Syllabus
INR 2002, Section 1

Fall 2017

Professor Information

Professor	Mark Schafer
Office	314 Howard Phillips Hall
Office Hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 am to noon; Tuesdays 1:30 to 2:30 pm
Phone	(407) 823-3328

Course Information

Course Name	International Relations – Theory and Practice
Course ID & Section	INR 2002 – 1
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Fall 2017

Course Description

UCF Catalog Description: Analysis of the fundamental principles and factors affecting interstate relations and their application to contemporary global developments.

Course Overview: This course is designed to introduce you to the theories and practices of global politics. The course deals with two primary dimensions of international politics. The first covers the important theories and concepts of international relations. This will be covered primarily in class lectures and discussions; there is no required textbook for this course. The only *required* book for this course is a novel by Isaac Asimov called *Foundation*. This novel deals fictitiously with many issues pertaining to international relations in general and will be the basis for some provocative discussion throughout the semester. This book should be available at the UCF Bookstore (and perhaps elsewhere in town).

The second primary dimension of the class deals with current issues, practices and problems in today's international setting. In order to accomplish this you are *required* to read international news stories available for free by way of yahoo.com, which I'll show you in class early in the semester. Pay particular attention to international and global happenings such as events in Iran, North Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, the European Union, Africa, the Middle East, global trade and economic issues, and others as they emerge. Note that you must read these stories before class each day. We will spend a portion of class time each week discussing current international topics and how those topics fit into the theories we have studied and discussed in class. In addition to reading stories at yahoo.com, you can get supplemental international other news sources such as the following (but remember that the yahoo.com stories are required):

1. Listen to National Public Radio (NPR) news programs (particularly *All Things Considered* in the late afternoon and *Morning Edition* in the morning). NPR can be found on the FM dial at 90.7 and is an excellent source of interesting and in-depth international news.
2. Read the international news stories in major magazines such as *Time*, the *Economist,* or *Newsweek.*
3. Watch national news on television and pay particular attention to the international news stories.

Course Objectives

- Increased knowledge of international relations theories and practices.
- Improved academic skills in the following areas: reading, writing, communicating, and particular thinking critically.

Required Readings

- *Foundation* by Isaac Asimov
- International stories at yahoo.com

Course Requirements

Assignment	Date	Percent of Final Grade
First Exam	September 21	25
Second Exam	October 26	25
Final Exam	Thurs. Dec. 7, 7-8am	30
First Short Paper	October 5	10
Second Short Paper	November 9	10

Exams generally will be multiple choice questions and medium-length essay questions.

Optional Discussion Participation and Bonus Grade

You may also receive an additional bonus to your overall grade, up to 5%, based on your participation in class discussions (see note below).

Class discussion is a central component of this class. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and current international events. Class participation can take several forms such as commenting on a topic or asking or answering a question. Based on participation in class discussions, students may earn up to 5% bonus added to their final score in the course. Here's the system I use to keep track of class participation: any time you contribute to class discussion, write down a brief version of what you said on a piece of paper with your name on it and turn it in to me after class**.** That allows me to keep track of how often everyone participates in class. I may also occasionally give pop quizzes or in-class assignments that will count toward your participation bonus, but the majority of the bonus will come from actually participating in class discussion.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

Papers and assignments must be completed on time. Emailed papers will not be accepted unless previously arranged with me due to dire circumstances. Exams and quizzes may not be rescheduled or postponed. ***Exceptions will be allowed only under extreme, documented circumstances***. Under such circumstances, you are required to notify me (or, if I am unavailable, the Department of Political Science) prior to the date or as soon as possible if prior notice is impossible. No one may start any exam once the first exam has been turned in and the student has left the room.

Late papers are generally not accepted. If I accept a late paper because of circumstances, I will make substantial reductions in the paper grade for every day it is late, up to a maximum of 75% reduction.

Evaluation and Grading

Final Percent for Course	Grade
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89.99%	B
70% - 79.99%	C
60% - 69.99%	D
Below 60%	F

Academic Honesty

As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. All work you submit must be your own scholarly and creative effort. UCF's Golden Rule defines plagiarism as follows: **whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.** I may require an electronic version of any paper submitted for this class.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus can be made available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must register with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371; TTY/TDD-only phone (407) 823-2116.

Third-party Notes

Third parties may be selling class notes and other materials from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.

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.

Additional Policies

I welcome and encourage questions, comments and discussion either in or out of the classroom. I love teaching and I love what I teach, so remember my door is open!

I cannot respond to grade inquiries by email.

Laptops, tablets, etc. are not permitted in this class once the class period has started.

Cell phones, pagers, and other such things that might go off and make noise are not permitted in class.

Course Calendar

(Note: The following calendar is organized into one or two week segments. There may be some minor deviations from this schedule depending on a variety of scheduling factors.)

August 22: Course introduction and overview; global geography.

August 29: Realism, Idealism, and Interdependence: Core Theories of International Relations.
* Read Part I in *Foundation*.

September 5: Foundations of the "Nation-State" System.

September 12: International Organizations.
*Read: Part II in *Foundation*.

September 19: Catch up and review.

***** First Exam September 21*****

September 26: Foreign Policy Decision Making and the Levels of Analysis.
*Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Part III of *Foundation*.

October 3: Power, Conflict, and War, Part I.

*** First Short Paper Due October 5***

October 10: Power, Conflict, and War, Part II
*Read the rest of Part III in *Foundation*.

October 17: Arms Control; International Law

October 24: Catch up and review.

***** Second Exam October 26*****

October 31: International Political Economy: Liberalism, Mercantilism, and Marxism.

November 7: International Political Economy: Liberalism, Mercantilism, and Marxism, continued.
*Read Part IV in *Foundation*.

*** Second Short Paper Due November 9***

November 14: Development and Underdevelopment

November 21-November 30: Contemporary Global Issues and Challenges; and review for final exam. Read Part V in *Foundation*.

***** Final Exam – Thursday December 7, 7:00-8:00 am*****