INR 4603.0W59 International Relations Theory

Fall 2013 Syllabus

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Joseph Paul Vasquez, III
Office	305B Howard Phillips Hall
Office Hours	Tuesday & Thursday 1:15 - 3:15 PM, Wednesdays 9:00 – 11:00 AM, & by appointment
Phone	407-823-3329
E-mail	paul.vasquez@ucf.edu

Course Information

Course Name	International Relations Theory
Course ID & Section	INR 4603, 0W59
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2013
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 POS 2041 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	
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Your score or average score for quizzes**	**Component Score = column B x column C**	**Due Date**
Quizzes	10			See the schedule below
Discussion posts	10			See the schedule below
Midterm Exam	30			10/14 9:00 AM to 10/16 6:00 AM
Short paper	20			12/2 6:00 AM
Final Exam	30			12/4 9:00 AM to 12/6 6:00 AM
Total	100%		**Add each of your component scores to get your anticipated final grade**	

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

Discussion Posts: During each module you are expected to make two (2) kinds of online posts: an initial response post and a follow-up post for each of the seven (7) course modules we will be covering. Thus, you will receive a total of 14 grades for discussion posts across the course of the semester. Most of these (10 to be precise) will be "checked" meaning that so long as a simple examination of the posts does not suggest that the work is excessively and inappropriately short, superficial or worthless you will receive four (4) points. However, two (2) of your initial responses and two (2) of your follow-up posts will be randomly selected to be "graded" carefully and with greater scrutiny over the course of the semester. Each of these will be worth a total of 15 points and graded following the rubric criteria, which <u>everyone should read carefully</u> and that can be found in the Syllabus section under the Modules tab on our courses' website on Webcourses@UCF. The total points you can accumulate for

discussion posts over the course of the semester will be aggregated in accord with the table posted below.

Type of Post	**Number "checked" x point value**	**Number "graded" x point value**	**Total points per type of post**
Initial responses	5 x 4= 20	2 x 15 = 30	50
Follow-up responses	5 x 4= 20	2 x 15 = 30	50
Total Points	40	60	100

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.

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

Mechanics of writing	20%
Application of concepts	40%
Clear and logical analysis	30%
Organization of paper	10%
	100%

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. Poor performance in this regard could lower your paper grade by as much as 20 points. Hopefully, these standards will help you to develop sound writing skills that will help you not only when applying for jobs or further educational opportunities, but once you secure those opportunities. Also, students have a tendency to loose points for failing to use evidence to support their arguments by appropriately citing scholarly sources, so you should consult the section below on academic dishonesty for details on how to avoid plagiarism.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Assignments are due by dates outlined above and in the schedule. Late papers 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 unless health problems keep them from coming to campus. Students making up exams will not be given the same exam that was originally administered. Missed quizzes may not be made up. I do not plan to offer extra credit for this course so please insure that you direct your energies accordingly.

Evaluation and Grading

Add your evaluation and grading policies here. You may also choose to keep a table below that best fits your grading scale.

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 Plagiarism" (https://obojobo.ucf.edu/view/5488) prior to beginning the short paper, so 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 an instance of unambiguous 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. Particular assignments on which unambiguous cheating occurs will be penalized with an F (0 points).

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.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations are available for individuals and

small groups. To make the best use of the UWC, visit far enough before your due date to allow yourself time to revise after your consultation, browse the writing resources on our website, and arrange a regular weekly appointment if you'd like long-term help. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by phone or by using the TutorTrac scheduler on our website; walk-in consultations are also available. The main location is in Colbourn 105 with satellite locations in the Main Library, Rosen Library & Online. They can be reached at 407-823-2197 or http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/. In addition, the UWC seeks graduate and undergraduate tutors from all majors; contact the UWC to learn more about peer writing consulting and ENC 4275/5276: Theory & Practice of Tutoring Writing, our three-credit tutor-education course.

Copyright

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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** make 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.

Course Schedule

Time Frame	Topic	Assignments	Open& close dates
Aug. 19 - Sep. 2	Module 1: Theoretical Overview **Chapter 1. Thinking About IR Theory**	Discussion Quiz	8/19 9 AM & 9/2 6 AM
Sep. 2 – Sep. 16	Module 2: Realism **Chapter 2. Realism**	Discussion Quiz	9/2 9 AM & 9/16 6AM

Sep. 16 – Sep. 30	Module 3: Liberalism **Chapter 3. Liberalism**	Discussion Quiz	9/16 9 AM & 9/30 6 AM
Sep. 30 – Oct. 14	Module 4: Economic Structuralism **Chapter 4. Economic Structuralism**	Discussion Quiz	9/30 9 AM & 10/14 6 AM
Oct. 14 - Oct. 16		**Midterm Exam**	10/14 9 AM & 10/16 6 AM
Oct. 14 - Oct. 21	Module 5: The English School **Chapter 5. The English School**	Discussion Quiz	10/14 9 AM & 10/21 6 AM
Oct. 21 – Nov. 18	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	10/21 9 AM & 11/18 6 AM
Nov. 18 – Dec. 2	Module 7: Normative Theory **Chapter 9. Normative IR Theory**	Discussion Quiz **Paper Due**	11/18 9 AM & 12/2 6 AM
Dec. 4 - Dec. 6		**Final Exam**	12/4 9 AM & 12/6 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
Thursday, August 22, 11:59 P.M.	Drop deadline
Friday, August 23, 11:59 P.M.	Add deadline
Monday, Oct. 28, 11:59 P.M.	Withdrawal deadline

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 within each module.

3. **Worldwide web video viewing and Blog posting:**
    a. Watch the Internet video provided for each module.
    b. After viewing the video, you should post your answers to the following questions for the discussion group to which you will be assigned at the beginning of the semester.
    To post your input for the module, go to the Discussions Tool and post your answers to the questions assigned for the module that corresponds with the time frame denoted above in the schedule. 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. 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 in the Syllabus section under the Modules tab on our courses' website 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. 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. Over the course of the semester, 2 of these posted replies will be graded in accord with the discussion rubric that can be found in the Syllabus section under the Modules tab on our courses' website 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.

5. **Survey:** Complete the untimed online survey between 9:00 A.M., on the first Monday of Week 2 each module and 6:00 A.M., on the last Monday of each module. To take the survey, go to the Assessments Tool and select the survey for the appropriate module. This survey will be used to provide course feedback to the instructor.