay: **11-25**
8	11-26	**Conclusion** IR into the 21st Century		Photo Essays: **12-2**
	12-3	Final Examination		Final Exam **12-5**