INR 4603.0002: International Relations Theory

Instructor: Thomas M. Dolan, thomas.dolan@ucf.edu
Class Meetings: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 10:30-11:30
Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 12:30-2:30, or by appointment at Howard Phillips Hall 302
Credit: 3 Hours

International Relations Theory examines the dominant explanations of how states interact with one another. Our main focus will be on social scientific theories designed to answer questions about historical and contemporary patterns of interaction, with a focus on realist theories, constructivism, institutionalism, and domestic politics theories. The questions addressed will include the likelihood of war, alliance partner choices, the risks and benefits of international cooperation, state compliance with international law, and the prospects for peace. Because competing theories sometimes offer different answers to these questions, part of our task will involve considering the kinds of tests and evidence which we can use to judge the validity of the different theories.

Course Goals

- Students will become familiar with principles of social science and major theoretical approaches to international relations
- Students will learn how to analyze world politics using international relations theories
- Students will improve their powers of social scientific analysis
- Students will improve written and oral communication skills

Please note that none of these goals involve the advancement of anyone's political or policy opinions (including those of the instructor). While I encourage political activity and the fulfillment of one's citizenship duties outside of the classroom, a political science course is not a proper forum for the airing of one's personal politics.

Course Design

This course involves a combination of class sessions involving lecture and discussion, directed readings, papers, exams, and opportunities for informal discussion during office hours. Each part serves a purpose, be it information transmission and retention, promoting rigorous analysis, or encouraging the development of new ideas. Failing to engage with all parts will diminish the return on your efforts. For this reason, pre-class preparation is essential for this course. Students are expected to have read and considered the assigned material prior to the course, and be prepared to discuss it in class. I have chosen to have you read a mix of texts: there is a textbook, but there are also original scholarly theoretical pieces and research pieces. While scholarly pieces may be more challenging to read, they help you better understand how scholars think and argue in a way that textbooks do not. Please remember that that the material of the course is delivered in *both* texts and in-class discussion, which means that the texts contain valuable ideas and information which may not be specifically addressed in class, and discussions and lectures will go beyond the readings. You are responsible for understanding both, so please be sure to raise questions about things you are unsure about. As a matter of course, all students should plan to review each day the international news in a newspaper of record, like the *New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times, Le Monde, The Times of London,* etc. Neither the *USA Today* nor the *Orlando Sentinel* count.

Assignments

First Week Academic Activity
All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the week 1 academic activity by 5 PM on 13 January, or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. To complete the assignment (it's simple, based on the first reading), go to the webcourses webpage, select quizzes, and complete the 1-question quiz.

Homework papers (6): 20*% of grade*
Each accounts for 4%, with lowest grade dropped.
Due on indicated dates (see schedule)
1 page, but follow specific assignment instructions.

Midterm: *20%,* 22 February
In-class; multiple choice and essay.

Term Paper: *25%* Due 14 April
Using ideas and arguments from the course, make a theory that relates two variables. Test your theory using a case study drawn from contemporary world politics or OLS regression on data from an existing dataset.

Final Exam: *25%.* 1 May at 10:00 AM
In the classroom. Cumulative. Multiple choice and essay.

Class Preparation and Participation: *10%*
Your active participation in class is necessary if this class is to be a successful learning experience. This means you must come in having read the assignments and join in the class-room discussion of them, making evident that you have read and thought about them. While attendance is not graded as such, excessive truancy can affect this grade, since you are unable to participate when absent.

Assignments are to be turned in by class time on the day they are due. They should be in hardcopy unless unforeseen circumstances prevent printing them in or handing them in a timely manner. For every 24 hours that pass thereafter, 5% of credit is lost, to a maximum of 40% lost.
Exams are to be sat at the date and time specified, unless prior approval has been given or a doctor's excuse is submitted at the next attended class meeting. Exams should generally be taken within 1 week of the general administration of the exam.

Grades
Grades are assigned to both individual pieces of work and cumulatively. The grade scale I use for both is below (note that "g" refers to the numerical grade you receive). I do not usually curve grades, but reserve the right to do so if I deem it necessary. All material is graded on its own terms, rather than through comparison with other students' work. For the cumulative grades, I do not round: what you get is what you get.

