COURSE SYLLABUS

INR 6007
SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Kurt B. Young, Ph.D.
Department of Political Science / African American Studies Program
University of Central Florida

Section:	0001
Term:	Fall 2012
Course Location:	COMM 0147
Course Time:	6:00pm – 8:50pm
Credits:	3 Credit Hours
Office Location:	311-D Phillips Hall
Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday, 10am – 1130am and Online
Office Telephone:	407-823-2984
Email:	kurt.young@ucf.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

INR 6007 is a comprehensive analysis of the significant points of divergence (and convergence) that exist across the North-South divide in international politics. The course is specifically concerned with identifying the significant theoretical perspectives, disciplinary concepts and contemporary political realities in international relations that emanate from the perspective of the peoples, societies and states of the developing world. Historically, interpretations of contemporary global politics tend to reflect the worldview, assumptions and interests of the great powers and other major international actors of the North. Additionally, the West has and continues to hold significant sway over the interpretations of global events and transformations. This course examines alternatives to such tendencies in international relations. The course will accomplish this in three ways. First, the analysis begins with reflections on and critiques of the prevailing and emerging theories in international relations. The theoretical debates are followed by alternative considerations of the major themes that define the discipline. Finally, students will conduct research project that explore contemporary events, crises and trends utilizing the perspectives that stem from experiences in the developing world.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

As a graduate seminar, students should expect a rigorous and comprehensive approach to the subject matter. As such, students are expected to satisfy the general objectives of the course by attending all lectures by the professor, engaging in critical dialog, completing all readings and conducting thorough research projects. The specific objective course is that at the end of the semester, and as a result of the forgoing, students will have developed the ability to:

1. Identify the source, nature and causes of divergent perspectives from the developing world as they relate to international relations;
2. Grasp the specific theoretical expressions in international relations that have and continue to emerge from the developing world;
3. Locate the transformational debates in international relations that are produced by alternative perspectives; and
4. Critically assess the application of these perspectives through thoughtful and systematic research projects.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Africa's Challenge To International Relations Theory, Kevin C. Dunn and Timothy M. Shaw.
- *International Relations and the Third World,* Stephanie Neumann.
- *Security and Development in Global Politics: A Critical Comparison,* Joanna Spear and Paul D. Williams.
- *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World,* Vijay Prashad.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- Brown, Michael Barratt and Pauline Tiffen. *Short Changed: Africa And World Trade,* 1992.
- H. Handelman, *The Challenge of Third World Development*, 2006.
- David Leonard & Scott Straus, *Africa's Stalled Development: International Causes & Cures,* Lynne Rienner, 2003.
- Mohammed Ayoob, "Third World Perspectives on Humanitarian Intervention and International Administration," Global Governance, January 2004.
- Sangmpam, S. N., "Politics Rules: The False Primacy of Institutions in Developing Countries," *Political Studies*, 55:1 (2007), pp. 201–224.
- W. E. B. Dubois , "The African Roots of War," *The Atlantic Monthly*, 115:5 (May 1915), pp. 707-714.

ASSIGNMENT GRADE DISTRIBUTION

1.	Class Participation/Online Debates:	20 percent.
2.	Mid-Term Examination:	30 percent.
3.	Research Presentation:	20 percent.
4.	Research Paper:	30 percent
	Total:	100 percent

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Class Discussion:

Students are expected to consistently participate in class discussions. Please be prepared to engage one another while respecting the views and opinions of other students. Students are expected to actively participate in presentations by asking questions or providing comments during Q&A.

Students are expected to read required materials and, thus, be in a position to engage in informed discussion. These readings are only representative of a larger body of literature with which participants should become familiar through their collaborative and individual research efforts.

Research Projects:

Each student will be assigned to research a topic of contemporary global significance and conduct a theoretical analysis thereof using one of the perspectives below. Projects will consist of a research presentation using PowerPoint and a final research paper.

The General Structure:

The research should be organized as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Theoretical Framework

3. Research Method
4. Findings
5. An Annotated Bibliography

The research should incorporate ONLY scholarly and non-website sources including books and journal articles. These sources must be cited in the research using any version of the Chicago style. **No Internet encyclopedias will be accepted**. Projects including such sites will receive an automatic failure. Use of course textbooks as sources is not allowed. Newspapers and magazines are not considered scholarly but can be used in addition to the scholarly sources you will cite. Full text scholarly Journal articles posted at online library databases are acceptable. Note: for the presentations, only a preliminary list of potential sources is required.

PowerPoint Presentations:

The specifics of the presentations will be left to students' creativity. However, they must last 10 minutes and adhere to the structure above. Please also note that presentations will be graded on preparation, creativity and clarity of the research project. Please feel free to use images in your presentations in order to illustrate important regions, boundaries, actors and points of analysis.

The Research Paper:

Final papers must follow the structure of the presentations. Other details will be discussed in class. However, research papers must adhere to these guidelines:

1. Be no more than 20 double-spaced pages with 1" margins.
2. Size 12 font.
3. Be written in MS Word.
4. Include proper citations (Chicago/Turabian style only).

COURSE POLICIES:

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.

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 are not permitted without my expressed written consent.

The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus as needed. Students will be notified accordingly.

