INR 4008: Global Perspectives

Department of Political Science
University of Central Florida

COURSE SYLLABUS

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I. University Course Catalog Description

The historical and contemporary contexts of globalization.

II. Pre-Requisites

ENC 1102 or C.I.

III. Course Objectives

Topically dedicated to issues in international politics, this class will investigate a number of different global political phenomena from the approach of social scientists. While scholars, politicians, and pundits may squabble over *why* something should or should not be done, or why or why not political beings behave in a particular way, we can all (perhaps) agree on the need to be able to assess these questions as objectively as possible. So in addition to learning about relevant topics, people, or places, the readings and assignments are chosen in order to expose students to the methods of researchers, primarily from the perspective of the discipline of political science.

The majority of this class with be dedicated to consuming relevant literature, primarily five recent books that look at different issues in international politics. This books are chosen specifically because of their relevance to major political events over recent years, such as the Arab Spring, the rise of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, and efforts to promote democratization. The latter stages of the class will be dedicated to the completion of a research paper that emulates the approach to research seen in the assigned readings.

Students will

1. Learn about different issues in global, specifically non-western, politics.
2. Learn how social scientists construct testable (and falsifiable) hypotheses related to politics.
3. See how social scientists go from theoretical reasoning to designing research and testing an argument.

4. Become more familiar with the limitations of the tools that they, and other social scientists, utilize.
5. Apply the lessons learned from the assigned readings to real-world events.

IV. Required Texts and Materials

- Brockett, Charles. *Political Movements and Violence in Central America*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780521600552.
- Weeks, Jessica. 2014. *Dictators at War and Peace*. ISBN: 0801479827.
- Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691159637.
- Hudson, Valerie. 2014. *Sex and World Peace*. Columbia University Press. ISBN: 0231131836.

V. Content Disclaimer (READ VERY CLOSELY)

This class will be both reading and writing intensive and students should also be prepared to complete assignments throughout the entirety of the course. By design, students cannot complete the class "early," regardless of their pace and performance, and are required to complete weekly assignments.

The class will include seven required modules. The first covers the syllabus, course requirements, and multiple course "primers." Four modules will be dedicated to the required books, and two additional "short" modules will cover articles.

Models will usually begin with a brief primer or lecture that leads into the material by giving background on the subject matter or an explanation of the research methods the author will use. As needed, the instructor will offer a brief "Post-Mortem" lecture after grading the components of each module. This will effectively be a mini-lecture that specifically responds to issues that were common across the class. Consequently, it is important for students to work at a similar pace and complete assignments at a similar time, and late submissions cannot be accepted.

Second, students should fully commit to the module they are currently assigned. Any extra time should be committed to reviewing the material and working on the written assignments. In other words, efforts should focus on doing the work well, not simply getting it done. That said, although modules may not yet be available, students are free to "read ahead" and finish the books early (though assignments will not be available early). Students that read ahead are strongly encouraged to keep detailed notes so that they can review prior to taking associated quizzes and completing any necessary written assignments.

VI. Assignments and Grade Calculation

Assessment	Available	Due Dates
Module 1: Syllabus and Primers	**Aug 24**	**Aug 28, Sept 4**
Module 2: Dictators at War	**Aug 31**	
Quizzes		Sept 11, Sept 18
Article Response		Sept 18
News Response		Sept 25
Module 3: Political Movements and Violence	**Sept 23**	
Quizzes		Oct 2, Oct 9

	Article Response	Oct 9
	News Response	Oct 16
Module 4: The Oil Curse	**Oct 14**	
	Quizzes	Oct 23, Oct 30
	Article Response	Oct 30
	News Response	Nov 6
Module 5: Sex & World Peace	**Nov 4**	
	Quizzes	Nov 13, Nov 20
	Article Response	Nov 20
	News Response	Nov 27

"Short Modules"

Students will choose two of the five short module options. Read the instructions for each module closely, as some of the modules have additional options regarding the required readings. The motivation behind this component is to give the student an opportunity to read and write about a subject that is more interesting to them.

- All short modules will become available **September 25.**
  - Focus on reading the books until then.
  - Quizzes for the short modules can be taken any time after that.
- News responses for the short modules cannot be submitted prior to **October 2.**
  - This guarantees you will get feedback on two prior modules before submitting.
- One of the short modules must be completed by **October 30**.
- The second short module must be completed by **December 7**.
- All short modules will have two graded components:
  - Quiz
  - News Response
- The short module topics include:
  - Global Health
  - Globalization
  - The Environment
  - Democratization
  - International Law

Summary of Important Dates

Aug 28:	Syllabus Quiz Due
Sept 4:	Remaining Module 2 Quizzes Due
Sept 11:	Three *Dictators* Quizzes due
Sept 18:	Remaining *Dictators* Quizzes due
	Module 2 Article Response Due
Sept 25:	Module 2 New Response Due
Oct 2:	Three *Political Movements* Quizzes Due
Oct 9:	Remaining *Political Movements* Quizzes Due
	Module 3 Article Response Due
Oct 16:	Module 3 News Response Due
Oct 23:	Three *Oil Curse* Quizzes Due
Oct 30:	Remaining *Oil Curse* Quizzes Due

