INR 4603.DW59 International Relations Theory

Summer 2014, D Term Syllabus

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Joseph Paul Vasquez, III
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Course Information

Course Name	International Relations Theory
Course ID & Section	INR 4603, DW59
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Summer 2014
Class meeting time & location	Not applicable—class is 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 and Grade Table

A	B	C	D	
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Your total points for each category from column A or your average score for quizzes & ILT**	**Component Score = column B x column C**	**Due Date**
Quizzes & Information Literacy Tutorial	10			See the schedule below
Discussion posts	10			See the schedule below
Midterm Exam	30			6/16 9:00 AM to 6/18 9:00 AM
Course paper	20			7/7 9:00 AM
Final Exam	30			7/11 9:00 AM to 7/13 6:00 AM
Total	100%		**Add each row above to get your anticipated final grade**	

Quizzes and Information Literacy Tutorial Assessment: These will usually include online multiple choice quizzes over substantive information from each module with one correct answer for each question. Also, before Module 5 concludes you will also be expected to complete the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition" (https://obojobo.ucf.edu/view/9174) and the assessment included in it, which will be counted as a separate quiz. That tutorial should help to improve course paper grades above what they would be otherwise and help avoid instances of plagiarism. If you take the assessment associated with it twice, you will receive the average of your two scores.

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. Six (6) 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 late you will receive three (3) points. However, four (4) of your initial responses and four (4) 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 everyone should read carefully 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	Points for posting for all modules in the semester	Total points
Initial responses	3 x 3= 9	4 x 10 = 40	1	50
Follow-up responses	3 x 3= 9	4 x 10 = 40	1	50
Total Points	18	80	2	100

Timing: Traffic jams are frustrating whether they are on I-4 or online. Since students are expected to make initial posts and follow-up (or reply) posts to an initial post made by another student for each module, it is important that everyone not wait until the last minute to make their initial post. Thus, students will be penalized by two points if they wait until the day and time listed under "Deadline for initial posts partial credit," which usually falls at 9:00 AM on the last Saturday of each module. While discussion boards and quizzes do not open until Mondays, you may want to read ahead to facilitate posting on weekdays.

Discussion Posting Schedule				
Module #	**discussion board opens**	**deadline for initial posts for full credit**	**deadline for initial posts partial credit**	**deadline for follow-up posts to be completed**
1	9:00 AM, Sat. May 17	9:00 AM, Sun. May 18	N/A	9:00 AM, Mon. May 19
2	9:00 AM, Mon. May 19	9:00 AM, Fri. May 30	9:00 AM, Sat. May 31	9:00 AM, Mon. June 2
3	9:00 AM, Mon. June 2	9:00 AM, Fri. June 6	9:00 AM, Sat. June 7	9:00 AM, Mon. June 9
4	9:00 AM, Mon. June 9	9:00 AM, Fri. June 13	9:00 AM, Sat. June 14	9:00 AM, Mon. June 16
5	9:00 AM, Mon. June 16	9:00 AM, Fri. June 20	9:00 AM, Sat. June 21	9:00 AM, Mon. June 23
6	9:00 AM, Mon. June 23	9:00 AM, Fri. July 4	9:00 AM, Sat. July 5	9:00 AM, Mon. July 7
7	9:00 AM, Mon. July 7	9:00 AM, Th., July 10	N/A	Midnight, Fri. July 11

Very Important Note: Because Webcourses' gradebook is incapable of doing the kind of sophisticated weighting scheme I am using, you **should not** rely on gradebook in Webcourses 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 the semester is not over and you are trying to estimate your current course grade, 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.

Course paper: You will write a research paper that explains a particular aspect of international relations with reference to a theory presented in class (or discussed with the instructor). Your account should also consider historical factors, assesses the political nature of the event, and explain why another theoretical explanation is not as effective. Papers should include five (5) pages and at least 1,000 words of text using the Chicago citation style, not including a title page and a bibliography/references/work cited page. While you are welcome to include references to your textbook, you must use at least three other sources such as books or academic journal articles from the UCF Library's online databases. Do not use sources from other websites without the instructor's approval. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of cheating and plagiarism in this syllabus before starting on this assignment, which includes a web link to familiarize you with you how to properly cite evidence using Chicago style.

