INR 4603.0001 International Relations Theory

Fall 2020 Syllabus

Course Information

Course Name	International Relations Theory
Course ID & Section	INR 4603.0001
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2020
Class meeting time & location/mode	Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12:30 PM-1:20 PM via Zoom in Webcourses

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Joseph Paul Vasquez, III School of Politics, Security & International Affairs
Office	102 Howard Philips Hall
Office Hours	Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2:00-4:00 PM & by appointment via Zoom (https://ucf.zoom.us/j/91786071485?pwd=SUlET2J3dFEzUTZHMDRwWEdtTHZCQT09&from=msft) or phone
Phone	407-823-2659
E-mail	paul.vasquez@ucf.edu

******Important Advice:** You should attend class each day to internalize lecture material and participate in other classroom activities as they come along. As you attempt to internalize the course content, you should come to class having read the material assigned for that day. You should be prepared to be quizzed over any course readings by the day for which that material is assigned. Doing so will set you up to succeed on quizzes and exams. **Read this syllabus and assignments carefully to put yourself in position to succeed.**

Course Description

Theoretical trends prevalent in the study of international relations will be covered, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, feminism, and post-modernism. In a curricular sense, this course can be used to satisfy the Advanced Core Requirements for the International and Global Studies Major or Area C requirements for the Political Science Major.

Prerequisite: INR 2002 or POS 2041 or consent of the instructor, but INR 2002 is strongly encouraged to be taken first even if you have completed POS 2041.

Course Objectives

- Objective One: help students understand the origins and central tenets of the major theoretical perspectives in the study of international relations,
- Objective Two: help students understand the strengths and weaknesses of these theoretical perspectives,
- Objective Three: help students to improve their skills in the realm of critical thinking and written communication.

Required Text

- Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi. 2020. *International Relations Theory*. 6th Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Course Mode via Zoom

This course will require synchronous, real-time class participation via Zoom that is not self-paced. Meeting dates and times will be scheduled through Webcourses@UCF and should appear on your calendar. To use Zoom, you will need access to a computer, a webcamera and adequate Internet bandwith. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with Zoom by visiting the UCF Zoom Guides at https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/. This will be critical to enabling you to access our Zoom class sessions. Things to Know About Zoom:

- You must sign-in to my Zoom session using your UCF NID and password.
- Improper classroom behavior is not tolerated within Zoom sessions and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct.
- You can contact Webcourses@UCF Support at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/> if you have any technical issues accessing Zoom.
- The Zoom sessions are recorded and may be posted later. However, you should plan to participate in class real-time to get maximum credit.

Required Statement Regarding COVID-19

To protect our community, if you ever come to campus, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms. (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf). Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place. Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

In Case of Faculty Illness

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Course Requirements and Grade Table

A	B	C	D	
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Assignment Scores***	**Component Score = column B x column C**	**Due Date**
Quizzes & Information Literacy Tutorial	50			11:59 PM on Saturday, Aug. 29; last Sunday of each module; and Oct. 4
Class Participation	3			Daily
Midterm Exam	15			Oct. 19 12:01 AM to Oct. 20 11:59 PM
Course Paper	17			Dec. 4, 11:59 PM
Final Exam	15			Dec. 10 12:01 AM to Dec. 11 11:59 PM
Total	100%		**Add above components**	

***** Add grades for each type of assignment and divide by the number of grades for each task.

Very Important Note: Because Canvas' gradebook is incapable of doing the kind of sophisticated weighting scheme I am using, you should not rely on gradebook in Canvas for what it reports as your final course grade. Instead you should take the grades for particular assignments and plug them into the grade table on the previous page and do the calculations accordingly. If assignments are not yet completed and you are trying to estimate your current course grade during the semester, divide your total for column D by the percentage of the final grade that has been completed. For example, if you have done everything except the final exam, divide your total for column D by 70 since you have only completed the assignments equal to 70% of your course grade.

Class Participation: Participating in class means much more than just attending and spectating. It involves asking and answering questions and participating in class discussions.

Quizzes and Information Literacy Tutorial Assessment: Multiple choice quizzes may cover any materials covered in modules. Those quizzes will open at 12:01 AM on the last Friday of each module and close at 11:59 PM on the last Sunday of each module (except for the last module when it opens on Wednesday and closes on Friday). this course that have been assigned on or before the day in our class-by-class schedule below. The lowest quiz grade for each student will be dropped when calculating final course grades. Also, by midnight on Sunday, Oct. 4th, you will also be expected to complete the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition" and the assessment included in it, which will be counted as a separate quiz. That tutorial should help to improve short course paper grades above what they would be otherwise and help avoid instances of plagiarism. If you take the assessment associated with it twice, you will receive the average of your two scores. This assignment can be found from the Assignments tab for our class in Webcourses/Canvas

Important Note: 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 due by 11:59 on Saturday, Aug. 29, or as soon as possible for those who add the course late. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a zero for the assignment and could cause a delay in the disbursement of any financial aid (this is a new UCF policy and beyond my control). To do this task, go to the myUCF portal (https://my.ucf.edu) and select the Webcourses@UCF button on the left side of the screen. Log in with your NID and NID password, then access the course by selecting it in the "Courses" dropdown menu at the top of the page. From the course homepage, click on the Assignments tab to left, then click on Syllabus quiz, complete the quiz and submit it.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: These will be multiple choice exams with each question having only one correct answer for each question. The Midterm Exam will cover Modules 1 through 4. The Final Exam will be cumulative, but it will be more heavily weighted to cover material following the midterm exam. Students tend to do less well on their short paper than other assignments such as the exams so you should not only invest serious time and effort in crafting your papers, but also do the very best you can on other assignments such as the exams if you want high marks at the end of the semester.

Course paper: You will write a research paper that uses an international relations theory to explain a particular aspect of international relations of a country of your own choosing. The things you explain should pertain to things such as states or their leaders acting to: engage in colonialism or human rights abuses, wage war or bolster their military defenses, form alliances, make peace, or enter into other cooperative efforts such as trade agreements. Your account should consider historical factors, assesses the political nature of the event, and explain the theory that best explains the phenomenon and why that is so based on the historical information. Papers should be between 2,100 and 2,200 words (not including your title page and bibliography/works cited page) using the Chicago citation style and 1 inch margins, double-spacing with 11

point font. Please note the word count of your text, not including, the title page or works cited/bibliography, on the title page itself. While you are welcome to include references to your textbook, you must use at least three other sources such as books or academic journal articles from the UCF Library's online databases. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of cheating and plagiarism in this syllabus before starting on this assignment, which includes a web link to familiarize you with you how to properly cite evidence using Chicago style.

This assignment will be graded in accord with the following distribution of credit.

Mechanics of writing	20%
Political and historical discussion	20%
Theoretical discussion, application and assessment	30%
Proper documentation and citation	20%
Organization of paper	10%
	100%

Typically most students lose points on papers for me because of mechanical flaws in their writing (grammar, punctuation, unclearly worded sentences, etc.). Poor performance in this regard could lower your paper grade by as much as 20 points. Also, students have a tendency to lose points for failing to use evidence to support their arguments by appropriately citing scholarly sources, so you should consult the section below on academic dishonesty for details on how to avoid plagiarism. For example, I deduct one point for missing words or marks of punctuation, two points for sentence fragments or run-on sentences and five points for each failure to appropriately cite sources. Thus, you should take steps to minimize those kinds of flaws in your writing, including becoming familiar with Chicago style using the literacy tutorial referenced in the Academic Honesty section below. Hopefully, these standards will help you to develop sound writing skills that will help you not only when applying for jobs or further educational opportunities, but once you secure those opportunities.

Missed Assignments/Make-Up Policy: Quizzes are due by dates outlined in the syllabus and may not be made-up unless they are missed for 1) a verifiable medical or funeral excuse, 2) a reason that is sufficiently verifiable, compelling significant, and unexpected, or 3) an officially UCF excused absence (http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/401.1MakeupAssignmentsForAuthorizedUniversityEventsOrCocurricularActivities.pdfLinks to an external site.), such as an excused religious holiday or a military deployment . (http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALOct17.pdfLinks to an external site.). However, I do drop each student's lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester. Also, you must notify me in advance if you intend to miss class for a religious observance and want latitude for completing assignments. Finally, if you will be a deployed person who is either on active military duty and/or serving with the National Guard/Reserve personnel and will need an accommodation, you should contact me as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements. If you don't fall into one of

these categories, please keep in mind that my policy of dropping the lowest quiz grade is designed to account for unforeseen problems that might arise and keep you from attending class once.

Make-up exams may be given without penalty in instances when students have a verifiable medical, funeral, official UCF excuse or a reason that is sufficiently verifiable, compelling significant, and unexpected. When no such excuse exists students will be allowed to take exams late, but they will be penalized by 20 points "off-the-top." Late papers will be penalized 10% for each full calendar day they are late, up to as much as 30%. I do not plan to offer extra credit for this course, so please ensure that you direct your energies accordingly.

Grading Scale: Assignment grades will be recorded in Webcourses.

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Communicating with the Instructor Online: This document was created to empower you to answer many questions on your own as responsible and maturing learners. If you have questions that are not answered by this document, do not hesitate to contact the instructor by email. Communicate online with the instructor using either his UCF email address (Paul.Vasquez@ucf.edu) or using the email feature within Webcourses rather than replying to postings under the Announcements tab, as he can respond to emails much more quickly. Check the class announcements in Webcourses several times each week for any changes or updates from Dr. Vasquez.

Academic Integrity Expectations: **Do not cheat.** It's much better to have a low assignment grade or even a low score on your transcript than an indicator of cheating. None of us can be smart about everything, but we can all choose to be people who are honest and humble with integrity. Good employers want those kinds of people, even if their grades are a little lower because of it.