	Module 4 Article Response Due
	First Short Module Due
Nov 6:	Module 4 News Response Due
Nov 13:	Three *Sex & World Peace* Quizzes Due
Nov 20:	Remaining *Sex & World Peace* Quizzes Due
	Module 5 Article Response Due
Nov 27:	Module 5 News Response Due
Dec 7:	Second Short Module Due

Drop Deadline: November 2

Quizzes (30% of semester grade)
Each module will include brief chapter-by-chapter quizzes for the book, other readings (journal and news articles), and (if appropriate) any "mini-lectures" for the module. All of these quizzes will be of equal value, with the average of them acting as the quiz grade for the module. Quizzes will usually be comprised of 5-15 questions randomly drawn from a question bank of 10-25 questions for each chapter or mini-lecture. Quizzes will usually be limited to one minute per response. All quizzes are open book/open note. Students should be aware, however, that excessive reliance on notes will make it incredibly difficult to complete quizzes in the time allotted.

Article Responses (20% of total semester grade)
Each book module will have at least one article from an academic journal assigned to it. Students will complete written response to the article for two of the book modules of their choosing. To be very clear: students are required to read the assigned journal article for each book module and should be prepared to take a quiz over its contents. However, it is only required to complete the written response for two of the journal articles. There will be a place to upload the assignment but students will not be required to upload an assignment to move on to the next module.

The article will be topically related to the content of the module's book. It could, however, completely disagree theoretically, reach different conclusions, or be in complete agreement with the book. Students will complete an 800-900 word essay that either explores 1) what the writer of the article would say about the book, or 2) how the writer of the book would respond to the article. A prompt providing more details for the article response will be available on webcourses.

News Responses (40% of semester grade)
Students will be required to apply the arguments and lessons from the book and journal article to critically assess a "current" event covered in news articles provided in the module. The emphasis will generally be on considering how the authors of the book and article would interpret the event depicted in the news reports. For example, does the case support/refute the theoretical expectations of the author(s)? Students are required to complete a total of six news responses during the class. As with the article response, essays should vary between 800-900 words.

Additional Notes: Students will have an opportunity to re-write their first news response. Revisions must be submitted within 7 days of the time grades and comments are made available on webcourses. Students taking this option will have the average of the original and revised submissions act as their grade for the component of the module. With the exception of the

opportunity to submit revised versions of the first news response, all submissions are final and all materials will be reflected in your grade. Be sure your submissions reflect your best work.

Final Exam (10% of semester grade)
All students are required to take a final exam. The exam will briefly cover the basic aspects of the assigned readings. Primary emphasis, however, will be on issues covered in the primers, lectures, and "post-mortems." Particular emphasis will be placed on interpreting political data.

VII. Grading Scale

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90-93.99	A-
87-89.99	B+
84-86.99	B
80-83.99	B-
77-79.99	C+
74-76.99	C
70-73.99	C-
67-69.99	D+
64-66.99	D
60-63.99	D-
0 – 59.99	F

Grade Dissemination
You can access your scores at any time using "myUCF Grades" in the portal. Assume each component will be graded within one week of submission. If the grade is not available online, assume your assignment has not been graded. Contact the instructor via email or Skype if a week has passed since submission and a grade has not been reported. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. Typos could occasionally be made. Notify the instructor if you have reason to suspect an error has been made (e.g., the grade listed in webcourses is not the same as the grade given in the comments of the assignment). If you need help accessing myUCF Grades, see the online tutorial: https://myucfgrades.ucf.edu/help/.

VIII. Course Policies

Late Work
As a rule, late work will not be accepted and assignments not completed on time will receive a grade of 0. Students should pay close attention to due dates, should be aware of the length of readings, and should plan on finishing their assignments in advance of the final due date. This is especially important for an online class, where technical issues could arise**.** Extensions due to technical issues will be allowed only when UCF's IT services can document an issue with Webcourses. In other words, the class and its due dates assume you have access to a reliable computer and reliable internet connection.

Grades of "Incomplete"
The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Email
The instructor will make a strong effort to respond to all emails within 24 hours of receiving the message.

- All emails should include "INR 4008" or another indicator in the subject line that identifies the message as relevant to the class. I will prioritize emails coming from students enrolled in the class.

    - Emails that do not include an appropriate subject line will likely have a delay in response
- Emails should include a salutation.
- Emails should use proper English and punctuation. The instructor will ask for poorly written emails to be resubmitted prior to responding to them.
- Students, per university policy, are required to correspond with their official Knights email address.
    - Emails coming from non-UCF accounts will not receive a response.
- Due to prior issues with Canvas, it is strongly recommended to use Outlook to draft emails (send to: jonathan.powell@ucf.edu).
    - In previous semesters, emails and responses seem to get "lost" when submitted through Canvas/webcourses, and attachments almost never go through.
- Students should first consult the syllabus and announcements sent via Canvas/Webcourses/Email regarding basic requirements (this will usually save you time). If a change has been made to the course schedule it will be documented in an announcement.
- The instructor is available for Skype conversations and in-person meetings by appointment.

Disability Access
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 who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Academic Conduct Policy
Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Episodes of plagiarism will result in an automatic failure of the class and will see the case forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation for expulsion.

University Writing Center
The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if a holy day of their religious faith is expected to influence their participation in the class. Given the online nature of the class, this is not expected to be an issue. If a conflict does exist, immediately notify the instructor. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.