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.). Poor performance in this regard could lower your paper grade by as much as 20 points. Also, students have a tendency to lose 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. For example, I deduct one point for missing words or marks of punctuation, two points for sentence fragments or run-on sentences and five points for each failure to appropriately cite sources. Thus, you should take steps to minimize those kinds of flaws in your writing, including becoming familiar with Chicago style using the literacy tutorial referenced in the Academic Honesty section below. 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.

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.

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.

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

Communicating with the Instructor Online: This document was created to empower you to answer many questions on your own as responsible and maturing learners. If you have questions that are not answered by this document, do not hesitate to contact the instructor by email. However, if you email questions that are easily answered within this document, do not be surprised if you get a reply encouraging you to "Keep calm and read your

syllabus." ☺ Communicate online with the instructor using either his UCF email address (Paul.Vasquez@ucf.edu) or using the email feature within Webcourses rather than replying to postings under the Announcements tab, as he can respond to emails much more quickly.

Academic Honesty

Do not cheat as this clearly violates the UCF Golden Rule Student Handbook and violates several aspects of the UCF Creed. 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. After taking the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition" (https://obojobo.ucf.edu/view/9174), you should clearly understand my expectations of you with regards to correctly citing material. Thus, you should do this prior to starting to write your course paper. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, your work must be your own. Feel free to discuss readings and ideas with fellow students, but if you use their ideas, please reference them accordingly. Do not copy or use papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources.

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.

Course Schedule

Time Frame	Topic	Assignments	Open& close dates
May 12-May 19	Module 1: Theoretical Overview **Chapter 1. Thinking About IR Theory**	Discussion Quiz	5/12 9 AM - 5/19 9 AM
May 19-June 2	Module 2: Realism **Chapter 2. Realism**	Discussion Quiz	5/19 9 AM - 6/2 9 AM
June 2-June 9	Module 3: Liberalism **Chapter 3. Liberalism**	Discussion Quiz	6/2 9 AM - 6/9 9 AM
June 9-June 16	Module 4: Economic Structuralism **Chapter 4. Economic Structuralism**	Discussion Quiz	6/9 9 AM - 6/16 9 AM
June 16-June 18		**Midterm Exam**	6/16 9 AM - 6/18 9 AM
June 16-June 23	Module 5: The English School **Chapter 5. The English School**	Discussion Quiz Information Literacy Tutorial	6/16 9 AM - 6/23 9 AM
June 23-July 7	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** ***Important:** Keep in mind that we have less than a week for Module 7. Thus, it might be prudent to start reading the assignment for that module before July 7.**	Discussion Quiz Course Paper	6/23 9 AM - 7/7 9 AM

July 7- July 11	Module 7: Normative Theory **Chapter 9. Normative IR Theory**	Discussion Quiz	7/7 9 AM - 7/11 9 AM
July 11- July 13		**Final Exam**	7/11 9 AM - 7/13 9 AM

Other important Dates:

Date	Event
Thursday, May 15, 11:59 P.M.	Drop deadline
Friday, May 16, 11:59 P.M.	Add deadline
Tuesday, June 17, 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. **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 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 (for more detailed guidance on this process, please see the **Discussion Postings Participation Protocol and Grading Rubric**).
    b. Usually, you will be able to start on this assignment as of 9:00 A.M. on the first Monday in each module, and initial posts must be completed no later than 9:00 A.M. on the last Saturday of each 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, May 17th. Thus, while you will regularly be required to complete your initial

post by 9:00 A.M. on Friday mornings to get full credit, you will have until 9:00 AM on Sunday, May 18th to post your initial response for Module 1 and still receive full credit for the first module. 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 to receive credit for doing a reply, which is why everyone must make their initial post before 9:00 A.M. on the final Saturday during each module (except for Module 1 when it is 9:00 A.M. on Sunday). 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—if possible—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 9:00 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, May 17.

4. **Quiz:** Go to the Assignments tab and complete the quiz for each module between 9:00 A.M., on the first Monday of each module and 9:00 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 roughly 15 minutes to complete each quiz.