Students are prohibited from cheating by including, but not limited to: 1) attempting to use unauthorized materials for academic assignments, n of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating; 2) presenting material obtained through the effort of someone other than the student for the student's assignment credit, 3) selling course materials such as class notes or assigned work to other students; 4) falsifying or misrepresenting one's academic work; and 5) plagiarism (including using another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own or submitting work for more than one class without instructor approval). After taking the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition," you should clearly understand my expectations of you with regards to correctly citing material. Thus, you should do this prior to starting to write your course paper. For more details on academic integrity matters, you are encouraged to consult UCF's Rules of Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc) and UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* (http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf).

All UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so we must seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. If I determine that there has been an instance of unambiguous academic dishonesty in the course, I will inform you of my concern, report the violation to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and assign you a 0 grade for the associated assignment. At the end of the semester, a letter grade of Z, indicating academic dishonesty, will precede the letter grade earned. For more information about the Z grades and the process for appealing such a finding, please consult the following website: (http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade).

Campus Safety

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to face-to-face courses, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. Therefore, to stay informed about emergency situations, you can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to 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."

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Academic Support Services

Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) (Trevor Colbourn Hall, Room 117/ (407) 823-5130): If you have trouble succeeding in this class and comprehending the material, you might benefit from contacting this office for assistance with improving your study skills.

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.

Course Accessibility Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course 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). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be 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.

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants 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 papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers' strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. To make the best use of the UWC, visit far enough before your due dates to allow yourself time to revise after your consultation, browse the writing resources on our website, and arrange a regular weekly appointment if you'd like long-term help. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by phone or by using the TutorTrac scheduler on our website; walk-in consultations are also available. The main location is in Trevor Colbourn Hall, Room 109, which can be reached at 407-823-2197 or http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/. In addition, the UWC seeks graduate and undergraduate tutors from all majors; contact the UWC to learn more about peer writing consulting and ENC 4275/5276: Theory & Practice of Tutoring Writing, our three-credit tutor-education course.

Course Schedule

Topic	Assignments	Open & close dates	Open & close times
Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz	Aug. 24 - Aug. 29 (or ASAP for late enrollees)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM (or ASAP for late enrollees)
Module 1: Modern IR Theory **Chapter 1. Thinking About IR Theory (approx. 20 pages)**	Short papers Quiz	Aug. 24- Sep. 6	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 2: The Ancients **Chapter 10. The Ancients: Greek, Chinese & Indian Thought (approx. 65 pages)**	Short papers Quiz	Sep. 7- Sep. 13	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 3: The Greeks & Romans **Chapter 11. Greco-Roman Thought and the Middle Ages (approx. 40 pages)**	Short papers Quiz	Sep. 14- Sep. 27	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM

Module 4: The Modern State System **Chapter 12. The Rise of the State & Modern Political Thought (approx. 60 pages)**	Short papers Quiz **Information Literacy Tutorial**	Sep. 28- Oct. 4	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 5: Realism **Chapter 2. Realism: The State & Balance of Power (approx. 42 pages)**	Short papers Quiz	Oct. 5- Oct. 18	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
	Midterm Exam	Oct. 19– Oct. 20	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 6: Liberalism **Chapter 3. Liberalism: Interdependence & Global Governance (approx. 33 pages)**	Short papers Quiz	Oct. 19– Oct. 25	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 7: Economic Structuralism **Chapter 4. Economic Structuralism: Global Capitalism & Postcolonialism (approx. 30 pages)**	Short papers Quiz	Oct. 26- Nov. 1	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 8: The English School **Chapter 5. The English School: International Society & Grotian Rationalism (approx. 20 pages)**	Short papers Quiz	Nov. 2- Nov. 8	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 9: Interpretive Understandings **Chapter 6. Constructivist Understandings** **Joseph Paul Vasquez, III. "Patriot Games, War Games, and Political Football: A Constructivist Analysis of Militarization in an American**	Short papers Quiz	Nov. 9- Nov. 29	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM

Sport." *Journal of Global Security Studies* 5, no. 2 (2020): 299-318. **https://academic.oup.com/jogss/article-abstract/5/2/299/5812735** **(This article can be accessed for free through the UCF Library. You will not have to pay extra to purchase this article!)** **Chapter 7. Positivism, Critical Theory, and Postmodern Understandings** **Chapter 8. Feminist Understandings in IR Theory (approx. 80 pages)**			
Module 10: Normative Considerations **Chapter 9. Normative IR Theory: Ethics & Morality (approx. 30 pages)**	Short papers Quiz **Course Paper due**	Nov. 30-Dec. 4	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
	Final Exam	Dec. 10-Dec. 11	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM

Other important Dates:

Date	Event
Friday, Aug. 28, 11:59 P.M.	Drop/Add deadline
Friday, Oct. 30, 11:59 P.M.	Withdrawal deadline