Syllabus
INR 2002, Section 1

Spring 2015

Professor Information

Professor	Mark Schafer
Office	314 Howard Phillips Hall
Office Hours	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:30 to 3:00 pm
Phone	(407) 823-3328

Course Information

Course Name	International Relations – Theory and Practice
Course ID & Section	INR 2002 – 1
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2015

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 international news stories available 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 Egypt, 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 stories at yahoo.com, you can get supplemental international other news sources such as the following (but remember that the yahoo.com 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.
- Improved academic skills in the following areas: reading, writing, communicating, and particular thinking critically.

Required Readings

- *Foundation* by Isaac Asimov
- International stories at yahoo.com

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 13	25
Second Exam	March 27	25
Final Exam	May 4, 10-11am	30
First Short Paper	February 27	10
Second Short Paper	April 10	10

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

Optional Discussion Participation and Bonus Grade

You may also receive an additional bonus to your overall grade, up to 5%, based on your participation in class discussions (see note below).

Class discussion is a central component of this class. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and current international events. Class participation can take several forms such as commenting on a topic or asking or answering a question. Based on participation in class discussions, students may earn up to 5% bonus added to their final score in the course. Here's the system I use to keep track of class participation: any time you contribute to class discussion, write down a brief version of what you said on a piece of paper with your name on it and turn it in to me after class**.** That allows me to keep track of how often everyone participates in class. I may also occasionally give pop quizzes or in-class assignments that will count toward your participation bonus, but the majority of the bonus will come from actually participating in class discussion.

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.

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.

Course Calendar

(Note: The following calendar is organized into one or two week segments. There may be some minor deviations from this schedule depending on a variety of scheduling factors.)

January 12: Course introduction and overview; global geography.

January 21-30: Realism, Idealism, and Interdependence: Core Theories of International Relations.
* Read Part I in *Foundation*.
* Optional readings: Introduction and Chapter 1 in *Dynamics of International Relations.*

February 2: Foundations of the "Nation-State" System.
*Optional readings: Chapters 2 and 8 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

February 9: International Organizations.
*Read: Part II in *Foundation*.
*Optional reading: Chapter 14 in *Dynamics of International Relations*

***** First Exam February 13*****

February 16: Foreign Policy Decision Making and the Levels of Analysis.
*Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Part III of *Foundation*.
*Optional reading: Chapter 3 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

February 23: Power, Conflict, and War, Part I.
*Optional readings: Chapters 4 and 5 in *Dynamics of International Relations*

***** First Short Paper Due February 27*****

March 2: Power, Conflict, and War, Part II *Read the rest of Part III in *Foundation*.

March 16: Arms Control; International Law
*Optional readings: Chapters 9 and 15 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

March 23: Catch up and review.

***** Second Exam March 27*****

March 30: International Political Economy: Liberalism, Mercantilism, and Marxism.
*Optional reading: Chapter 11 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

April 6: International Political Economy: Liberalism, Mercantilism, and Marxism, continued.
*Read Part IV in *Foundation*.

***** Second Short Paper Due April 10*****

April 13: Development and Underdevelopment
*Optional reading: Chapter 12 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

April 20: Contemporary Global Issues and Challenges; and review for final exam. Read Part V in *Foundation*.
*Optional reading: Chapter 13 in *Dynamics of International Relations*.

<u>** Final Exam – Monday, May 4, 10:00 to 11:00 am**</u>

Additional Policies

I welcome and encourage questions, comments and discussion either in or out of the classroom. I love teaching and I love what I teach, so remember my door is open!

I cannot respond to grade inquiries by email.

Laptops are not permitted in this class once the class period has started.

Cell phones, pagers, and other such things that might go off and make noise are not permitted in class.