RESEARCH OPTIONS

STUDENT	TOPIC	Title
	1. The World Social Forum as a Paradigm	
	2. Cuba/United States Relations	
	3. The Post-War Iraqi State	
	4. A New "Scramble for Africa"	
	5. Venezuela & the "Bolivarian" Alternative	
	6. Technology and the Future of Warfare	
	7. AFRICOM & U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Africa	
	8. Conflict in the Sudan	
	9. Towards a Palestinian State	
	10. China's Americas Policy	
	11. China's Africa Policy	
	12. Globalization & the Caribbean	
	13. The Haitian State in the Global Political Economy	
	14. Diplomacy in the Korean Peninsula	
	15. Iran as a Nuclear Power	
	16. Pakistan & the "War on Terror"	
	17. Israel, Security & Regional Conflict	
	18. New Perspectives on "Post-Gaddafi" Libya	
	19. Egypt & U.S. Regional Interests	
	20. The African Union & Conflict in Africa	

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	REQUIRED READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	**8/20**	**Introduction** Research Assignments	
2	**9/27**	**Part I: Theoretical Claims in IR**	▪ Neuman, "International Relations Theory and the Third World: An Oxymoron?" - Stephanie Neuman ▪ Dunn & Shaw, "Introduction: Africa and IR Theory" - Kevin Dunn ▪ Dunn & Shaw, "Reformulating International Relations Theory: African Insights and Challenges" - Assis Malaquias ▪ Prashad, "Introduction" ▪ Prashad, "Bandung: the 1955 Afro-Asian Conference"
3	**9/3**	Reflections on Realism	▪ Dunn & Shaw, "Realism, Neo-Realism and Africa's International Relations in the Post-Cold War Era" -John F. Clark ▪ Neuman, "Subaltern Realism: International Relations Theory Meets the Third World" - Mohammed Ayoob ▪ Neuman, "An Introduction to Peripheral Realism and Its Implications for the Interstate System: Argentina and the Condor II Missile Project," - Carlos Escude
4	**9/10**	Liberalist Perspectives Constructivist Variations	▪ Dunn & Shaw, "The End of History? African Challenges to Liberalism in International Relations" - Tandeka Nkiwane ▪ Prashad, "Paris: a concept conjured" ▪ Dunn & Shaw, Re-Envisioning Sovereignty: Marcus Garvey and the Making of a Transnational Identity--Randolph B. Persaud* ▪ Prashad, Mecca: when culture can be cruel p. 260
5	**9/17**	**Part II: Anarchy & the State** Anarchy	▪ Neuman, "Beyond Anarchy: Third World Instability and International Order after the Cold War" - Amitav Acharya ▪ Dunn & Shaw, "African Foreign Policy in the New Millenium: From Coming Anarchies to Security Communities? From New Regionalism to New Realisms?" - Timothy M. Shaw
6	**9/24**	State & Sovereignty	▪ Dunn & Shaw, "Sovereignty in Africa: Quasi-Statehood and Other Myths in International Theory" - Siba N. Grovogui ▪ Dunn & Shaw, "The (blank) African State: Rethinking the Sovereign State in IR Theory" - Kevin C. Dunn ▪ Dunn & Shaw, "Challenging Wesphalia: Issues of Sovereignty and Identity in Southern Africa" - Sandra J. MacLean
7	**10/1**	**Part III: War, Security and Intervention**	▪ Neuman, "The Primacy of Internal War" - Steven R. David ▪ Neuman, International Relations Theory and Domestic War in the Third World: The Limits of Relevance" - K. J. Holsti ▪ Prashad, "Tawang: war most foul"
8	**10/8**	Intervention	▪ Dunn & Shaw, "Controlling African States' Behavior: IR Theory and International Sanctions Against Libya and Nigeria" - Sakuh Mahmud ▪ Spear & Williams, "Governance: A Security Perspective" - Terrence Lyons ▪ Spear & Williams, "Governance: A Development Perspective " - Alasdair Bowie ▪ Spear & Williams, "Governance: Editors' Comments" - Joanna Spear and Paul D. Williams

9	**10/15**	The Foreign Aid Humanitarian Intervention	▪ Spear & Williams, "Aid: A Security Perspective" - Bernard Harborne ▪ Spear & Williams, "Aid: A Development Perspective" - Dan Morrow ▪ Spear & Williams, "Aid: Editors' Comments" - Joanna Spear and Paul D. Williams ▪ Spear & Williams, "Humanitarian Assistance: A Security Perspective" - Robert Maletta and Joanna Spear ▪ Spear & Williams, "Humanitarian Assistance: A Development Perspective" - Sabina Dewan ▪ Spear & Williams, "Humanitarian Assistance: Editors' Comments" - Joanna Spear and Paul D. Williams
10	**10/22**	**Part IV: Economic Development**	▪ Dunn & Shaw, "The Brothers Grim: Modernity and 'International' Relations in Southern Africa" - Larry Swatuk ▪ Dunn & Shaw, "Reconceptualizing United States' Foreign Policy: Regionalism, Economic Development and Instability in Southern Africa" - James Jude Hentz ▪ Prashad, "Brussels: the 1928 League against Imperialism" ▪ Prashad, "Kingston: IMF-led globalization"
11	**10/29**	The Poverty Crisis Global Trade	▪ Spear & Williams, "Poverty: A Security Perspective" - Paul D. Williams ▪ Spear & Williams, "Poverty: A Development Perspective" - Inder Sud ▪ Spear & Williams, "Poverty: Editors' Comments" - Joanna Spear and Paul D. Williams ▪ Spear & Williams, "Trade and Resources: A Security Perspective" - Joanna Spear ▪ Spear & Williams, "Trade and Resources: A Development Perspective" - Raymond Gilpin ▪ Spear & Williams, "Trade and Resources: Editors' Comments" - Joanna Spear and Paul D. Williams
12	**11/5**	**Part V** Research Presentations	***Midterm Exam*** 1-5
13	**11/12**	Research Presentations	6-10
14	**11/19**		
15	**11/26**	Research Presentations	11-15
16	**12/3**	Research Presentations	16,17, and overflows

Outline subject to change

Online Debates TBA