INR 2002
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Dr. Robert L. Bledsoe
10:00-11:50 MTWR
VAB 113
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OFFICE: Phillips Hall 302"N"
HOURS: 8:45-9:45MTWR
or by appointment

Course Outline

1. **Course Objectives.** This one semester course is designed to:
   (1) introduce you to the international system
   (2) learn how the system evolved
   (3) become aware of the varying perspectives one can have on selected global issues
   (4) think critically about the impact of varying perspectives upon the human condition.

The primary purpose of the course is to provide the basic tools for you to better understand the world in which we live and critical issues that impact its evolution.

2. **Course Requirements.** The course will consist of a series of lectures focusing upon the topics and issues outlined in Section 5. You are encouraged to ask questions, inject personal observations, and challenge the assertions of the professor. Attend all class meetings. While no formal record of attendance is kept, you will find that failure to attend class will soon be reflected in your course performance, as lecture material will often not be found in your reading assignments. **Read and master** the material in the assignments. These are found in the textbook for the course:

Steven Lamy *et al*., *Introduction to Global Politics*. 3rd ed. Oxford U. Press. 2015

This is the only textbook required for the course. Reading the assignments and keeping up with the lectures is your responsibility. No specific pages of reading will be given from one lecture to another. Pace yourself according to the topics under consideration during lecture periods.

3. **Examinations.** There will be four (4) examinations during the course, in which you will draw upon the materials in the chapters plus lectures. Each exam will cover that portion of the material outlined in Section 5 and the format for the exams will consist of a series of short answer questions dealing with concepts, theories, principles, and issues. Exams are tentatively scheduled as follows and will be held at the normal class time and meeting place:

   (1) **Wednesday, July 8**

(2) **Monday, July 20**
(3) **Wednesday, July 29**
(4) **Thursday, August 6**

Attendance at exams is mandatory. There are no makeup exams. In addition, after the first person has turned in their exam and left the room, no one who is tardy and arrives after that time will be allowed to take the exam. They will have missed the test. Once an exam has begun, no one is allowed to leave the classroom for any reason (so be prepared ahead of time to remain for the entire class period when exams begin).

4. **Grades.** There are four (4) possible exam grades for the course plus two short debate papers:

Exams	(4 x 30%) =	120%
Debate topics	(2 x 5%) =	10%

Each student must have **three (3)** exam grades to equal 90% of the course plus the two debate short papers for 10% to total 100%. Thus, you can take all four exams and drop your lowest grade or you can skip an exam. Everyone will do the two short debate papers to be included in their final grade.

Letter grades:	90-100 = A	(Note: there will be no +/- grades)
	80-89 = B	
	70-79 = C	
	60-69 = D	
	< 60 = F	

5. **Assignments.** (Chapters in Lamy)

I.	Introduction to and Evolution of the International System	Chptrs 1-2
II.	Ways to View the International System	Chptr 3

---First midterm Wednesday, July 8---

III.	Ways to View the International System	Chptr 4
IV.	Foreign Policy Decision Making	Chptr 5
V.	Security Issues	Chptr 8

---Second midterm Monday, July 20---

Note: withdrawal deadline is Thursday, July 23

VI.	Terrorism	Chptr 9

VII.	Globalization	Chptrs 11-12

---Third midterm Wednesday, July 29---

VIII.	Development	Chptr 13
IX.	Environment	Chptr 14

---Fourth midterm Thursday, August 6---

WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MAY YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER SEMESTER

Some Ground Rules:

(1) For those in the classroom
- no food or drinks (water is ok)
- no smoking
- turn off beepers, pagers, cell phones, etc.
- if you are late, please come in anyway but try not to be disruptive when entering the room
- tape recorders and laptops are permitted but not encouraged

(2) Communications
- feel free to email me
  - office – robert.bledsoe@ucf.edu (note that this is a public domain, so if you have a matter you do not wish to be made public, use our Canvas online Web Course if you wish to preserve confidentiality)
  - home – drbled@aol.com
- call me at the office but not at home
  - Main campus (407) 823-2608
  - see me during office hours or by appointment (see telephone number above)

(3) Exams
- if you are late on exam day and a student has already turned in their exam and departed before you arrive, you are too late and I will not let you take the exam
- final grades are only posted on myGrades and will not be given out over the telephone nor by the Department staff. I will be happy to let you know your final exam score, course average, and course grade plus any materials that you wish returned if you provide me ahead of time a stamped, addressed envelop (large if you want any course materials returned). Midterm exam grades will not be posted on myGrades, only the final course grade.
- **NOTE: Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor**