Syllabus
INR 2002, 0W58

Spring 2013

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Mark Schafer
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Course Information

Course Name	International Relations – Theory and Practice
Course ID & Section	INR 2002 – 0W58
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2013
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 Readings

- *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	February 8	25

Second Exam	March 22	25
Final Exam	April 24	25
First Short Paper	February 22	7.5
Second Short Paper	April 12	7.5
Class Discussion	semester	10

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

Class Discussion

Required Discussion Participation

Note above that participation in class discussion is a required component of this course (10% of your overall grade). For most modules, you will need to make two entries to a small-group discussion topic, one that is an original post, and one that is a reply to another student's original post. Be sure to follow the specific directions for each of these required discussion topics.

Optional Discussion Participation and Bonus Grade

In addition to the required participation in discussion, each module will have an optional discussion topic focusing on the lecture videos for that module. In the optional discussion topic, you may comment on the lecture material, contribute additional information regarding the lecture topic, ask questions about the lecture, and respond to others' posts in the discussion topic. In other words, the lecture discussion topic should resemble open discussions in a regular classroom.

Every time you participate in one of these optional discussion topics, you will receive bonus points (up to two points per post or reply (see the Discussion Grading Rubric linked on the Start link on the home page for the course), and a maximum of four points total for each module). The points from these optional discussions will go toward a bonus that will be added to your overall grade for the semester, up to 5% addition to your grade. So, for instance, if you earn an 87.5% overall for the semester, but you were very active in the optional lecture discussions and you earn a 4.1% bonus, that gets added to your overall grade, for a new total of 91.6%, and instead of getting a B, you would get an A! And, because this is such a large possible bonus, please note that I do NOT round grades up at all. In other words, if you get an 89.9% overall, but never participate in the optional discussions, then your final grade will be a B.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

Papers and assignments must be completed on time. 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 make substantial reductions in the paper grade for every day it is late, up to a maximum of 75% reduction.

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.

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.

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