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 global affairs, this class will investigate a number of different 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 political beings do or do not 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 will be dedicated to consuming relevant literature, primarily four recent books that look at different issues in international politics. This books are chosen specifically because of their relevance to major political phenomena over recent years, such as the Arab Spring, the rise of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, the West African Ebola outbreak, and global efforts at democratization.

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

- Quammen, David. 2012. *Spillover*. WW Norton. ISBN: 9780393346619
- 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 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 5 required modules. The first covers the syllabus, course requirements, and multiple course "primers." Four other modules will be dedicated to the required books.

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 that should be avoided in the future. 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. Summary of Important Dates and Assignments

August 22: Class begins
August 25: Drop/Swap Deadline

Getting Started Module (10% of grade)
August 26: Syllabus and Primer Quizzes Due

Dictators at War and Peace Module (20% of grade)
September 2: Introduction Quiz
Chapter 1 Quiz

Chapter 2 Quiz
Chapter 3 Quiz
September 9: Chapter 4 Quiz
Chapter 5 Quiz
Chapter 6 Quiz
September 16: Talmadge Quiz
Dictators Essay Due

Oil Curse Module (20% of grade)
September 23: Chapter 1 Quiz
Chapter 2 Quiz
Chapter 3 Quiz
September 30: Chapter 4 Quiz
Chapter 5 Quiz
Chapter 6 Quiz
October 7: Chapter 7 Quiz
Oil Curse Essay due

Sex and World Peace Module (20% of grade)
October 14: Chapter 1 Quiz
Chapter 2 Quiz
Chapter 3 Quiz
October 21: Chapter 4 Quiz
Chapter 5 Quiz
Chapter 6 Quiz
October 28: Chapter 7 Quiz
Article Quiz
Sex and World Peace Essay Due
October 31: Withdrawal Deadline

Spillover Module (20% of grade)
November 4: Pale Horse Quiz
Thirteen Gorillas Quiz 1
Thirteen Gorillas Quiz 2
November 11: Chimp and the River Quiz 1
Chimp and the River Quiz 2
November 18: Article Quiz
November 23: *Spillover* Essay Due

Extra Credit
December 2: Extra Credit Quizzes on *Spillover* Due

Final Exam (10% of grade)
November 28: Exam opens
December 12: Exam due

VII. Description of Assignments

Quizzes (40% of total semester grade; 10% for each module)

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. Each quiz within a module will be of equal value to other quizzes in the module (regardless of length). The average of them will act as the quiz grade for the module. Quizzes will usually be comprised of 10 questions randomly drawn from a question bank of 20-25 questions. Quizzes will usually be limited to an average of 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.

Essays (40% of total semester grade; 10% for each essay)

Each book module will have at least one article from an academic journal and/or a batch of news articles assigned to it. The reading 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 a 600-700 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(s). A prompt providing more details for the article response will be available on webcourses.

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. Particular emphasis will be placed on interpreting political data.

VIII. Grading Scale

*NOTE: Completely disregard the "ASSIGNMENTS" and "TOTAL" columns in the gradebook.

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/.

IX. 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 occasionally 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.