100>g≥93: A	90>g≥88: B+	80>g≥78: C+	70>g≥68: D+	60>g: E
	88>g≥83: B	78>g≥73: C	68>g≥63: D	
93>g≥90: A-	83>g≥80: B-	73>g≥70: C-	63>g≥60: D	

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. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).

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 Rule for 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

If anyone believes the design of this course poses barriers to effectively participating and/or demonstrating learning in this course, please meet with me (with or without a Student Disability Services (SDS) accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting SDS (Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2371; sds@ucf.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

Changes to the Syllabus:

In the event that there is a need for there to be any changes to the syllabus, an e-mail will be sent to all students' knights-mail accounts (as maintained by the registrar) or will be announced in class meetings (thought usually both). Changes become effective immediately after their mention in class, or the sending of the e-mail.

Cancellation of Class: In the event that the instructor needs to cancel class, an e-mail will be sent to all students' knights-mail accounts (as maintained by the registrar) prior to class time.

Readings

You should purchase Tim Dunne et al.'s *International Relations: Discipline and Diversity*. It is available in the bookstore and from a variety of online vendors. The remainder of the readings (or links to them) will be available on-line at the webcourses@ucf website.

*In addition, you will need a bag of M&M's or Reece's Pieces for 10 November

Course Schedule

9 January
Introduction

11 January
International Relations as Social Science
Dunne, Chapter 1

13 January
What are states? (1)
Weber, Max. "Politics as a Vocation"

18 January
What are states? (2)
Selection from Wendt, "The Essential State", from *Social Theory of International Politics*.

20 January
Should We Focus on States? (1)
Wolfors, *Discord and Collaboration,* Ch. 1.

23 January
Should We Focus on States? 2
Selection from Allison and Zelikow, *Essence of Decision*
Recommended:
Vincent Arel-Bundock, James Afkinson, and Rachel Potter, "The Limits of Foreign Aid Diplomacy: How Bureaucratic Design Shapes Aid Distribution," *International Studies Quarterly*, 59:3, 2015

25 January: **Homework 1 Due**
What do States Want? Power? Security?
Selection from Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*
Wolfors, "National Security as an Ambiguous Symbol"

27 January
What do states want? Revisionism?
Selection from Schweller, *Deadly Imbalances*

Section 2: The Field of Interaction

30 January
Geography and Geopolitics
Mahan, *The Influence of Sea-Power on History,* Chapters 1 and 2.

1 February **Homework 2 Due**
Anarchy (The realist view)
Waltz, *THIP,* Chapter 6.

3 February
Anarchy: A Different View
Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *International Organization*, 1992
Recommended
Selection from Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society*

6 February
Or, Hierarchy?
David Lake, "Escape from the State of Nature," *International Security*, 2007.
Recommended:
Selections from Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics*
Rovner, Joshua, and Caitlin Talmadge, "Hegemony, Force Posture, and the Provision of Public Goods: The Once and Future Role of Outside Powers in Securing Persian Gulf Oil," Security Studies, Vol. 23, No. 3 (Summer 2014), pp. 548–581.

Major Theories of International Relations

8 February
Realisms, 1
Dunne, Chapter 3

10 February **Homework 3 Due**
Realisms, 2
Dunne, Chapter 4

13 February:
Hegemonic Stability Theory, (aka Power Transition Theory)
Selection from Dicicco and Levy, "The Power Transition Research Program,"

15 February
Institutionalism
Dunne, Chapter 6

17 February
Constructivism
Dunne Chapter 9
Recommended:
Schmidt, Sebastian, "Foreign Military Presence and the Changing Practice of Sovereignty: A Pragmatist Explanation of Norm Change," American Political Science Review, Vol. 108, No. 4 (November 2014), pp. 817–829.

