INR 4008: Global Perspectives

Fall 2017

Instructor Contact

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Course Description

The historical and contemporary contexts of globalization.

Prerequisites: ENC 1102 or C.I. Credit Hours: 3

Course Objectives

Topically dedicated to issues in global affairs, this class will investigate a number of different political phenomena (primarily) 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 three recent books that look at different issues in international affairs. This books are chosen specifically because of their relevance to recent global events or trends that have had a pronounced influence on the world, such the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak and global efforts at democratization and the promotion of human rights.

Students will

1. Learn about different issues in global, specifically non-western, politics.
2. Learn how social scientists construct testable 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 of social science
5. Apply the lessons learned from the assigned readings to real-world events.

Required Texts (continues on to next page)

- Quammen, David. 2012. *Spillover*. ISBN: 9780393346619

- Hudson, Valerie, et al. 2012. *Sex and World Peace*. ISBN: 0231131836.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, and Alastair Smith. 2011. *The Dictator's Handbook*. ISBN: 9781610391849

Disclaimer on Course Demands

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 that will often not be open early.

This class requires the same total amount of work and effort as a three credit hour class taught in the classroom. The official university policy on workload is as follows:

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

a. *One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or*
b. *At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (a) of this definition for academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.*

A three credit hour class in the fall or spring normally requires "a minimum" of three hours per week of direct faculty instruction and six to nine hours outside of a classroom environment (or the "equivalent"). Using the lower end of this (six hours outside of the classroom or its equivalent per week plus three hours inside the classroom or its equivalent per week), equals at least 135 hours of work over a 15 week semester. *In other words, by enrolling in this class you are acknowledging that you are prepared to commit a minimum of nine hours of work per week.*

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 1) specifically responds to issues that were common across the class that should be avoided in the future, and 2) introduces a modest amount of new material. This material will appear in subsequent quizzes and will be considered when evaluating subsequent essays, so they should be taken very seriously.

Course Requirements

The general requirements (and relative worth) can be summarized as follows.

- Quizzes (40% of grade)
- Essays (40% of grade)
- Final Exam (20% of grade)

Summary of Dates (subject to change)

8/25	Getting Started (no penalty before 8/30) • Quiz over Syllabus • Quiz over *Dictator's Handbook* Introduction (pages ix-xxv) • Quiz over *Sex & World Peace* Chapter 1 (pages 1-16) *Spillover* • Quizzes over "Pale Horse" Chapters 1-7 (pages 13-49)
9/1	*Spillover* • Quizzes over "Thirteen Gorillas" Chapters 8-22 (pages 53-124)
9/8	*Spillover* • Quizzes over "The Chimp and the River" Chapters 85-96 (pages 385-431)
9/15	*Spillover* • Quizzes over "The Chimp and the River" Chapters 97-109 (pages 432-489) • Spillover Essay Due
9/22	*Sex & World Peace* • Quiz over Chapter 2 (pages 17-53) due
9/29	*Sex & World Peace* • Quiz over Chapter 3 (pages 54-94) due • *Spillover* review quiz due
10/6	*Sex & World Peace* • Quiz over Chapter 4 (pages 95-118) due • Quiz over Article
10/13	*Sex & World Peace* • Quiz over Chapter 5 (pages 119-156) due • Quiz over article
10/20	*Sex & World Peace* • Quiz over Chapter 6 (pages 157-200) due
10/27	*Sex & World Peace* • Essay Due
11/3	*Dictators Handbook* • Quizzes over Chapters 1-3 (pages 1-74) Due
11/10	*Dictators Handbook* • Quizzes over Chapters 4-5 (pages 75-125) Due • *Sex & World Peace* review quiz due
11/17	*Dictators Handbook* • Quizzes over Chapters 6-7 (pages 127-194) Due
11/24	*Dictators Handbook* (no penalty prior to 11/29 due to Holiday) • Quizzes over Chapters 8-9 (pages 195-249) Due
12/1	*Dictator's Handbook* • Quiz over Chapter 10 (pages 251-282) due • *Dictator's Handbook* review quiz due • Essay Due
12/4	Final Exam Opens (due on 12/8)

Quizzes

Each quiz will be of equal value to other quizzes (regardless of length). The average of them will act as the quiz grade for the semester. Quizzes will usually be comprised of 10 questions randomly drawn from a question bank of 15-25 questions. Quizzes will usually be limited to an average of around one minute per question for multiple choice/fill in the blank responses and are open book/open note. Students should be aware, however, that excessive reliance on notes or the readings will make it incredibly difficult to complete quizzes in the time allotted. You need to be fully prepared before beginning the quizzes.

Webcourses will attempt to automatically grade fill-in-the blank responses based on a stated set of correct responses. The system often makes errors due to variations in spelling, capitalization, use of abbreviations, etc. Either the instructor or the TA will review these questions after the quiz closes. There is no need to contact us prior to the quiz closing.

Errors are occasionally made, either via a glitch in webcourses or human error on the part of the instructor. If you think a question has been graded incorrectly, contact the instructor directly (jonathan.powell@ucf.edu). The question will be reviewed, but changes will not be made until after the quiz has closed.

Essays

Each student will complete three essays of 500-600 words. These will usually require the student to link a recent world event to the theme(s) covered in the readings. Students will need to demonstrate an understanding of the authors' arguments, an understanding of the event, and whether the event conforms to expectations of the author. Each essay is of equal value to the others.

Final Exam

All students are required to take a final exam. The exam will briefly cover all course materials, and will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. The exam will open on the first day of the final exam period, and will close at the end of the final exam period.

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. An error due to you or the equipment you are using is does not excuse you from completing assignments on time. Only errors on the part of the instructor or webcourses, which can be verified, will provide an excuse.

Evaluation and Grading

Written assignments will generally be graded by the Thursday following the due date. Quizzes will generally be graded by the following Tuesday. Each assignment will weighted in webcourses, so that your updated semester grade will be automatically updated when grades for individual assignments are submitted. Missing assignments may be excluded from these calculations if a grade of 0 has not been specifically added. Students are strongly advised to track their progress on their own.

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92.99 points
B+	87 – 89.99 points
B	83 – 86.99 points
B-	80 – 82.99 points
C+	77 – 79.99 points
C	73 – 76.99 points
C-	70 – 72.99 points
D+	67 – 69.99 points
D	63 – 66.99 points
D-	60 – 62.99 points
F	59 and below

Communication

Students should be prepared to

- Correspond directly through webcourses or via their official UCF Knights email account (this is required by UCF; messages from other email accounts may be ignored)
- Include "INR 4008" in the subject line of messages (I will prioritize emails I see coming from the class)
- Include a salutation and write messages in proper English

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rulefor further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

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 met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must connect with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, 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) 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.

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.

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.