INR 2002.003: Fall 2019 Syllabus

International Relations Theory and Practice

Instructor Information:

Instructor	Jennifer L. Hudson
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Office Hours	Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 & by appointment
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Course Information:

Course Name	International Relations Theory & Practice
Course ID & Section	INR 2002.003
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2019
Time & Location	**Tuesdays, 6:00-8:50 PM** **BA1 205**
Meeting Dates	8/27/2019 – 12/10/2019

UCF Course Description:

Analysis of the fundamental principles and factors affecting interstate relations and their application to contemporary global developments.

Course Overview:

In this course we will examine factors that influence the behavior of states and other international actors. In sum, we will review the major theoretical perspectives in international relations and how they are practiced in reality. We begin with an introduction to international relations theory. We then delve into the major theoretical perspectives in international relations. Next, we cover varying approaches to examining state behavior, or units of analysis, and learn how they shape what we can understand and learn about state behavior. Lastly, we will discuss major issues in the international realm. We will examine issues related to power politics among states and the alternative perspectives learned at the beginning of the course, in addition to how units of analysis shape how we examine these issues. We begin with issues related to war and peace. We will also examine issues related to international political economy, international organizations and human rights, the gap between rich and poor countries and global environmental challenges

Prerequisites: ENC 1102 or C.I. (consent of the instructor).

Note: This course provides a good foundation for students planning to take INR 4603 to help satisfy the Advanced Core Requirements for the IGS Major or the Area C requirement for student majoring in Political Science.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After this course, 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 relations theories. They should listen and be able to 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.

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 textbook readings, students are expected to keep up to date with current international events via the ***New York Times* (NYT) World News section** https://www.nytimes.com/section/world. The **digital student subscription** is $3/month. Kindly chose the Basic Student subscription for the NTY which provides full access to all digital devices including your computer. The link for the subscription is: https://www.nytimes.com/subscription/education/student?campaig&campaignId=6WFJF. Most classes will include talking about how to relate what you learn in lecture to current events. This requires reading your textbook and getting up to date on the news ahead of time.[i]

Access to the class in Webcourses is necessary for this class. We will have 4 quizzes throughout the semester that will take place online in Webcourses. Access to reliable internet is important. Grades will also be posted in Webcourses, per the new UCF policy. I will also post announcements in Webcourses and use the messaging system as needed. UCF has numerous computer labs throughout campus — and some of them are open 24 hours a day https://www.ucf.edu/services/s/computer-labs/ and there are also computers in the UCF Library https://library.ucf.edu/services/computers-technology/ and Computer Labs with Accessible Technology https://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/students/accessible-technology/labs/.

Important Note: As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required by UCF to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, you should complete a graded syllabus quiz that is ideally due by 5 PM on Friday, August 28 or as soon as possible for those who add the course late. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of any financial aid (this is a UCF policy and beyond my control). To do this task, log onto Webcourses@UCF through myUCF Self Service https://my.ucf.edu/. Log in with your NID and NID password, then access the course by selecting it in the "Courses" on the left side of the dashboard. From the course homepage, click on the Assignments tab to left, then click on Syllabus quiz, complete the quiz and submit.

Course Schedule and Structure:

Part I: Introduction to International Relations Theory

- **Week 1 (8/27/2019): Course introduction**
  - Course overview
  - Take **Syllabus Quiz (Academic activity assignment):** *available in Webcourses* until Friday, August 30, 2019 (closes at 5 PM)
  - Complete **UCF Plagiarism Module** & **Plagiarism Quiz:** *available in Webcourses* until Friday, August 30, 2019 (closes at 11:59 PM). **This quiz is worth up to 2 points extra-credit towards your final grade.**
  - Note: **Drop/Swap deadline is Thursday 08/29/2019**

- **Week 2 (9/03/2019): What is Theory?**
  - Read Ch. 1 in *EIR*
  - What is a scientific theory? Read article: https://www.livescience.com/21491-what-is-a-scientific-theory-definition-of-theory.html
  - What is law? Read article: https://www.livescience.com/21457-what-is-a-law-in-science-definition-of-scientific-law.html
  - Review the World News Section in NYT (Continue every week)
  - *Optional:* Listen to WNW Podcast for this week (Continue every week if desired)

