INR 2002 Syllabus
Introduction to International Theory and Practice

1. Course Information

Course Name	International Relations – Theory and Practice
Course Number & Section	INR 2002-0002
Course ID	005512
Credit Hours	3
Semester	Fall 2018
Prerequisites	ENC 1102
Meeting Dates	Tuesdays and Thursdays (8/20/18 - 12/8/18)
Course Room	BIO 0209

2. Instructor Information

Instructor	Karthikeyan Thiagarajan
Email	karthy@knights.ucf.edu
Office	313 Howard Phillips Hall (2nd Floor)
Phone	407-823-2608
Office Hours	Wednesdays (2-3.30 PM) & Thursdays (1-2.30 PM)

3. Course Description
UCF Course description
Analysis of the fundamental principles and factors affecting interstate relations and their application to contemporary global developments.

Course Overview
Since the course introduces students to the international relations theories and its practices, we will discuss the major theoretical aspects of international relations and how they are practiced in reality. Thus, it involves two tasks for every week. First, everyone should read the assigned readings from the book. Second, everyone should listen to the World Next Week Podcast and read the World Affairs section in the New York Times newspaper. The former will introduce you to the major theories in international relations, while the latter will familiarize you with current international issues.

4. Student Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to read and think critically about major international issues in international relations. They should know how to link important international issues with core international theories. They should listen and think critically about international issues and discuss them in the class during lectures. By the end of the course, students should improve their academic skills: critically read, think and communicate in an analytical manner.

5. Course Structure

Part.1. Basic Introduction to International Relations Theory

Week One (8/21/18 & 8/23/18): Introduction

- Read World Affairs Section in NYT. (Continue it every week)
- Listen to World Next Week Podcast for this week. (Continue it every week)

Week Two (8/28/18 & 8/30/18): What is a theory?

- Read Ch.1 in *Essential of International Relations*
- What is a scientific theory? https://www.livescience.com/21491-what-is-a-scientific-theory-definition-of-theory.html
- Necessary and Sufficient Conditions. https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/wi-phi/wiphi-critical-thinking/wiphi-fundamentals/v/necessary-sufficient-conditions

Week Three (9/4/18 & 9/6/18): Historical Trends

- Read Ch.2 in *Essential of International Relations (EIR)*
- **Quiz-1 will be available in the Webcourses from Thursday until Saturday (6.00 AM on 9/6/18 to 11.59 PM on 9/8/18)**

Part.2. Major Theories

Week Four (9/11/18 & 9/13/18): Realism in International politics

- Read Ch.3. Realism in *EIR*

Week Five (9/18/18 & 9/20/18): Liberalism in International Politics

- Read Ch.3. Liberalism & Ch.7. International Organizations & International Law in *EIR*

Week Six (9/25/18 & 9/27/18): Alternative Theories

- Read Ch.3. Social Constructivism and Marxism in *EIR*

- **Quiz-2 will be available in the Webcourses from Thursday until Saturday (6.00 AM on 9/27/18 to 11.59 PM on 9/29/18)**

Part.3. Unit of Analysis

Week Seven (10/2/18 & 10/4/18): Individual Level of Analysis

- Read. Ch.6. in *EIR*

Week Eight (10/9/18 & 10/11/18): State Level Analysis

- Read Ch. 5. in *EIR*

Week Nine (10/16/18 & 10/18/18): System Level of Analysis

- Read. Ch.4. in *EIR*
- **Quiz-3 will be available in the Webcourses from Thursday until Saturday (6.00 AM on 10/18/18 to 11.59 PM on 10/20/18)**
- **Students should submit their paper proposal before 10/12/18**

Part.4. Major International Issues

Week Ten (10/23/18 & 10/25/18): War and Peace

- Read Ch.8 in *EIR*

Week Eleven (10/30/18 & 11/1/18): International Political Economy

- Read Ch. 9 in *EIR*

Week Twelve (11/6/18 & 11/8/18): Environment and Human Rights

- Read Ch.10 & Ch.11 in *EIR* (skip health and crime sections in Ch.11)

Week Thirteen (11/13/18 & 11/15/18): Health Issues and Transnational Crime

- Read Ch.11 on Health and Crime Section in EIR
- **Quiz - 4 will be available in the Webcourses from Thursday until Saturday (6.00 AM on 11/15/18 to 11.59 PM on 11/17/18)**

Week Fourteen (11/20/18): Review of Major Topics

11/23/18: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week Fifteen (11/27/18 & 11/29/18): Review of Major Topics

Week Sixteen (12/4/18): Final Exam

- **Final Exam will be held in the classroom from 3.00 PM to 4.30 PM.**

Final Paper Due: Final paper due in Webcourses on 12/8/18 by 11.59 PM.

6. Assessment and Grading Procedures

Discussions: Every student is expected to post a discussion comment and a reply to a discussion comment of another student in the Webcourses discussion board about any major issue obtained either in the World Next Week podcast or in the NYT World Affairs section. I will grade the assignment every week and provide feedback. It will constitute 20% of the grade. The discussion post and the discussion reply should be at least paragraph of substantive nature. **Every student should at least post ten discussion posts and ten replies out of the fifteen weeks of the course.** Students must complete the assignment by week 15. Kindly refer to the course structure of the syllabus. Since the discussion topic will be available for the whole week, students would have more than enough time to post a discussion comment and a reply. Every successful discussion post and a reply is worth 2 points. Thus, ten successful discussion posts and ten replies will get you 20% of the grade. If a student gains 20% of the grade from the first ten discussion and reply posts, students need not post after that. Students you did not get the full grade can post until they gain the full 20% of the grade until the 15th week of the course. However, kindly note that to gain full points the discussion comment should describe a major international issue and point out the significance of the issue. The reply post to another student should either agree or disagree with the discussion comment and provide reasons why you agree or disagree with the comment. Just presenting facts in the discussion post will not be accepted and the post will be penalized with a score of zero. Just merely agreeing or disagreeing with someone's comment will fetch a zero score for the reply post. Hence, concentrate on your discussion and reply post before posting it.

