INR 4603-002 International Relations Theory
Fall 2017

Instructor: Didara Nurmanova, didara@knights.ucf.edu
Class Meets: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:30-2:20 pm in CB1 308
Office Hours: Friday 12.00-1.20 pm and 2.30-4.00 pm and by appointment in HPH 313
Credit: 3 Hours

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to some major theoretical perspectives for studying how states behave and interact. Students will acquire some basic knowledge about a wide array of international phenomena, including war, alliances, international norms, arms races, internal conflict, and others. The goals of this course are to help students understand the major theoretical perspectives in international relations and to provide students with analytical tools for understanding policy outcomes in international arena. No prior background in international relations is required.

Course Organization and Requirements

This course is conducted through a combination of lectures, in-class discussions, and individual assignments. The class will consist of two parts: in-class lecture and in-class discussion of the assigned readings/assignments. There will be in-class lectures on Wednesday and Friday, followed by a discussion of the central issues and their policy implications on Monday. Some discussions will take place on other days (see course schedule) due to holidays. Students are expected to complete **all** of the required readings before each discussion section and come to class fully prepared to participate in the discussions. Attendance will be taken; unexcused absence will affect the class participation grade.
Students are expected to write two policy memos during the course of the semester.
Midterm and final exams will be in-class and consist of essay questions.

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Policy memos 30%
Midterm exam 30%
Final exam 30%
Class participation 10%

(participation*.10)+(policy memo 1*.15)+ (policy memo 2*.15)+(midterm exam*.30)+(final exam*.30)= final grade

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points

A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	73 – 76
C-	70 – 72
D+	67 – 69
D	63 – 66
D-	60 – 62
F	59 and below

Course Materials

Required Text

International Relations: Discipline and Diversity by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurke and Steve Smith. Oxford University Press, 4th edition, 2016.

Other Materials

Students will be assigned additional articles and/or multimedia materials available through UCF library and the Internet. Some of the articles are listed in the course schedule. However, I will also assign additional articles for your reading. I will provide details about additional materials and provide you with links or a clear indication where you can find the material, in a timely manner. These articles will be part of the class, and discussions and exams will draw on these materials extensively.

Course Policies

Federal Financial Aid Requirement

Beginning in the Fall 2014 semester, UCF must comply with a federal financial aid regulation that states that in order to receive federal aid, students must be actively academically engaged (according to a federal definition) in each course in which they are enrolled. As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their financial aid. In order to document that you began this course, you will be required to complete a short quiz in Canvas during the first week of classes. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of students' financial aid, or will mean that students will not receive their aid. In order to fulfill this requirement, you should complete a syllabus quiz that is due by 11:59 on Friday, August 25.

Academic Honesty

Students must demonstrate a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records.

If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take the UCF library tutorial.

Students who cheat, plagiarize, falsify records or practice any other form of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic FZ grade for the class.

You will also be expected to complete the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition" (link will be provided by your instructor) and the assessment included in it by October 16th, 2017.

Class Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. Lectures cover material that you will not be able to find in the book. I will not provide notes for students missing class. Attendance does not count as participation in class. Participating in class means answering questions and taking part in class discussions.

Make-up Policy

Exams are scheduled well in advance so that you can plan around these dates. No one may make up a test but for two exceptions.

First, for personal emergencies (medical problems), students should obtain a note from their physician. Second, for students with extra-curricular activities (athletic contests or other University-sponsored activities) that conflict with deadlines, arrangements for an alternate test date must be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled test or deadline. Students must provide verification of the activity in order to be eligible for an alternate test date. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each full calendar day they are late, up to as much as 30%. Assignments submitted late for more than three days will not be accepted.

Student Accessibility 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 contacted Student Accessibility Services, and the professor, in order 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.

Religious Holidays

The University of Central Florida welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic or work requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request reasonable accommodation of their religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing and present it to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The instructor or supervisor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course or creating an undue burden for the department.

E-mail Protocols

You can contact the professor both via the webcourses email and personal email.

Be patient. Don’t expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered reasonable amount of time to receive a reply. Please not that your instructor only checks and answers e-mails during regular business hours.

Include “Subject” headings: use something that is descriptive and refer to a particular assignment or topic.

Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

Sign your e-mail messages.

Cancellation of Class

In the event that the class needs to be cancelled, an e-mail will be sent to all students via webcourses mail prior to class time.

Disclaimer

Please note that the academic calendar, policies, procedures and assignments listed in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week 1

August 21: Course Introduction

August 23: International Relations and Social Science
-Dunne, Chapter 1.

August 25: State Sovereignty and Beginning of International System
- Osiander, A. (2001). Sovereignty, International Relations, and the Westphalian Myth. *International Organization*, (2), 251.

- Walt, S. M. (2005). The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 8(1), 23-48.