20 February
Liberalism: A State Preferences and Characteristics-based Theory
Andrew Moravcsik, "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *IO*, 1997.
Recommended:
Dunne, Chapter 5

22 February: Midterm Exam

War in International Relations

24 February
Polarity and the Probability of War
Selection from Waltz, *THIP*

27 February
War and Bandwagoning?
Randall Schweller, "Bandwagoning for Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back in," *International Security*, 1994

1 March
Testing Polarity, Balancing, and Bandwagoning
*Assuming good weather, be prepared to play tug of war outside.

3 March
Hegemonic Theories of War
Selection 2 from Gilpin, *War and Change*

6 March **Homework 4 Due**
Economics and War
Ed Mansfield and Jon Pevehouse, "Trade Blocks, Trade Flows, and International Conflict," *International Organization*, 2000

8 March
Rules in War? 1
James Morrow, "When Do States follow the Laws of War?" *American Political Science Review*, 2007.

10 March
Rules in War, 2
Nina Tannenwald, "The Nuclear Taboo," *International Organization*, 1999
Recommended:
Thomas Dolan, "Unthinkable and Tragic," *International Organization*, 2013

Alliances

20 March
Picking Partners, I
Glenn Snyder, "The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics," *World Politics*, 1984

22 March
Picking Partners, 2
Brett V. Benson, 2011, Unpacking Alliances: Deterrent and Compellent Alliances and Their Relationship with Conflict, 1816–2000, *Journal of Politics* 73:4 1111-1127.

24 March
Picking Partners, 3
Selection from Srdjan Vucetic, *The Anglosphere* Ch 1-2. Available online via the library.
Recommended:
John Mearshiemer and Stephen Walt, "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy," *Middle East Policy*, 2006.

27 March **Homework 5 Due**
Designing Partnerships
Victor Cha, "Powerplay Origins of the US Alliance System in Asia," *International Security*, 34:3, Winter 2009/2010

29 March
Breaking Up
Brett Ashley Leeds and Burcu Savun, "Terminating Alliances," *Journal of Politics*, 2007
Be sure to bring a paper or digital copy of the article with you to class to reference.

31 March
Cooperation and its Problems
Charles Kindleberger, "Dominance and Leadership in the International Economy: Exploitation, Public Goods, and Free Rides," *International Studies Quarterly*, 1981.
Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony*, selection.
Recommended:
Mancur Olson, *Logic of Collective Action* (selection)

Cooperation

3 April
Evolving Cooperation?
Kenneth Oye, "Cooperation under Anarchy," *World Politics*, 1985
Bring a Prisoners' Dilemma Strategy and a bag of M & M's (or Reece's Pieces)

5 April
Cooperation as Bargaining and Rationally Designed Institutions
James Fearon, "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation," *International Organization*, 1998
Recommended:
Joseph Grieco, "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation," *International Organization,* 1988
Barbara Koremenos, Charles Lipson and Duncan Snidal, "The Rational Design of International Institutions," *International Organization*, 2001.

7 April
Two-Level Games in Cooperation
Robert Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two Level Games," *IO*, 1988

10 April
Two-Level Games in Cooperation
Michael Hiscox, "Class versus Industry Cleavages," *International Organization*, 2001.
Recommended:
Robert Galantucci, "The Repercussions of Realignment: United States-China Interdependence and Exchange Rate Politics," *International Studies Quarterly*, 59:3, 2015

12 April
International Law
Harold Koh, "Why Do Nations Obey International Law? *Yale Law Journal*,
Recommended
Kowert and Legro, "Norms, Identity, and their Limits," in *Culture of National Security*, 1998
John Mearsheimer, "False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, 1994

Peace

14 April **TERM PAPER DUE**
Realist Theories of Peace
Selection from Edward Gulick, *Europe's Classical Balance of Power*.

17 April
Liberal Peace: Democratic Peace Theory
Zeev Maoz and Bruce Russett, "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986," *APSR*, 1994

19 April
Democratic Peace Theory, 2
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita et al., "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace"

21 April **Homework 6 Due**
Peace through Integration
Selection from Karl W. Deutsch, *Political Community and the North Atlantic Area*
Selection from David Mitrany, *A Working Peace System*

24 April
Critical/Normative theories
Dunne, Chapter 8, 10, 12
Recommended
Dunne, Chapter 2

Monday 1 May: **Final Exam**, 10:00 AM.