- **Week 3 (9/10/2019): Historical Trends in IR**
  - Read Ch. 2 in *Essential of International Relations* (EIR)
  - Take **Quiz 1**: *available in Webcourses* from **Wednesday – Friday (9/11/2019 – 9/13/2019)**

Part II: Major Theoretical Perspectives in IR

- **Week 4 (9/17/2019): Realism**
  - Read Ch. 3: Realism in *EIR* (pp. 71- 83); Theory in Action: Analyzing the 2003 Iraq War – Realist Perspectives (pp. 97-100)

- **Week 5 (9/24/2019): Liberalism**
  - LECTURE:
    - Read Ch. 3: Liberalism in *EIR* (pp. 83-89); Theory in Action: Analyzing the 2003 Iraq War – Liberal Perspectives (pp. 100-101)
    - Read Ch. 7: International Organizations & International Law in *EIR* (omit Analyzing NGOs IGOs, International Law, and NGOs – Radical View and Constructivist View)
  - *In-class group exercise:* The students will work in randomly assigned groups to use liberal or realist theory to explain a major international event. The purpose of this exercise is to help students experience in practice how to apply a theory to explain a major international event as will be required for the final paper. This will also help students prepare for the midterm exam.

- **Week 6 (10/01/2019): Alternative Theories**
  - LECTURE:
    - Read Ch. 3: Radical Perspective, Social Constructivism, and the Feminist Critique in *EIR* (pp. 89-99); Theory in Action: Analyzing the 2003 Iraq War – Radical and Constructivist Perspectives; Global Perspectives (pp. 101-105);
    - Read Ch. 7: Analyzing IGOs, International Law, and NGOs – Radical View and Constructivist View (pp. 255-258)
  - *In-class group exercise:* The students will work in randomly assigned groups to use alternative theories to explain a major international event. The purpose of this exercise is to help students experience in practice how to apply a theory to explain a major international event as will be required for the final paper. This will also help students prepare for the midterm exam.
  - Take **Quiz 2:** *available in Webcourses* from **Wednesday – Friday (10/2/2019 – 10/4/2019)**

- **Week 7 (10/08/2019): *Midterm exam in class (6:00-7:30 PM)***
  - MIDTERM EXAM in class (6:00-7:30 PM)
  - LECTURE: Introduction to levels of analysis (no assigned readings)

Part III: Unit of Analysis

- **Week 8 (10/15/2019): Individual Level of Analysis**
  - Read Ch. 6 in *EIR*

- **Week 9 (10/22/2019): State Level Analysis**
  - Read Ch. 5 in *EIR*
  - **Paper proposal/outline/bibliography due** (10% of the grade). Due at the beginning of class (Write your name and course ID in the left-hand corner of the proposal). The purpose of this exercise is to facilitate the development of a strong research paper. See p. 6 for more details.

- **Week 10 (10/29/2019): System Level of Analysis**
  - LECTURE:
    - Read. Ch. 4 in *EIR*
  - *In-class group exercise:* The students will work in randomly assigned groups to assess a major international event from the individual, state, and system level of analysis.
  - Take **Quiz 3:** *available in Webcourses* from **Wednesday – Friday (10/30/2019 – 11/1/2019)**
  - *Note:* WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE is Friday 11/01/2019 @ 11:59 PM.

Part IV: Major Issues in the International Realm

- **Week 11 (11/05/2019): War & Peace**
  - Read Ch. 8 in *EIR*

- **Week 12 (11/12/2019): International Political Economy**
  - Read Ch. 9 in *EIR*

- **Week 13 (11/19/2019): Human Rights and the Environment**
  - Read Ch. 10 & 11 in *EIR* (skip health and crime sections in Ch. 11)
  - Take **Quiz 4** – *available in Webcourses* from **Wednesday – Friday (11/20/2019 – 11/22/2019)**

- **Week 14 (11/26/2019): Transnational Crime and Health Issues**
  - Read Ch. 11 in EIR (sections on health and crime)

- **Week 15 (12/3/2019): Review of course material**
  - Review of course material for final exam
  - ***FINAL PAPER DUE:*** **12/06/2019 by 11:59 PM in Webcourses**
  - ***Optional quiz*** – *available in Webcourses* from **Monday – Wednesday (12/2/2019 –12/4/2019)**

- **Week 16 (Tuesday, December 10, 7-9:50 PM): Final exam**
  - **FINAL EXAM** (in class) (12/10/2019 – 7-9:50 PM)
  - ***Note:*** You will have 2 hours to complete the final exam (7-9:00 PM).

Assessment and Grading Procedures:

Quizzes: ***Each of the quizzes is worth 5% of the overall course grade. There are 4 quizzes total. Each quiz will comprise of 20 questions; each question is worth five points***. The quizzes are multiple choice, true/false, multiple answers, and short answer style. All the quizzes will be posted in the Webcourses. ***The quizzes will be available from Wednesday until Friday (from 6.00 AM Wednesday to 11.59 PM on Friday).*** 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 45 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 good internet connection, preferably the campus internet connection. ***In total, the 4 quizzes count for 20% of your final grade.***

Midterm Exam: The midterm will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer format and consist of approximately 50 questions. You will have 1.5 hours to complete the exam. Questions will cover material from the PowerPoint slides, EIR textbook readings, the articles on laws and theory, and what is discussed in lectures. The questions will not specifically test you on current event information from the *New York Times* (NYT) World Section. ***This counts for 25% of your final grade.*** Note that if you arrive late you will not be given extra time to complete the exam.

Final Exam: The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer format and consist of approximately 65 questions. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam. Questions will cover material from the PowerPoint slides, EIR textbook readings, the articles on laws and theory, and what is discussed in lectures. The questions will not specifically test you on current event information from the *New York Times* (NYT) World Section. While the final exam will be cumulative, it will more heavily weighted towards material from the second half of the course (after the midterm). ***This counts for 30% of your final grade.*** Note that if you arrive late you will not be given extra time to complete the exam.

Paper Proposal: The student will produce an outline of the proposed research topic. The student will identify the topic selection (a current major international event) and the theoretical perspective that will be used to examine this event. *The topic cannot be one of the major events used during the in-class group exercise.* The student will identify the main facets of the theory that will be used to examine this current issue in international relations. The student will identify how this theory can be applied to the selected issue. The student will also identify reasons an alternate theory is insufficient to explain this event. The student will provide a list of 10 sources that will be used for the final paper (academic journals, books, and news articles from major international newspaper publications). You must use a variety of source types and should search through UCF Library online, EBSCOhost (an online search engine through the UCF library), or Google Scholar (this can be linked to your UCF library account for easy access). Sources such as Wikipedia, youtube videos, study.com or other short-cut sites are not considered acceptable sources. The in-class group exercises during weeks 5 and 6 will help demonstrate how the outline should look. ***This counts for 10% of your final grade.***

Final Paper: The final paper will assess the student's ability to apply a major theoretical perspective in IR to a current issue in international relations. Each student will select a current issue in international relations. Each student will select one theory discussed in this course and write a paper applying this theory to the selected major international event. The aim is to explain how the theory provides an optimal explanation of the event and its outcome, as compared to the other theories in class. In doing so, the student is expected to demonstrate why an alternate theory is not sufficient to explain the selected event. A good paper should consist of 4-5 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 Webcourses. Papers will automatically be submitted through turnitin.com, which checks for originality. ***This counts for 15% of your final grade.***

Missed Assignments/Lateness/Make-Ups/Extra Credit:

- ***Quizzes:*** Quizzes are open 3 days and as such cannot be taken late. In cases of extra ordinary circumstances, serving active military duty, or if you are representing UCF in authorized university related events, you will be excused for missing the quiz and an opportunity will be provided to take the missed quiz, provided acceptable documentation is given to the teacher. If missing a quiz due to illness, an alternate date can be arranged, provided a doctor's note is given. If possible, you should notify me at least 1 week in advance, or in the case of unexpected emergencies/illness within 48 hours after the quiz closes (or by end of day, 11:59 PM, Sunday) about the reason for missing the quiz.

