INR 4603-002 International Relations Theory
Fall 2018

Instructor: Didara Nurmanova, didara@knights.ucf.edu
Class Meets: Tuesday, Thursday 12:00 - 1:15 PM in BIO 0209
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 10.45 - 11.45 AM and by appointment in HPH 313
Prerequisites: None
Credit: 3 Hours

Course Description

International Relations Theory: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Theoretical trends prevalent in the study of international relations, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, feminism, and post-modernism.

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.

Assignments

Exams

Midterm and final exams will be in-class and consist of three essay questions. Final exam will cover the information from the second half of the course.

Quizzes

There will be six quizzes on weekly readings randomly assigned during the semester. Each quiz will consist of one multiple choice and one short-answer question. Each quiz is worth 2 points. The lowest scoring quiz will be dropped. The highest scoring five quizzes will make up 10% of the grade.

Presentation
Students are expected to do an in-class presentation on Week 13 of the semester. The presentation has to analyze a current event and apply IR theory to the event.

Extra Credit

Students will have an opportunity to earn extra credit by completing a short assignment during the semester. The extra credit is worth 2 points.

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Quizzes 10%
Midterm exam 35%
Presentation 15%
Final exam 40%

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 may 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 24.

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, 2018.

Class Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. Lectures cover material that you will not be able to find in the book.

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.

Quizzes are administered randomly during the semester. If you miss one quiz, the remaining five quizzes will count towards your grade. If you miss more than one quiz, you can submit a summary of the readings (at least 800 words) for that week.

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 Accessibility 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 university email.

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. International Relations and Social Science
-Dunne, Chapter 1.

August 23: 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: 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.

August 30: National Interest and Security
- Wolfers, A. (1952). "National Security" as an Ambiguous Symbol. *Political Science Quarterly*, (4), 481.

Week 3

September 4: Structure of International System: Anarchy
- Waltz, K. N. (1979). *Theory of international politics*. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co., c1979. Selection.

September 6: 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: Theories of International Relations: Classical Realism
- Dunne, Chapter 2.

September 13: Theories of International Relations: Structural Realism
- Dunne, Chapter 3.

Week 5

September 18: Theories of International Relations: Liberalism
- Dunne, Chapter 4.

September 20: Theories of International Relations: Neoliberalism
- Dunne, Chapter 5.

Week 6

September 25: Theories of International Relations: Constructivism
- Dunne, Chapter 9.

September 27: Theories of International Relations: Marxism
- Dunne, Chapter 7

Week 7

October 2: Theories of International Relations: Feminism
- Dunne, Chapter 10.

October 4: 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.

Week 9

October 16: The Causes of War
- van Evera, S. (1998). Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War. *International Security*, (4), 5.

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.

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

November 1: 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: Alliances and cooperation
-Mearshiemer, J. and Walt, S. The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy. *Middle East Policy*, 2006.

November 8: Alliances and cooperation
-Brett Ashley Leeds and Burcu Savun, Terminating Alliances. *Journal of Politics*, 2007.

Week 13

November 13: Presentations

November 15: Presentations

Week 14

November 20: The Role of Institutions in International System
- Mearsheimer, J. (1994). The False Promise of International Institutions. *International Security*, (3), 5.

November 22: No class. Thanksgiving.

Week 15

November 27: The Role of Institutions in International System
-Martha Finnemore & Kathryn Sikkink, a. (1998). International Norm Dynamics and Political Change. *International Organization*, (4), 887.

November 29: Final Exam Review

Final exam. Thursday, December 6, 10:00 AM-12:50 PM in our regular classroom.