INR4603- International Relations Theory

School of Politics, Security and International Affairs, University of Central Florida
Fall 2021

Contact Information:

Instructor	Davide Dell'Isola
Office	UCF Main Campus, Howard Phillips Hall (HPH), PhD Office, #313
Office Hours	Exclusively Online on Zoom (link on Webcourses) Tuesday: 4:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday: 9:00am-10:00am Or by appointment
Phone	(407) 823-2227
Email	davide.dell'isola@ucf.edu
Main Department Office Number	407-823-2227
Class Meetings	Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00pm-1:15pm Business Administration 1 (BA1), #121
Credit Hours	3

University of Central Florida Course Catalog Description:

Theoretical trends prevalent in the study of international relations, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, feminism, and post-modernism.

Credit Hours: 3
Class Hours: 3
Lab and Field Work Hours: 0
Contact Hours: 3
Prerequisite(s): **ENC 1102** or **POS 2041** or C.I. Corequisite(s): None. Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): None

COS-POLS

Important note: In accordance with CDC guidelines, the university **expects that everyone wears facemasks in indoor spaces**, including the classroom, in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and regardless of your vaccination status. The university also **strongly recommends everyone to get vaccinated against Covid-19**, vaccines are available at the health center on the UCF campus, among other locations. Please wear masks in this class for the protection of yourselves and those around you who may be at higher risk from COVID complications.

Course Description:

During this course we will be addressing the main theories of International Relations (IR). IR theories aim at explaining how states interact with each other and what are their motivations. Each theory presents very different answers to this question. In this class we will address the two mainstream theories of IR, realism and liberalism, which provide different answer to these questions: For realists, the anarchy of International system means that states are only interested in maximizing their chances of survival, for liberal-institutionalists instead cooperation (through International Organizations, for instance) can still happen in the International arena. We will also be addressing theories criticizing these approaches and focusing on other considerations: For Marxists, the economy plays a central role in the state's considerations, feminists focus on the relevance of gender in explaining International dynamics. Constructivists point out the impossibility of building objective theories and question the existence of an objective reality. In recent years, also the concepts that states are the main actors in the International scenario was challenged (non-state actors hold power in many of the so-called failed states). In this class, we will extensively review these theories and we will apply them to address specific case-studies linked to historical and current events, addressing whether these theories are able to tell us something regarding how IR works.

Course Goals:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the main theories of International Relations
- Analyze world politics through the lenses of the main International Relations Theories
- Think critically about current events and how they relate to the main theories of IR
- Engage in discussions and papers regarding how the theories apply to real world events

Required textbooks:

The following textbook is **required**: "International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity", 5th edition, by Timothy Dunne, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith. Publisher: Oxford University Press ISBN-13: 978-0198814443

The additional reading and articles are listed below and will be available for free through webcourses, where there is a link to the article available in the UCF library

You should get the latest edition of the book (5th)

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups, Extra credit

To submit late work without penalties students will have to obtain the instructor's permission prior to the deadline of the assignment. Permission will be granted only for officially documented reasons.

All emergencies and other unforeseen circumstances must be properly documented. In all other unjustified circumstances, the penalties for lateness will be of one letter grade **per calendar day (10 points for day late).**

Recording Academic Activity Policy

Since Fall 2014 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 assignments for Module One** by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but **no later than August 27th**. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of financial aid.**

In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course: on the online course page on Webcourses, under the tab "assignment" post a brief description (up to a paragraph) of why you are interested in taking this course.

Evaluation and Grading

Grade Categories	**Requirement**	**Grade Weight**
Participation	Attendance, Active participation	10%
Quizzes	Four online quizzes (lowest grade dropped)	15% (5% each)
Two exam essays	Two short essays to be submitted online	20% (10% each)
Final Exam	Final exam	20%
Paper	Term paper (2,000-2,500 words)	20%
Discussions	4 online discussions (lowest grade dropped)	15% (5% each)
Extra Credit	Online Assignment	Extra 5 points

Participation is an important aspect of this class and therefore it represents a relevant portion of your final grade. Students are expected to actively participate during classes. The participation grade takes into account the active participation of students during classes (answering and asking questions, providing comments). It also takes into account attendance and timeliness. Make sure to arrive to class on time and do not use cell phones during lectures. Participation will count for 10% of your final grade. Attendance is not mandatory but missing several classes without justification will have a negative impact on your participation grade. It will also make it harder to get a good grade in the class overall as you will miss important theoretical points that will be discussed during class.

The **online discussions** have the purpose to tie the theoretical material we address in class to real world current events. In these short postings (3-4 paragraphs) your task will be to pick through original research a relevant current event and explain how the theories we addressed in class can or cannot explain it. Then students should engage with other peer's posting to present different points of view from other student's postings through at least one reply. These discussions will be open for about two weeks: In the first week, students will submit the first post and during the second one students will submit their reply to another student's posting. The discussions are open-book assignments. The lowest discussion grade is dropped from final calculations.

There are four online **quizzes**, those will remain open for 48 hours and will consist of 10 multiple choice questions, you will have 25 minutes to take the quiz. Quizzes will make up 15% of your final grade (the lowest grade is dropped from calculations, so each quiz is 5% of your final grade). The quizzes are **closed-book assignments**.

There are **two essay exams,** in which you will be asked an essay question regarding the topic we have been addressing in class, the essay should be submitted through Webcourses, the submission will remain open for 48 hours. Before the deadline, we will be reviewing the topics for these short essay exams. These are not research papers. Each essay accounts for 10% of the final grade. You may consult class materials for these assignments, but you should develop a compelling and cohesive essay.

The **term paper** (20% of the final grade), should consist in a short original research of 2,000-2,500 words addressing competitive theoretical explanations for an issue of International politics. At a later time in the semester, I will provide three possible question to choose from. Students can also decide to write the paper on a topic of their choice. In this second case, please consult with me to address relevance and feasibility of the research before October 12th .The second option is particularly encouraged for students interested in pursuing a MA degree in areas related to Political Science. The paper must be submitted online through the Canvas system.

The final exam (20% of the final grade) will have 32 multiple choice questions and two essays questions. **The final exam is cumulative**. This is a **closed-book** exam**.** The final exam will be in a scantron-essay only format (unless otherwise decided by UCF policies) since there is no time to remedy technical issues.

The **extra credit** (5 extra points) will consist in an online assignment: Students will provide a short answer (500-750) words to a specific question covering some of the aspects we discussed during class. The extra credit is optional but it will significantly increase your grade.

Course Correspondence: All correspondence with the instructor will be via Webcourses. I will usually respond to students' emails within 48 hours on business days. However, please avoid sending last second questions few hours before the deadlines, as they **will not** be answered. In this class we will have plenty of times for clarification, so make sure to clarify your doubts well in advance.

Course Prerequsites/Corequisites: ENC 1102 (Composition 2) or **POS 2041** (American National Government) or C.I. Corequisite(s): None. Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): None.

UCF Academic Integrity Statement: Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct,"

students are prohibited from engaging in.

Here are some clarifications regarding academic misconduct (this is not a complete list, to see the complete list check the web address linked in the paragraph above regarding UCF rules of conduct). Violating these rules will at least constitute a strong penalty in this class and will be reported to the UCF Office of Student Conduct for further assessment. Violating these rules can get you expelled from the University, so make sure to avoid doing the following:

Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.

Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.

Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.

Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor
Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity
http://academicintegrity.org

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating:
Students should also 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>. For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

In-Class Recording Policy
Outside of the notetaking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the

creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed *only* with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and notetaking and are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the separate written approval of the instructor.

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.

Academic Resources: If you find that you are struggling with the concepts of this class, you are more than welcome (in fact, you are highly encouraged) to come see me during my office hours. 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 Howard Phillips Hall (HPH), main campus, room 113.

UCF Counseling Center: Students experiencing stress, anxiety, depression or facing similar challenges should contact this office on campus to get help. The number is **407-823-2811**, building 27 on the Main Campus, next to the Physical Sciences Building. For physical health issues contact the **Student Health Center** on campus at **407-823-2701.** Please take care of your physical and mental health as a top priority. **Always remember that your personal health, both mental and physical, is more important than grades or classes.**

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).

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.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students: Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

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

SCHEDULE: What follows is the list of readings and deadlines for the class. Note that all students are expected to read the material *before* class, so that the discussion can be engaging. Not doing so would result in poor participation, therefore affecting your participation grade.

DATE	TOPIC	NOTES/DEADLINES
08/24	Introduction to the class	Read syllabus
08/26	Introduction to IR theory	Read ch.1 of textbook (1-33) **08/27** deadline for academic engagement activity. This is also the **drop/swap deadline**
08/31	Realism	Read ch. 2 of textbook (33-51)

09/02	Structural Realism	Read ch. 3 of textbook (51-68). Read Waltz, ch.6
09/07	Realism-Articles	Van Evera article (see list)
09/09	Realism-Articles	Read Mearsheimer articles (see list) **Discussion 1 opens** **Quiz 1**
09/14	Liberalism	Read ch.4 of textbook (68-89)
09/16	Neo-liberalism	Read ch.5 of textbook (89-108)
09/21	Liberalism-Articles	Read Keohane-Martin article (see list), read Ikenberry article (see list) **Discussion 1 closes at 11:59pm**
09/23	**Review of topics for first essay exam**	
09/28	**Liberalism-Articles**	**First essay exam is due at 11:59pm** Read Brooks article, Parent article (see list)
09/30	Constructivism	Read ch. 9 of textbook (163-182) **Quiz 2** **Discussion 2 opens**

10/05	Constructivism-Articles	Read Wendt, Tannenwald articles (see list)
10/07	Marxism	Read ch. 7 of textbook (129-147)
10/12	Marxism-Articles	Read Smith article, read Cox article (see list) **Deadline to discuss topic for the term paper if option 2 is selected** **Discussion 2 closes at 11:59pm**
10/14	Feminism	Read ch. 10 (182-197) **Discussion 3 opens**
10/19	Feminism-Articles	Read Jones, Lobasz articles (see list)
10/21	**Review of topics for the second essay exam**	**Second essay exam is due on the 26th at 11:59pm**
10/26	Review session for paper (Library), how to research materials; how to avoid plagiarism	**Discussion 3 closes at 11:59pm**
10/28	IR theory and globalization	Read ch. 15 (285-304), read Acahrya article (see list) **10/29** deadline to withdraw from class
11/02	The relevance of states in the globalized worlds (articles)	Read Buzan, Cherny articles (see list) **Quiz 3**

11/04	IR theory and security: Why do wars happen?	Read Fearon article, Gartzke article (see list)
11/09	IR theory and security: Alliances	Read Snyder article, Benson article (see list) **Deadline to submit term paper at 11:59pm**
11/11	**Veterans' Day-No class**	
11/16	Does domestic politics matter?	**Discussion 4 opens** Read Putnam, Waltz articles (see list)
11/18	Role of International Organizations in IR theory	Read Martin article, Downs article (see list)
11/23	Critical theories	Read ch.8 of textbook (147-163) **Quiz 4**
11/25	**Thanksgiving-No Class**	
11/30	Challenges to the discipline of IR theories	Read ch. 17 of textbook (322-345) Discussion 4 closes at 11:59pm
12/02	Last Class/Preparation for final exam (review of topics)	**12/05 Deadline to submit extra credit at 11:59pm**

12/09	**Final Exam 10:00am-12:50pm (in-person, in class)**	

LIST OF ARTICLES

These articles are available for free on Webcourses through access to the UCF library.

Class 4 – Structural Realism

Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics, ch. 6 (102-128) "Anarchic Orders and balances of power" (*Required*)

Class 5 – **Realism and neorealism**

Stephen Van Evera, "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War", *International Security*, vol.9, no.1, 58-107 (*Required*)

Class 6 – **Realism and neorealism**

John J. Mearsheimer, "Bound to Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Liberal International Order", *International Security*, vol.43, no.4, Spring 2019, pp.7-50 (*Required*)

John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions", *International Security*, vol.19, no.3, Winter 1994-1995, pp. 5-49 (*Recommended*)

Class 9 – **Liberalism articles**

Robert Keohane and Lisa Martin, "The Promise of Institutionalist Theory", *International Security*, vol. 20, no.1, Summer 1995, pp. 39-51 (*Required*)