- ***Late paper proposals*** and ***late papers*** have a 10% penalty per day late and will not be accepted beyond 3 days late.
- ***Midterm*** and ***Final Exam*****:** In cases of extra ordinary circumstances, serving active military duty, or if you are representing UCF in authorized university related events, an alternate date can be arranged, provided evidence given. If missing an exam due to illness, an alternate date can be arranged, provided a doctor's note is given.
- ***Optional Quiz*****:** An optional quiz will be available to students the final week of class. This quiz provides the opportunity for students to replace their lowest quiz score even if due to missing a quiz for non-excused reasons. This quiz will cover material from any part of the course and will be structured similarly to the previous quizzes (20 questions, ranging from multiple choice, true/false, and short answer style; 45 minutes to complete) and will be open for 3 days. If a student scores lower on the optional quiz than on one of the main 4 quizzes, the optional quiz will not count.

Grading Rubric:

Midterm 25%
Quizzes 20%
Final Exam 30%
Paper Proposal 10%
Final Paper 15%

Evaluation and Grading:

The grading scale for this course is listed below.

Letter Grade	Percentage
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

*Grades are rounded off for the final grade (i.e., a total grade percentage of 89.5% will be rounded to 90%, in this case a letter grade of A-).

Core Policies:

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 being complicit in cheating. Students should familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf.

UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. **Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty**, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade.

Accessibility Access
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience. *Note:* the syllabus can be made available in alternate formats upon request.

Campus Safety Statement: Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to https://my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service"

located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."

- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk).

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 quizzes, final exam, and final paper. Also, let me know if you might miss classes or quizzes for active duty deployment.

Religious Observances

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at https://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf.

Email Protocols

Please use ***Webcourses messaging*** to contact me. You can expect a response within 24-48 hours. If you do not hear back within this time frame, feel free to send an email to my UCF email address – please put INR 2002 in the subject line. Note that if you email me last minute before an assignment is due, I may not be able to help in time, so please give me sufficient time to respond. Please assume that your instructor only checks and answers to e-mails during regular business hours. Also, please keep an eye out for announcements posted in Webcourses.

Course Support

You may stop by the office during office hours, or by appointment, or message me in the Webcourses to discuss any issues or concerns. Please be sure to access them giving sufficient time for issues to arise. Additionally, there are resources available on campus to help you succeed. You can reach out to the **Student Academic Resource Center (SARC)** on campus to improve your studying skills. Their phone number is **407-823-5130**, the building is located on Howard Phillips Hall (HPH), room 113. For students having problem with writing skills, please contact the University Writing Center (UWC).

University Writing Center

Address and contact info: Colbourn Hall 105**;** Satellite Locations: Main Library, Rosen Library, Online**;** 407-823-2197 http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu. The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Tutors provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix or edit papers, but to teach writing strategies that can be applied to any writing situation. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by clicking the Success Resources tab on Webcourses, calling the UWC at 407-823-2197, or through the UWC website.

UCF Counseling Center (Building #27/ (407) 823-2811) Students experiencing challenges, including, but by no means limited to stress, anxiety, or depression, that are hindering their ability to be the best they can be should contact this office for help. There is absolutely no shame in getting help so that you can attempt to live up to your true potential. https://caps.sdes.ucf.edu.

Viruses

A virus can spell disaster. It is important to use a reputable anti-virus program (good ones include McAfee or Norton). Also, back up your files: Hard drives do crash and it is really inconvenient when they do. However, this is not a valid excuse for failing to get your work in on time.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion if necessary. Changes to the syllabus, if any, will be announced in class and the updated syllabus will be posted on Webcourses.

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[i] An additional great (optional) resource for up to date new on current international events is to listen to the World Next Week (WNW) Podcast https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/world-next-week. The WNW podcast lasts from 30-45 minutes posted once every week (available in Google Play or iTunes Podcast app).