INR 4603.0W59 International Relations Theory

Fall 2015 Syllabus

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	International Relations Theory
Course ID & Section	INR 4603, 0W59
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2015
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. In a curricular sense, this course can be used to satisfy the Advanced Core Requirements for the International and Global Studies Major or Area C requirements for the Political Science Major.
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. 2011. *International Relations Theory*. 5th Edition. Boston: Pearson-Longman.

Course Requirements and Grade Table

A	B	C	D	
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Assignment Scores***	**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			10/26 9:00 AM to 10/28 9:00 AM
Course Paper	20			11/23 9:00 AM
Final Exam	30			12/9 9:00 AM to 12/11 9:00 AM
Total	100%		**Add each of your component scores to get your anticipated final grade**	

***** Add grades for each type of assignment and divide by the number of grades for this task, except for discussion post grades which should be added.

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.

Quizzes and Information Literacy Tutorial Assessment: These will usually include one online multiple choice quiz with one correct answer for each question. These quizzes will usually cover substantive information from each module covering any assigned courses materials, including course readings, video assignments, simulations from MyPoliSciLab, etc. 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" 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.

Important Note: As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required by UCF to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, you should complete a graded syllabus quiz that is due by 11:59 on Friday, August 28 or as soon as possible for those who add the course late. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment and a delay in the disbursement of any financial aid (this is a new UCF policy and beyond my control). To do this task, go to the myUCF portal (https://my.ucf.edu) and select the Webcourses@UCF button on the left side of the screen. Log in with your NID and NID password, then access the course by selecting it in the "Courses" dropdown menu at the top of the page. From the course homepage, click on the Assignments tab to left, then click on Syllabus quiz, complete the quiz and submit it before midnight on Friday, August 28.

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. Initial posts are worth 10 points and follow-up posts are worth 5 points for 15 points per module and a total of 105 points. These will be 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 "graded" x point value	Total points
Initial responses	7 x 10=	70
Follow-up responses	7 x 5 =	35
Total Points	7 x 15	105

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 for initial posts if they wait until the day and time listed under "Deadline for initial posts partial credit," which falls at 9:00 AM on the last Saturday of each module. Keep in mind that even though new modules do not open until Mondays, you may want to read ahead to facilitate posting early.

Discussion Posting Schedule				
Module #	**discussion board opens at 9:00 AM on Monday (except for 1st module when its Saturday)**	**9:00 AM Friday deadline for initial posts for full credit**	**9:00 AM Saturday deadline for initial posts partial credit**	**9:00 AM Monday deadline for follow-up posts to be completed**
1	Aug. 29	Sep. 4	Sep. 5	Sep. 7
2	Sep. 7	Sep. 25	Sep. 26	Sep. 28
3	Sep. 28	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 12
4	Oct. 12	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Oct. 26
5	Oct. 26	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 2
6	Nov. 2	Nov. 20	Nov. 21	Nov. 23
7	Nov. 23	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 7

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.

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.

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. Check the class announcements in Webcourses several times each week for any changes or updates from Dr. Vasquez.

Academic Honesty

Do not cheat as this clearly violates the UCF Golden Rule Student Handbook and violates several aspects of the UCF Creed. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor (such as on team quizzes), your work must be your own. Cheating can come in different forms, including plagiarism. Plagiarism in its most blatant form is when writers use other people's words or ideas and do not give them credit. Since you should complete the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition" before the end of Module 5, you should clear understand my expectations for your term papers. Use parenthetical citations with authors names, year and page numbers (when appropriate) in your discussion posts 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. Do not copy or use papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources.

Use parenthetical citations with authors names, year and page numbers (when appropriate) in your discussion posts 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. Do not copy or use papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources. Not only do I assume that all students in this class could write a better term paper than the junk sold on the Internet, but I also use Turnitin.com to help determine paper originality. 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 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. There is absolutely no shame in getting help so that you can attempt to live up to your true potential.

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
Aug. 24 - Aug. 28 or ASAP	Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz	8/24 9 AM & 8/28 11:59 AM (or ASAP for late enrollees)
Aug. 24-Sep. 7	Module 1: Theoretical Overview Chapter 1. Thinking About IR Theory	Discussion Quiz	8/24 9 AM & 9/7 9 AM

Sep. 7- Sep. 28	Module 2: Realism **Chapter 2. Realism**	Discussion Quiz	9/7 9 AM & 9/28 9 AM
Sep. 28- Oct. 12	Module 3: Liberalism **Chapter 3. Liberalism**	Discussion Quiz	9/28 9 AM & 10/12 9 AM
Oct. 12- Oct. 26	Module 4: Economic Structuralism **Chapter 4. Economic Structuralism**	Discussion Quiz	10/12 9 AM & 10/26 9 AM
Oct. 26 - Oct. 28		**Midterm Exam**	10/26 9 AM & 10/28 9 AM
Oct. 26- Nov. 2	Module 5: The English School **Chapter 5. The English School**	Discussion Quiz **Information Literacy Tutorial**	10/26 9 AM & 11/2 9 AM
Nov. 2- Nov. 23	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 **Course Paper**	11/2 9 AM & 11/23 9 AM
Nov. 23- Dec. 7	Module 7: Normative Theory **Chapter 9. Normative IR Theory**	Discussion Quiz	11/23 9 AM & 12/7 9 AM
Dec. 9 – Dec. 11		**Final Exam**	12/9 9 AM to 12/11 9 AM

Other important Dates:

Event	Date
Drop/swap deadline	Thursday, Aug. 27, 11:59 P.M.
Add deadline	Friday, Aug. 28, 11:59 P.M.
Withdrawal deadline	Tuesday, Nov. 2, 11:59 P.M.

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. Typically, 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 by 9:00 A.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, August 29.

   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 9:00 A.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 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, August 29.

4. **Quiz:** Go to the Assignments Tool 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 usually 15 minutes to complete this quiz.