Daniel Deudney, G. John Ikenberry "Liberal World. The Resilient Order", *Foreign Affairs,* 16-27, July-August 2018 (*Required*)

Class 10- Liberalism articles

Stephen G. Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, William C. Wolforth, "Don't come home America: The case against retrenchment", *International Security*, vol 37. No.3, Winter 2012/2013, pp.7-51 (*Required*)

(For the other side of the debate: Joseph M.Parent, Paul K. Macdonald, "The wisdom of retrenchment: America must cut back to move forward", *Foreign Affairs*, 2011, vol.90, no.6, pp.32-47, *Recommended*)

Class 13: **Constructivism articles**

Alexandre Wendt, "Anarchy is what states make of it: The social construction of power politics", *International Organization*, Spring 1992, vol. 46 no. 2, pp. 391-425 (*Required*)

Nina Tannenwald, 'The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the normative bases of Nuclear non-use', *International Organization*, Summer 1999, vol.53, no.3, pp. 433-468 (*Recommended*)

Class 15: **Marxism articles**

Robert W. Cox, "Gramsci, hegemony and International Relations", in *Approaches to World Order*, 1996, pp.124-141 (*Required*)

Steve Smith, "The United States and the discipline of International Relations: Hegemonic country, hegemonic discipline", *International Studies Review*, 2002, vol.4 no.2, pp. 67-85 (*Required*)

Class 17: **Feminism articles**

Adam Jones, "Does gender make the world go Round? Feminist critique of International Relations", *Review of International Studies*, 1996, vol.22, no.4, pp. 405-429 (*Required*)

Jennifer Lobasz, "Beyond Border Security: Feminist Approaches to Human Trafficking", *Security Studies,* 2009, vol.18, pp.319-344 (*Required*)

Class 20: **IR theory and globalization (in addition to ch. 15)**

Amitav Acharya, "Global International Relations and (IR) and Regional Worlds: A New agenda for International Studies", *International Studies Quarterly*, 2014, vol.58, no.1, pp. 647-659

Class 21: **Are states still the most relevant actors?**

Buzan B., Held D. and McGrew A. "Realism vs cosmopolitism", *Review of International Studies*, 1998, vol.24 no.1, 387-398 (*Required*)

Cerny P.G. "Paradoxes of the competition state: The dynamics of political globalization", *Government and Opposition*, 1997, vol.32, no.1, 251-274 (*Required*)

Class 22: **Why does war happen?**

James Fearon, "Rationalists explanations for war", *International Organizations*, 1995, vol.49 no.3, 379-414 (*Required*)

Eric Gartzke, "War is in the error terms", *International Organization*, 1999, vol.53, no.3, pp.567-587 (*Recommended*)

Class 23: **Alliances**

Glen Snyder, "The security dilemma in Alliance Politics", *World Politics*, 1984, vol.36, no.4, pp.461-495 (*Required*)

Brett V. Benson, "Unpacking alliances: Deterrent and Compellent Alliances and Their Relationship with Conflict", *Journal of Politics*, 2011, vol.73, no.4, pp. 1111-1127 (*Required*)

Class 25: **Does domestic politics matter?**

Robert D. Putnam, "Diplomacy and domestic politics: The logic of the two-level game", *International Organizations*, 1988, vol.42, no.3, 427-460 (*Required*)

Waltz, Kenneth N. 1996. "International Politics is not Foreign Policy." *Security Studies* 6(1): 54-57. (*Required*)

Class 26: **Role of International Organizations in IR theory**

Lisa Martin, “Interests, Power and multilateralism”, *International Organizations*, 1992, vol.46, no.4, 765-792 (*Required*)

George W. Downs, David M.Rocke, Peter N.Barsoon, “Is the good news about compliance good news about cooperation?”, *International Organization*, 1996, vol.50 no.3, pp. 397-406 (*Recommended*)

GRADE STRUCTURE

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

Rounding policy: if the total grade at the end of the class is not an integer number, the grade will be rounded up if the first decimal is .5 or higher, and rounded down if the first decimal is .4 or lower.

Examples: if the final grade is **89.5 then the grade will be rounded up to 90. If the final grade is 89.4 the grade will be rounded down to 89.** This rule applies for all letter grades.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at 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