Week 2

August 28: In-class discussion: Making Sense of International System

August 30: National Interest and Security
- Pham, J. P. (2015). What Is in the National Interest? Hans Morgenthau's Realist Vision and American Foreign Policy. *American Foreign Policy Interests*, 37(4), 187-193.

September 1: National Interest and Security
- Wolfers, A. (1952). "National Security" as an Ambiguous Symbol. *Political Science Quarterly*, (4), 481.

Week 3

September 4: No class. Labor Day.

September 6: Structure of International System: Anarchy
- Waltz, K. N. (1979). *Theory of international politics*. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co., c1979. Selection.

September 8: Structure of International System: Hierarchy
- Lake, D. (2007). Escape from the State of Nature: Authority and Hierarchy in World Politics. International Security, (1), 47.

Week 4

September 11: In-class discussion: Anarchy versus Hierarchy

September 13: Theories of International Relations: Classical Realism
- Dunne, Chapter 2.

September 15: Theories of International Relations: Structural Realism
- Dunne, Chapter 3.

Week 5

September 18: In-class discussion: Realism

September 20: Theories of International Relations: Liberalism
- Dunne, Chapter 4.

September 22: Theories of International Relations: Neoliberalism
- Dunne, Chapter 5.

Week 6

September 25: In-class discussion: Liberalism

September 27: Theories of International Relations: Constructivism
- Dunne, Chapter 9.

September 29: Theories of International Relations: Marxism
- Dunne, Chapter 7

Week 7

October 2: In-class discussion: Constructivism and Marxism

October 4: Theories of International Relations: Feminism
- Dunne, Chapter 10.

October 6: Theories of International Relations: Critical Theory
- Dunne, Chapter 8.

Week 8

October 9: Midterm Exam

October 11: The Causes of War
- Levy, J. S. (1998). The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1(1), 139.

October 13: The Causes of War
- van Evera, S. (1998). Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War. *International Security*, (4), 5.

Week 9

October 16: In-class discussion: The Causes of War

October 18: The Causes of War
-Brzezinski, Z. (2005). Clash of the Titans: is China more interested in money than missiles? Will the United States seek to contain China as it once contained the Soviet Union? Zbigniew Brzezinski and John Mearsheimer go head-to-head on whether these two great powers are destined to fight it out. *Foreign Policy*, (146), 46.

October 20: The Causes of War
- Ikenberry, J. (2008). The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive? Foreign Affairs, (1), 23.

Week 10

October 23: In-class discussion: Rise of China and Chances of War. First Policy Memo Due.

October 25: Globalization and International Conflict
- Mansfield, E. D. and B. M. Pollins (2001). "The Study of Interdependence and Conflict: Recent Advances, Open Questions, and Directions for Future Research." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45(6): 834-859.

October 27: Globalization and International Conflict
- Oneal, J. R. and B. M. Russett (1999). "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992." *World Politics* (1): 1.
-Mansfield, E. and Pevehouse, J. “Trade Blocks, Trade Flows, and International Conflict,” *International Organization*, 2000.

Week 11

October 30: In-class discussion: Does Interdependence Decrease Chances of War?

November 1: Alliances and cooperation
- Walt, S. M. (1997). Why alliances endure or collapse. *Survival*, (1), 156.

November 3: Alliances and cooperation
Benson, B. (2011). Unpacking Alliances: Deterrent and Compellent Alliances and Their Relationship with Conflict, 1816–2000, *Journal of Politics* 73:4 1111-1127.

Week 12

November 6: In-class discussion: Alliances and cooperation

November 8: Alliances and cooperation
Mearshiemer, J. and Walt, S. The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy. *Middle East Policy*, 2006.
Brett Ashley Leeds and Burcu Savun, Terminating Alliances. *Journal of Politics*, 2007.

November 10: No class. Veteran's Day.

Week 13

November 13: In-class discussion: Alliances and cooperation. **Second Policy Memo Due.**

November 15: The Role of Institutions in International System
- Mearsheimer, J. (1994). The False Promise of International Institutions. *International Security*, (3), 5.

November 17: The Role of Institutions in International System
- Panizza, P. (2011). Conflict Resolution and the United Nations. A Leadership Crisis? The SAIS Europe Journal. http://www.saisjournal.org/posts/conflict-resolution-and-the-united-nations

Week 14

November 20: In-class discussion: The Role of Institutions in International Relations

November 22: Norms and Laws in International Relations
-Martha Finnemore, a., & Kathryn Sikkink, a. (1998). International Norm Dynamics and Political Change. *International Organization*, (4), 887.

November 24: No class. Thanksgiving.

Week 15

November 27: Norms and Laws in International Relations
- "Rules for Drone Wars: Six Questions for Philip Alston," *Harpers*, June 9, 2010 at https://harpers.org/blog/2010/06/rules-for-drone-wars-six-questions-for-philip-alston/

November 29: In-class discussion: Norms and Laws in International Relations

December 1: Final Exam Review

Final exam. Monday, December 4, 1:00-3:50 PM in our regular classroom.