INR4603,0W59 (IR Theory) Fall 2012 Syllabus

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Joseph Paul Vasquez, III
Office	305B Howard Philips Hall
Office Hours	Tuesday & Thursday, 10:45-11:30 AM and 12:30-2:45 PM & by appt.
Phone	407-823-3329
E-mail	paul.vasquez@ucf.ed

Course Information

Course Name	International Relations Theory
Course ID & Section	INR 4603, 0W59
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2012
Location	Online

Course Description

Theoretical trends prevalent in the study of international relations will be covered, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, feminism, and post-modernism.
Prerequisite: INR 2002 or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

- Objective One: help students understand the origins and central tenets of the major theoretical perspectives in the study of international relations,
- Objective Two: help students understand the strengths and weaknesses of these theoretical perspectives,
- Objective Three: help students to improve their skills in the realm of critical thinking and written communication.

Required Text

- Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi. 2012. *International Relations Theory*. 5th Edition. Boston: Pearson-Longman.

Course Requirements

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	10			See the schedule below
Discussion posts	10			See the schedule below
Midterm Exam	25			10/22 9 AM to 10/24 6 AM
Writing Improvement Exercise	5			11/19 6 AM
Short paper & bibliography	20			12/3 6 AM
Final Exam	30			12/5 9 AM to 12/7 6 AM
Total	100%	**Add Column D to estimate grade →**		

Quizzes: These will be multiple choice quizzes over information from each module with one correct answer for each question.

Discussion Posts: Over the course of the semester, 2 of your initial discussion posts and 2 of your posted replies to other students will be selected at random for grading in accord with the discussion rubric that can be found through our courses' home page on Webcourses@UCF.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: These will be multiple choice exams with each question having only one correct answer for each question. The final exam will be cumulative, but it will be more heavily weighted to cover material following the midterm exam.

Short paper: You will write a research paper that explains a particular aspect of international relations with reference to a theory presented in class (or in conversation with the instructor). Your account should consider historical factors,

assesses the political nature of the event, and explain why another theoretical explanation is not as effective. Papers should be 5 pages in length. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of cheating and plagiarism in this syllabus before starting on this assignment. Papers should use at least 5 books or academic articles to support your argument beyond the textbook, but all sources used should appear in the paper's bibliography.

This assignment will be graded in accord with the following distribution of credit.

Mechanics of writing	20%
Research	25%
Clear and logical analysis	30%
Organization of paper	20%
Bibliography	5%
	100%

Generally, all excellent work demonstrating originality, clarity of argument, effective use of evidence, and smooth writing will receive an A. All good and competent work will receive a B. Work with some significant flaws regarding repeated misunderstandings or misapplications of evidence or ideas will receive a C. Work with very significant flaws, such as missing the main goal of an assignment and consistently poor spelling or grammar will receive a D along with recommendations or requirements to speak with the instructor, any special counseling and advising services, etc. as appropriate. Incompetent, negligent, or non-existent work will receive an F. Typically most students lose points on papers for me because of mechanical flaws in their writing (grammar, punctuation, unclearly worded sentences, etc.) so take steps to minimize those kinds of flaws in your work. Along with critical thinking skills, arguably, the ability to write well may be the most important skill you learn develop in this class. It will help you not only when applying for jobs or further education, but once you secure those kinds of opportunities.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Assignments are due by dates outlined above and in the schedule. 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 on campus, unless extenuating circumstances require that process to be delayed. Students making up exams will not be given the same exam that was originally administered. Missed quizzes may not be made up, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. I do not plan to offer extra credit for this course, so please insure that you direct your energies accordingly.

Evaluation and Grading

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

Academic Honesty

Do not cheat as this clearly violates the UCF Golden Rule Student Handbook and violates several aspects of the UCF Creed. 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 the link to this tutorial during the semester. 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. 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 use papers written for previous classes or large sections of such papers, as this constitutes self-plagiarism according to UCF policy. 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 40% of your final grade instead of just 20%.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