Quizzes: There are four Quizzes each worth 10% of the grade (40% of the grade). Each quiz will consist of 20 questions; each question is worth five points. The question types will vary from multiple choice to true or false questions. All the quizzes will be posted in the Webcourses. The quizzes will be available from Thursday until Saturday (from 6.00 AM Thursday to 11.59 PM on Saturday). This will give you enough time to take the quiz if you have any other engagement with some other course. However, you will have just one chance to finish the quiz after you start. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. If you have any trouble in accessing the quiz or if there are internet problems, kindly contact the Webcourses before you contact me.

Make up Quiz Policy

Before the final week of the course, students can have a makeup quiz for any of the missed quizzes. Students should explain and provide evidence for why they missed the quiz. In cases of extra ordinary circumstances or serving active military duty, you will be excused for missing the quiz. In any case, you should notify me about the reason for missing the quiz. Since the quiz would be online, you should have enough time to prepare for any unforeseen circumstances.

Final Exam: A final exam will be held based on the format of quizzes. Basically, the exam will be an overall test on what you have studied in the course about international relations. There will be 50 questions with multiple choice and True or False questions. Each question will carry two points. Thus, the exam is worth 100 points. The exam on weighted score will constitute 20% of the total grade. For instance, if a student scores 90 points, then the student will gain 18 grade points of the total grade. (90 * 0.20 = 18). Just like the quizzes the exam will be held on the Webcourses.

Final Paper: Every student is expected to write a paper on applying any of the major theories to explain any major international politics issue. This paper will constitute 20% of the grade. For instance, if a student scores 80 points, then the student will gain 16 grade points of the total grade. (80 * 0.20 = 16). Students, however, should discuss their paper topic with me before working on the paper. A good paper should consist of four or five pages not including the citations. A good paper will have range from 2000 to 2500 words. I will explain about the format of the paper and submit a sample paper in the Webcourses after the paper proposal date (10/12/18). If the final paper is not submitted before the deadline, then 10% of the grade for the paper will be penalized for every day of late submission.

Grading Rubric

Discussions	20%
Quizzes	40%
Final Exam	20%
Final Paper	20%

Grading Criteria

Letter Grade	
>93%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B +

84-86% B
80-83% B-
75-79% C+
70-74% C
65-69%. C-
60-64% D
<60% F

The grades are rounded off in case of final grade. If the total grade percentage is 89.5%, it will be rounded to 90% or in this case a letter grade of A-.

7. Course Materials and Resources

Required Book for the course

Essentials of International Relations by *Karen Mingst* and *Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft*. (7th edition).

Other Required Materials

In addition to the required course book, students are supposed to read and listen to the following:

A. Read World Affairs section in the *New York Times* newspaper. Buy a digital student subscription. The digital student subscription is $4/month. Kindly chose the Basic Student subscription which provides full access to all digital devices including your computer.

World:https://www.nytimes.com/section/world?action=click&pgtype=Homepage&region=TopBar&module=HPMiniNav&contentCollection=World&WT.nav=page

Subscription:http://www.nytimes.com/subscriptions/edu/lp8LQFK.html?campaignId=6Y4QR

B. Listen to World Next Week Podcast from Council of Foreign Relations. The podcast lasts from 30-45 minutes posted once every week.

Link: https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/world-next-week. You can also listen to the podcast in Google Play or iTunes Podcast app.

Recommended: For students interested in further reading, read *Foreign Affairs, The Economist and The National Interest.*

Any other readings, if any, will be published in the course site.

8. Core Policy Statements

Academic Integrity Statement

You should be aware that the university has zero tolerance policy for plagiarism or unseemly conduct such as cheating or helping someone to cheat or complicit in cheating. If anyone is caught cheating, the letter grade of F will be given as a penalty and other possible consequences and disciplinary actions will be pursued. Kindly follow UCF's Golden Rule on Plagiarism. 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.

Accessibility access

University provides access to persons with easy accessibility. Please contact Student Disability Services, before contacting me. They will provide the necessary services. Kindly contact Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 132, phone 407-823-2371. Also, the syllabus can be made available in alternate formats upon request.

Emergency Services and Support

Kindly follow the emergency alerts from UCF Alert for any emergencies in the campus. Also, visit the UCF Emergency Guide for further information of emergency procedures. Students can use Emergency Blue Light Phones inside the campus to report any sort of emergency. Kindly follow the Emergency Guide in times of crisis. Link: http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide/full_with_borders.pdf

Accommodations for Active Duty Military Students

For students who may have to perform active military duty, kindly contact me earlier so that we can work out flexible submission deadlines, which may suit your work schedule for discussions, quizzes, final exam, and final paper. Also, let me know if you might miss classes or quizzes for active duty deployment.

Course support

Feel free to drop by the office for discussion or message me in the Webcourses for any issues or doubts. Every PDF file associated with the readings for the course will be in the Webcourses, so lets me know if there are any issues with that. For students having problem with writing skills, please contact the University Writing Center (UWC).