INR 2002
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY AND PRACTICE

Dr. Robert L. Bledsoe
9:30-10:20MWF
PSY 105
robert.bledsoe@ucf.edu

OFFICE: Phillips Hall 102"B"
HOURS:10:30-11:15;1:00-3:00MWF
(or by appointment)

Course Outline

1. **Course Objectives.** This one semester course is designed to:
   (1) Introduce you to the fundamentals of the international system;
   (2) Gain awareness of how there can be differing views about that system
   (3) think critically about trends, processes, and issues;

The primary purpose of the course is to provide the basic tools for any student to better understand the world in which we live and how it is viewed from various lens/perspectives. It is part of the required core of the International and Global Studies major and one of the options for the International/Comparative track in the Political Science major.

2. **Course Requirements.** The course will consist of a series of lectures focusing upon the topics and issues outlined in Section 5. You are encouraged to ask questions, inject personal observations, and challenge the assertions of the professor. Attend all class meetings. While no formal record of attendance is kept, you will find that failure to attend class will soon be reflected in your course performance, as lecture material will often not be found in your reading assignments. **Read and master** the material in the assignments. These are found in the textbook for the course:

Eric Shiraev and Vladislav Zubok, *International Relations*. 3d ed. Oxford University Press. 2020. ISBN 9780190648527 (paperback) 9780190648541 (ebook)

This is the only textbook required for the course. Reading the assignments and keeping up with the lectures is your responsibility. No specific pages of reading will be given from one lecture to another. Pace yourself according to the topics under consideration during lecture periods. In addition to the textbook, there will be video assignments.

The School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs has scheduled open lab hours in HPH 310 and in HPH 312 computers are available from 8-5M-F.

Optional Research Project: You have the option of doing a debate project that can substitute for a missed or poor exam. The following are suggested topics:

Is the Paris Climate Change Agreement a Constructive Response to the Global Climate Crisis?

Is China Emerging as a Global or a Regional Power?
Is Nationalism a Constructive or Destabilizing Force?
Should the United States Continue Drone Strikes Overseas?
Is a Two-State Solution Viable for the Israeli-Palestinian Dispute?
Was the United States Justified in Attacking Iraq?
Is Globalization Good for the International System?
Is Afghanistan Ready for an American Exit Strategy?
Should an International Piracy Court be Established?
Does Foreign Aid Help Third World Development?
Should the International Criminal Court be Abolished?
Is the World Trade Organization Obsolete?
Can Alternative Energy Sources Replace Fossil Fuels?
Should the High Seas be Closed to Fishing?
Should the Ban on Commercial Whaling be Maintained?
Can Offshore Aquaculture Replace Commercial Fishing?
Should the United States Join the Mine Ban Treaty?
Is the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative a Global Threat?
Is China's South China Seas Claim Defensible?
Should Plastics be Banned?
Should Arctic Development be Banned?
Should Population Growth be Regulated?
Should Taiwan Become an Independent Country?
Should Puerto Rico Become a State?

This list is not exhaustive but you must clear suggested topics not on the list with the instructor. You will research and present **both sides** of the debate for your selected topic in a 4-8 page (suggested) typed, footnoted, double-spaced paper with bibliography. The deadline for you e-mailing me your topic is Friday, Sept. 13 at 11:59pm. The deadline for submitting your finished product is Friday, Nov. 15th at 11:59pm. You can quit the optional project at any time but cannot decide to do one after the Sept. 13th deadline.

3. **Examinations.** There will be four (4) examinations during the course, in which you will draw upon the materials in the chapters, lectures, and videos. Each exam will cover that portion of the material outlined in Section 5 and the format for the exams will consist of a series of short answer questions dealing with concepts, theories, principles, and issues for which you will need to provide 4 exam booklets ("blue books" or "green books"). Exams are tentatively scheduled as follows and will be held at the normal class time and meeting place:

(1) **Monday, September 23**
(2) **Monday, October 14**
(3) **Monday, November 4**

The final exam (4th midterm) will be held at the normal class meeting place from **7:00am-9:50am, Friday, December 6**. Please provide me with 4 examination booklets ("blue books" or "green books") at your earliest convenience but at least prior to the first

midterm exam. Bring all booklets at one time, with your name in the upper right corner of one of the bluebooks so I can check you off the role for having completed this requirement. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in you being docked one letter grade at the end of the term for failing to complete a course requirement. Exam booklets can be purchased at the Bookstore and will be used to write your answers on exam days. Please be sure they are not crumbled, stained, etc. Would you want to take an exam in one of them in that condition? **Attendance at exams is mandatory. There are no makeup exams save in medical emergencies for which there needs to be documentation {having a headache and going to the Student Health Service does not fit this requirement and if you are going away for regionals, games, etc. and won't be back until Sunday evening, then prepare ahead of time for the exam). In addition, after the first person has turned in their exam and left the room, no one who is tardy and arrives after that time will be allowed to take the exam.** They will have missed the test. All exams will be in pen (not pencil). Once an exam has begun, no one is allowed to leave the classroom for any reason (so be prepared ahead of time to remain for from 50 minutes to 3 hours when exams begin [e.g., watch out how much coffee you drink before the exam]).