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Schedule for

International Relations Theory (Fall 2012)—Dr. Paul Vasquez

Time Frame	Topic	Assignments	Open& close dates

8/20-9/3	Module 1: Theoretical Overview **Chapter 1. Thinking About IR Theory**	Discussion Quiz	8/20 9 AM & 9/3 6 AM
9/3-9/24	Module 2: Realism **Chapter 2. Realism**	Discussion Quiz	9/3 9 AM & 9/24 6 AM
9/24- 10/8	Module 3: Liberalism **Chapter 3. Liberalism**	Discussion Quiz	9/24 9 AM & 10/8 6 AM
10/8- 10/22	Module 4: Economic Structuralism **Chapter 4. Economic Structuralism**	Discussion Quiz	10/8 9 AM & 10/22 6 AM
10/22- 10/24		**Midterm Exam**	10/22 9 AM & 10/24 6 AM
10/22- 10/29	Module 5: The English School **Chapter 5. The English School**	Discussion Quiz	10/22 9 AM & 10/29 6 AM
10/29- 11/19	Module 6: Interpretive Understandings **PART II. INTERPRETIVE UNDERSTANDINGS** **Chapter 6. Constructivist Understandings** **Chapter 7. Positivism, Critical Theory, and Postmodern Understandings** **Chapter 8. Feminist Understandings in IR Theory**	Discussion Quiz **Writing Improvement Exercise**	10/29 9 AM & 11/19 6 AM
11/19- 12/3	Module 7: Normative Theory **Chapter 9. Normative IR Theory**	Discussion Quiz **Paper & Bibliography Due**	11/19 9 AM & 12/3 6 AM
Dec. 5- Dec. 7		**Final Exam**	12/5 9 AM & 12/7 6 AM

Note: The opening time for all initial discussions and assessments is 9:00 A.M. on the opening date unless otherwise indicated. First initial discussion posts must be completed by 6:00 P.M. on the last Saturday of the module. Final deadlines for follow-up discussion posts and assessment is 6:00 A.M. on last day of the module unless otherwise

indicated. Check the Class Announcements daily for any changes or updates from Dr. Vasquez.

Other important Dates:

Date	Event
Drop/swap deadline	Thursday, August 23 (ends @ 11:59 P.M, 8/23)
Add deadline	Friday, August 24 (ends @ 11:59, 8/24)
Withdrawal deadline	Monday, October 29 (ends @ 11:59, 10/29)

General procedures for each module (more details will be provided with each module as it is released)

Activities/Assignments:

1. **Text:** Read and take notes over the assigned reading.

2. **Instructor videos:** Watch and take notes over material covered in the video clips of Dr. Vasquez's discussion of the material that accompany this module by clicking on the links that will be provided.

3. **Worldwide web video viewing and Blog posting:**
    a. Watch the Internet video provided for each module.
    b. You will be given questions related to the video and the module that you will need to answer in the form of a discussion post to a particular discussion group to which you will be automatically assigned at the beginning of the semester. To do this, go to the Discussions Tool and post your answers to the questions for the appropriate module as denoted on the schedule above. Typically, you will be able to start on this assignment as of 9:00 A.M., on the first Monday in each module, and it must be completed by 6:00 P.M., on the last Saturday of the module. Please note, however, that discussion groups will not be determined until after the drops/swap/add deadline, which means that it will be impossible to post discussion posts for the first module until 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, August 25th. Over the course of the semester, 2 of your posts will be selected at random for grading in accord with the discussion rubric that can be found through our courses' home page on Webcourses@UCF.
    c. Take note that you must post a follow-up response to at least one other student by the end time for the assignment in order to receive full credit

for this assignment, which is why everyone must make their initial post before 6:00 P.M. on the final Saturday during each module. To post your response to an initial post, go to the Discussions Tool and post your response to one of the answers from a fellow classmate in your discussion group that has not already been the subject of a reply for the blog title that corresponds to the topic of each module. Usually you will be able to start on this assignment once one of your group members has posted an answer (that **has not** already been replied to by another member of your group) after 9:00 A.M., on the first Monday of a new module and it must be completed by 6:00 A.M., on the Monday that ends each module. Remember, however, that discussion groups will not be determined until after the drops/swap/add deadline available, which means that it will be impossible to post discussion posts for the first module until 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, August 25th. Over the course of the semester, 2 of these posted replies will be graded in accord with the discussion rubric located at our courses' home page on Webcourses@UCF.

4. **Quiz:** Go to the Assessments Tool and complete the quiz for each module between 9:00 A.M., on the first Monday of each module and 6:00 A.M., on the last Monday of each module. This quiz is based on topics related to this module's content. You have one attempt and 15 minutes to complete this quiz.