INR2002.0W58 IR Theory & Practice

Spring 2014 Syllabus

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	International Relations Theory & Practice
Course ID & Section	INR 2002.0W58
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Spring 2014
Time & Location	Not applicable, online

Course Description

There are a lot of countries out there. In fact the world is full of them! In this course we will examine factors that influence the behavior of states and other international actors. We will begin by reviewing some important events in world history and explore the issue of globalization today. Second, we will delve into issues related to war, peace and international security. Our study of these topics will focus on issues related to power politics among states and some alternative perspectives. Specifically, we will consider phenomenon such as foreign policy, military force and terrorism. In the final half of the course, we will examine issues related to international political economy, international organizations and human rights, the gap between rich and poor countries and global environmental challenges.
Prerequisite: ENC 1102 or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

- Objective One: help students understand trends and developments in the practice of international relations as well as major theoretical perspectives and insights offered by political scientists
- Objective Two: help students understand the influence of international relations on their own lives
- Objective Three: help students to improve their skills in the realm of critical thinking and written communication

Required Text and Materials

- Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2012. International Relations. Brief 6th edition (2012-2013 update). New York: Pearson Longman.
- Also, you will need access to MyPoliSciLab online (www.mypoliscilab.com), which includes: practice tests, multimedia activities, and other resources to reinforce your understanding of the textbook. To register and gain access to these resources, follow the directions after clicking on the "student" button in the "Register" section of the website mentioned above. You will need the access code you should have purchased along with the textbook. To purchase the access code online, you can go to the following site: http://www.mypoliscilab.com/student-registration/index.html .

Course Requirements and Grade Table

A	B	C	D	E
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Assignment average (add grades for each row & ÷ by the # of grades for this task)**	**Assignment Score = column B x column C**	**Due Date**
Quizzes	15			See the schedule below
Discussion posts	10			See the schedule below
Midterm Exam	25			2/24 9 AM & 2/26 6 AM
Paper	20			4/7 6 AM
Final Exam	30			4/23 9 AM to 4/25 6 AM
Total	100%	**Add Column D to estimate grade →**		

Quizzes: Multiple choice quizzes may cover any assigned courses materials, including course readings, video assignments, simulations from MyPoliSciLab, etc.

Discussion Posts: During each module you are expected to make two (2) kinds of online posts to students in groups that you will automatically be assigned to at the end of the first week of the semester: an initial response post and a follow-up post for each of the eight (8) course modules we will be covering. Thus, you will receive a total of 16 grades for discussion posts across the course of the semester. Twelve (12) of these will be randomly selected to 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 five (5) 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 10 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**
Initial responses	6 x 5= 30	2 x 10 = 20	50
Follow-up responses	6 x 5= 30	2 x 10 = 20	50
Total Points	60	40	100

Note: The opening time for all initial discussions is 9:00 A.M. on the opening date for the module unless otherwise indicated and initial discussion posts must be completed by 6:00 P.M. on the last Saturday of the module. Replies to initial discussion posts must be completed by 6:00 A.M. on last day of the module unless otherwise indicated. However, to get the maximum credit for initial posts and replies they should be completed by the date and time specified on the appropriate rubrics (6:00 PM on Fridays before modules close for initial posts and 6:00 AM on Sunday before modules close) to facilitate adequate opportunity for all students to communicate with each other. Unless otherwise indicated, quizzes and exams open at 9:00 AM of the date indicated and close by 6:00 AM on the last day for which they are available. Check the Class Announcements in Webcourses several times each week for any changes or updates from Dr. Vasquez.

Very Important Note: Because Canvas' gradebook is incapable of doing the kind of sophisticated weighting scheme I am using, you should not rely on gradebook in Canvas for what it reports as your final course grade. Instead you should take the grades for particular assignments and plug them into the grade table on the previous page and do the calculations accordingly. If assignments are not yet completed and you are trying to estimate your current course grade during the semester, divide your total for column D by the percentage of the final grade that has been completed. For example, if you have done everything except the final exam, divide your total for column D by 70 since you have only completed the assignments equal to 70% of your course grade.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: Multiple choice exams will be administered after Module 4 and Module 8. The final exam will be cumulative to the extent that it will cover some material from the midterm exam, but it will be much more heavily weighted to cover material following the midterm exam.

Short paper: For this assignment you will write a short reflection paper (5 pages maximum, not including your title page) on one of the course simulations. For these papers, you should: 1) briefly describe the simulation, 2) apply concepts covered in the particular chapter for which the simulation was assigned to different elements within the simulation, 3) discuss what knowledge or greater understanding you gained from doing the simulation, and 4) critique the simulation by explaining in what regard it was unrealistic or how it could have been made more enlightening (not merely more entertaining). Papers should use 12-point font, double-spacing and 1 inch margins.

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 (in addressing the 4 tasks of the paper)	30%
Organization of paper	10%
	100%

Please note that mechanical elements of writing including, but not limited to proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. are all important components of formal writing such as a college paper. Typically most students lose points on papers for me because of mechanical flaws in their writing, 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, so take steps to avoid this eventuality. Sound writing skills will help you not only when applying for jobs or further educational opportunities, but once you secure those opportunities. Also, please consult the section below on academic dishonesty for details on how to avoid plagiarism. Since all of the papers will be about the simulations, it is not necessary that you cite them in your paper. For our

purposes, we will treat them as common knowledge in a research paper. However, if you quote directly from the online simulation text, quote directly from another source or borrow ideas from other sources, or refer to facts that are not common knowledge or included in the simulations, they must be cited properly.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/No Extra Credit: Quizzes are due by dates outlined in the syllabus and may not be made-up. Make-up exams may be given without penalty in instances when students have a verifiable medical, funeral, or official UCF excuse. When no such excuse exists students will be allowed to take exams late, but they will be penalized by the number of points missed by the student who performed worst during the regular exam period out of fairness to all students who took the exam on time and to discourage cheating. Late papers will be penalized 10% for each full calendar day they are late, up to as much as 30%. 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 Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition" (https://obojobo.ucf.edu/view/7220) prior to beginning the short paper, so you will be clear about my expectations of you. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, 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).

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

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.

Academic Support Services

Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) (Phillips Hall, Room 113/ (407) 823-5130): If you have trouble succeeding in this class and comprehending the material, you might benefit from contacting this office for assistance with improving your study skills.

UCF Counseling Center (Building #27/ (407) 823-2811): Students experiencing formidable mental health challenges, including, but by no means limited to stress, anxiety, or depression, that are hindering their ability to be the best they can be should contact this office for help.

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 dates 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.

Schedule for International Relations (IR) Theory and Practice

Time Frame	Topic	Assignments	Open& close dates
Jan. 6 - Jan. 20	Module 1: Introduction to IR Chapter 1. The Globalization of International Relations	Discussion Quiz	1/6 9 AM & 1/20 6 AM
Jan. 20 – Jan. 27	Module 2: Realism Chapter 2. Realist Theories	Discussion Quiz	1/20 9 AM & 1/27 6 AM
Jan. 27-- Feb. 10	Module 3: Liberalism Chapter 3. Liberal and Social Theories	Discussion Quiz	1/27 9 AM & 2/10 6 AM
Feb. 10 - Feb. 24	Module 4: Violent Conflict Chapter 4. Conflict, War and Terrorism	Discussion Quiz	2/10 9 AM & 2/24 6 AM
Feb. 24 - Feb. 26		**Midterm Exam**	2/24 9 AM & 2/26 6 AM
Feb. 24 - Mar. 10	Module 5: Trade and Finance Chapter 5. Trade and Finance	Discussion Quiz	2/24 9 AM & 3/10 6 AM
Mar. 10- Mar. 24	Module 6: Global Governance Chapter 6. International Organizations, Law and Human Rights	Discussion Quiz	3/10 9 AM & 3/24 6 AM
Mar. 24- Apr. 7	Module 7: North-South Relations Chapter 7. North-South Relations	Discussion Quiz **Paper due**	3/24 9 AM & 4/7 6 AM

Apr. 7 - Apr. 21	Module 8: The Global Environment Chapter 8. Environment and Technology	Discussion Quiz	4/7 9 AM & 4/21 6 AM
Apr. 23 - Apr. 25		**Final Exam**	4/23 9 AM to 4/25 6 AM

Other important Dates:

Date	Event
Drop/swap deadline	Thursday, January 9 (ends @ 11:59 P.M, 1/10)
Add deadline	Friday, January 10 (ends @ 11:59, 1/11)
Withdrawal deadline	Tuesday, March 18 (ends @ 11:59, 3/11)

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

Required Activities/Assignments:

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

2. **Online Materials:** Do the assigned online assignments, including watching the instructor videos.

3. **Discussion posting:**
    a. You will be given questions related to the required activities for each 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 be assigned at the beginning of the semester. To do this, go to the Discussions Tab in the course navigation menu and post your answers to the questions for the appropriate module as denoted on the schedule above (for more detailed guidance on this process, please see the **Discussion Postings Participation Protocol and Grading Rubric) .**
    b. 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, January 11th. Over the

course of the semester, your initial posts will be selected for checking or grading as described in the Discussion Posts section above and in accord with the discussion rubric that can be found through our courses' home page in Webcourses.

c. Take note that everyone must post a follow-up response to at least one other student by the end time for the assignment in to receive credit for doing a reply, 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, go to the Discussions Tab in the course navigation menu 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 (for more detailed guidance on this process, please see the **Discussion Postings Participation Protocol and Grading Rubric).** 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, January 11th.

4. **Quiz:** Go to the Quizzes Tab 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 to complete this quiz, which is open for 15 minutes.