4. **Grades.** There are five (5) possible grades for the course:

Exams	(4 x 25%) = 100%
Debate Project	(25%)= 25%

Each student must have **four (4)** grades to equal 100% of the course. This can be all four examinations and no debate paper; or all four exams and the debate paper (dropping the lowest grade); or three exams and the debate paper (substituting for a missed midterm exam or the final exam).

Letter grades:	90-100 = A	(Note: there will be no +/- grades)
	80-89 = B	
	70-79 = C	
	60-69 = D	
	< 60 = F	

5. **Assignments.** (Chapters in Shiraev and Zubok)
(AVL=United Nations Audiovisual Library
legal.un.org/avl/ all videos are in the
International Law tab**)**
(YT=Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=)

I. **Introduction to and Evolution of IR** Chptrs. 1-2
Mr. Gerry Simpson, "Sovereignty" AVL
Mr. Guiguo Wang, "Redefining Sovereignty in the Globalized World" AVL
Steve Smith, "Bringing International Relations Theory to Life" YT =zvKRAd9bOzU

Rhonda Callaway, “Major Theories” YT =UUOIks1arFQ

II. **Realism and Liberalism** Chptr. 3
John Mearsheimer, “Structural Realism” YT =RX11Dh6rD18
“International Relations – Liberal Theory” YT =7D5FNrqT5dM
Mr. Philip Allott, “The Idealists’ Dilemma: Re-imagining International Society” AVL

---First midterm Monday, September 23---

III. **Alternative Views** Chptr. 4
“International Relations – Feminism and IR” YT =ajAWGztPUiU
“Constructivism” YT =kYU9UfkV_XI
“Constructivism” YT =3WLJc9JYbsE
“Constructivism” YT = ArQuWRXhDig

IV. **International Security** Chptr. 5
Robert Glover, “International Security” YT =wamEMbCaoaO
Stefan Wolff, “International Security” YT =wNLbo_eJQrw

---Second midterm Monday, October 14---
Note: withdrawal deadline is Friday, November 1

V. **International Law and Organization** Chptr. 6
Ms. Ellen Hey, “International Public Law” AVL
Judge Rosalyn Higgins, “What International Courts (and Judges) May and May Not Do” AVL
Sir Brian Urquhart, “The Role of the UN in a Changing World” AVL
Mr. Jose E. Alvarez, “International Organizations as Law-Makers” AVL

VI. **Economy and Development** Chptr. 7
Mr. Peter Van den Bossche, “The WTO Dispute Settlement System” AVL
Brian Urlacher, “Theories of International Political Economy” YT FvRkFsabsyU

---Third midterm Monday, November 4---

VII. **Terrorism** Chptr. 8
Ms. Maja Sersir, “Art. 51 of the UN Charter and War against Terrorism” AVL
Michael Rossi, “The Challenge of International Terrorism” YT =WznOvObDk68

VIII. **Environment** Chptr. 9
Mr. Walter Kalin, “Climate Change and Population Movement” AVL

IX. **Humanitarianism** Chptr. 10
Judge Christopher Greenwood, "Introduction to International Humanitarian Law" AVL

---Final (Fourth midterm) Friday, December 6---

WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MAY YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL FALL SEMESTER

Some Ground Rules:

(1) For in the classroom
- no food or drinks (water is ok)
- no smoking
- turn off beepers, pagers, cell phones, etc.
- laptops are permitted
- tape recorders are permitted but not encouraged
- if you are late, please come in anyway but try not to be disruptive when entering the room

(2) Communications
- feel free to email me
  - office – robert.bledsoe@ucf.edu
  - Canvas online Course page
  - (note that both preserve confidentiality)
- call me at the office
  - Main campus (407) 823-2608
- see me during office hours or by appointment (see telephone number above)

(3) Exams
- if you are late on exam day and a student has already turned in their exam and departed before you arrive, you are too late and I will not let you take the exam
- final grades are not posted and will not be given out over the telephone nor by the Department staff. I will be happy to let you know your final exam score, course average, and course grade plus any materials that you wish returned if you provide me ahead of time a stamped, addressed envelop (large if you want any course materials returned). Midterm exam grades will be posted on our Canvas online Course on Grades as will the final course grade.

NOTE: Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor