INR 2002 Spring 2019 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	Spring 2019
Prerequisites	ENC 1102
Meeting Dates	01/07/2019 to 04/30/2019
Meeting Time	**6:00 – 8:50 PM**
Class Room	**BA1 0218** (Business Administration- I Building)

2. Instructor Information

Instructor	Karthikeyan Thiagarajan
Email	karthy@knights.ucf.edu
Office	313 Howard Phillips Hall (2nd Floor)
Phone	407-823-2608
Office Hours	**Mondays** (2-3.30 PM) & **Wednesdays** (2-3.30 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 requires both theory and practice of international relations, 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 analytically.

5. Course Structure

Part.1. Basic Introduction to International Relations Theory

Week One (01/7/2019): Introduction

- Read World Affairs Section in NYT. (Continue every week)
- Listen to World Next Week Podcast for this week. (Continue every week)
- Post your first discussion post in the Webcourses (*Continue every week until you complete ten required discussion posts*). Kindly read the discussion post section of the assessment and grading procedures for further reference.

Week Two (01/14/2019): What is a theory?

- Read Chapter.1(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

Week Three (01/21/2019): Martin Luther King's Day

- **Holiday No Class**

Week Four (01/28/2019): Historical Trends

- Read Ch.2 in *Essential of International Relations (EIR)*
- **Quiz-1 will be available in the Webcourses from Thursday until Saturday (01/31/2019 to 02/2/2019)**

Part.2. Major Theories

Week Five (02/4/2019): Realism in International politics

- Read Ch.3: Realism in *EIR*

Week Six (02/11/2019): Liberalism in International Politics

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

Week Seven (02/18/2019): Alternative Theories

- Read Ch.3: Social Constructivism and Marxism in *EIR*
- **Quiz-2 will be available in the Webcourses from Thursday until Saturday (02/21/2019 to 02/23/2019)**

Part. 3. Unit of Analysis

Week Eight (02/25/2019): Individual Level of Analysis

- Read. Ch.6. in *EIR*

Week Nine (03/4/2019): State Level Analysis

- Read Ch. 5. in *EIR*
- **Students should submit their paper proposal (The proposal constitutes 5% of the grade. Kindly hand over the paper proposal to me before the class. (Write your name and course ID in the right-hand corner of the proposal).**

Week Ten (03/11/2019): Spring Break

- ***Holiday. Enjoy Your Spring Break.***

Week Eleven (03/18/2019): System Level of Analysis

- Read. Ch.4. in *EIR*
- **Quiz-3 will be available in the Webcourses from Thursday until Saturday (03/21/2019 to 03/23/2019)**

Part.4. Major International Issues

Week Twelve (03/25/2019): War and Peace

- Read Ch.8 in *EIR*

Week Thirteen (04/1/2019): International Political Economy

- Read Ch. 9 in *EIR*

Week Fourteen (04/8/2019): Environment and Human Rights

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

Week Fifteen (04/15/2019): 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 (04/18/2019 to 04/20/2019)**

Week Sixteen (04/22/2019): Review of Major Topics

- We revise what we learned for the final exam.
- ***Extra-credit exam will be available in the Webcourses during this week.***
- Students who missed any of the quizzes because of emergencies or unforeseen reasons can retake the missed quiz in this week.
- ***Final paper due on 04/25/2019 in the Webcourses.***

Week Seventeen (04/29/2019): Final Exam

- *Final Exam will be held in our lecture hall (BIO 218) from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.*

Final Paper: Final paper due on April 25th in the Webcourses by 11:59 PM.

6. Assessment and Grading Procedures

Discussions: I expect every student to post a discussion comment and a reply to a discussion comment of another student in the Webcourses discussion board about any major issue. You can get the major issue either from the World Next Week podcast or in the NYT World Affairs section. I will grade the assignment every week and provide feedback. *It will make up 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. Students must complete the assignment by *Week Sixteen* (Check the time-table in the course structure).** 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. 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 also fetch a zero score for the reply post. Hence, concentrate on your discussion and reply posts before posting it.

Quizzes: ***There are four Quizzes each worth 10% of the overall grade (in total, four quizzes are worth 40% of the overall grade). Each quiz will comprise 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 flexible time-frame 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 40 minutes to complete the quiz***. If you have any trouble in accessing the quiz or if there are problems with the Internet, kindly contact me so that I can reset the quiz for you. I highly recommend taking the quiz with a good Internet connection, preferably the campus Internet connection.

Extra Credit Exam: If you do not do well in the quizzes, do not worry. Just concentrate on the weekly readings and PowerPoint Slides, because there will be an extra credit exam before the final week of the course. You can cover your losses in the four quizzes with this single exam. For instance, you might have lost 10% of your grade in the four quizzes. Instead of getting the full score, which is 40 points

(100/100 in each quiz), you may just have 28 points (70/100 from each quiz or 70%) from the quizzes. This extra credit exam will help to cover your deficit in the quizzes. If you score 90%, which is 9 overall grade points, in the extra-credit exam, then you can increase your quiz score by 9 points. Hence, instead of acquiring just 28 points from all the quizzes, you can have 37 points from the quizzes. Therefore, simply do your work: ***study and understand the concepts well!***

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.
NOTE: Students will be allowed to take just one quiz, so do not miss the quizzes intentionally. The makeup quiz is not for the slackers!

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).
NOTE: The final exam will be held in our lecture hall (April 29th from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM), not 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 or of any major international event. 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 range from 2000 to 2500 words. I will explain about the format of the paper later in the course. I will post the paper guidelines in the Webcourses. 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%
Paper Proposal	5%
Final Paper	15%

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 (*I will show it in the class if you have not bought the subscription yet*).

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).