INR4603: International Relations Theory

School of Politics, Security and International Affairs

3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Tutku Ayhan Ergin
- Office Location: Howard Phillips Hall (HPH) #313
- Office Hours: Virtual on Zoom by appointment
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- Digital Contact: vie email (tutku.ayhanergin@ucf.edu) or Webcourses@UCF messaging

Course Information

- Term: Spring 2021
- Course Number & Section: INR4603
- Course Name: International Relations Theory
- Credit Hours: 3
- Class Location: Completely online (no required face-to-face meetings)
- Course Modality: W

Enrollment Requirements

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 Description

Catalog Description

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

This course examines the origins and central tenets of the major theoretical perspectives in the study of international relations. It aims to help students understand the strengths and weaknesses of these theoretical perspectives. It also helps them to improve their skills in the realm of critical thinking and written communication.

Course Materials and Resources

Required Materials/Resources

Required Textbook: *International Relations Theory*, 5th Edition, Paul R. Viotti, Mark V. Kauppi. Pearson.

Articles from scholarly journals and book chapters are also assigned. Those readings are available under the tab “Files”.

Course Activities

In order to succeed in this class, you need to:

- Complete all steps listed in the “Read This First” document.
- Read the syllabus carefully and be mindful of important dates and information. (Note that modules may cover one or two weeks.)
- Check and read your Canvas e-mail messages at least once every 48 hours during regular business hours. I will use Canvas to send out important updates and class announcements.
- As this is a fully online class, it is **your responsibility** to keep up with all announcements, updates and comments on your assignments.
- Make sure you know the due dates for assignments.
- Read the module content and instructions carefully, make sure you understand what is expected of you in each module.

In this course, you will be completing these assignments:

Academic Activity Assignment

As of 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 “Academic Activity” by **Friday, 01/15, 05:00 pm**. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. This assignment is not graded.

Discussion Posts

For each module, you will complete a discussion post assignment. Prompts will be provided for each DP assignment on the module/assignment page (note that some weeks do not have DP assignment, and there are 9 DP assignments in

total). References to concepts covered in lecture, assigned texts, or other sources must be appropriately cited. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of cheating and plagiarism in this syllabus before starting on this assignment.

There are three components to DP: the initial post, where you will address the requirements of the prompt; the second post where you will reply to a classmate's post' and the third post where you will answer to a comment/question left by a colleague on your initial post. Deadline for submitting the initial post is the **Wednesday, 11:59 pm** of the week DP is assigned. The second posts are due **Thursdays, 11:59 pm**; and the third posts are due **Fridays, 11:59 pm.** The posts will be graded over 10 points, except for DP2 and DP3 assignments which will be graded over 15 points. Rubric will be provided for the DP assignments. At the end of semester, I will add up the points you received on all DPs. 30% of this sum will count towards your final grade.

Extra Credit Assignment

You will have an extra credit opportunity (extra 5 points). The assignment will be published on **Monday, 02/08 08:00 am** and will stay open for submission until **Friday, 02/19 11:59 pm.**

Exams

You will have two exams this semester: the **midterm**, and the **final exam.** They will contain questions over assigned readings, and they will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or fill-in-the-gaps questions. For the first exam, you will be responsible for the Module 1 through Module 5 (including Module 5). The final exam will cover the whole semester, but it will be more heavily weighted to cover material following the midterm exam. The midterm exam will count for 20%, and the final exam will count for 25% of your final grade. The midterm exam will be open on **Thursday, 03/04, 08:00 am until Friday, 03/05, 11:59 pm.** The final exam will be available for one day - **on 04/29, from 08:00 am to 11:59 pm.**

Final Paper

Finally, 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, assess 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. If you have a topic in mind but not sure if it fits the assignment well, contact me as soon as possible.

Papers should be between 2,000 and 2,500 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.

Papers are evaluated according to five criteria: a) mechanics of writing 20%, b) political and historical discussion 20%, c) theoretical discussion, application, and assessment 30%, d) proper documentation and citation 20%, e) organization of paper 10%.

Typically, most students lose points on papers 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. 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.

Additional information about the assignments and the prompts will be available on Modules and Assignments pages.

Activity Submissions

All assignment in this class will be submitted on Webcourses. You can find submission page for each assignment under "Assignments" tab, or on that week's module pages. Some assignments will become available for submission as semester progresses.

Attendance/Participation

Because this is a completely online class with no face-to-face meetings, there is no attendance policy, but you do need to keep up with the pace of the class and participate in all parts of each of the modules. You must read each module's instructions for a list of deadlines for the various assignments and deadlines (also visible in the module instructions and the calendar.) It is your responsibility to check these deadlines as soon as a module opens so you won't miss any due dates.

***NB**: The federally-mandated attendance reporting policy requires you to complete an assignment before the end of the first week (before 5 pm on Friday). This assignment is not graded, but you must complete it before the deadline. Failure to do so might impact your financial aid and/or other support.*

Communication with Instructor Policy

There are several ways to contact the Instructor with any questions, concerns, etc. 1) You can email me at tutku.ayhanergin@ucf.edu, 2) use the Inbox tool in Webcourses to send me a message with your question, 3) email me to schedule a virtual appointment on Zoom. I will respond to all email messages and Inbox messages within 48 hours on business days (not over the weekend). However, please avoid sending last second questions a few hours before the deadlines, they will probably not be answered.

Make-up Exams and Assignments

Per university policy, you are allowed to submit make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for authorized university-sponsored activities, religious observances, or legal obligations (such as jury duty). If this participation conflicts with your course assignments, I will offer a reasonable opportunity for you to complete missed assignments and/or exams. The make-up assignment and grading scale will be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale. In the case of an authorized university activity, it is your responsibility to show me a signed copy of the Program Verification Form for which you will be absent, prior to the class in which the absence occurs. Another reason for acceptable late-submission includes illness (proved by a Doctor's note). In any of these cases, please contact me ahead of time to notify me of upcoming needs.

Otherwise, **deadlines are non-negotiable**. Students who fail to complete written assignments or exams on time automatically receive 0 points for the assignment.

I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this UniversityLinks to an external site. and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity.

I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

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.

Assessment and Grading Procedures

The table shows the weight distribution for each assignment.

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Discussion Posts	30%
Extra Credit Assignment	Extra 5 points
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

The following scale will be used for the assignment of final grades. Grades are rounded to the nearest integer (e.g. 79.4=79, 79.6=80, 79.5=80). Curve Policy: No curve.

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

Consult the latest Undergraduate or Graduate catalogLinks to an external site. for regulations and procedures regarding grading such as Incomplete grades, grade changes, and grade forgiveness.

Course Schedule

Please see the Course Schedule page.

University Services and Resources

Academic Services and Resources

A list of available academic support and learning services is available at UCF Student ServicesLinks to an external site.. Click on "Academic Support and Learning Services" on the right-hand side to filter.

Non-Academic Services and Resources

A list of non-academic support and services is also available at UCF Student ServicesLinks to an external site.. Click on "Support" on the right-hand side to filter.
If you are a UCF Online student, please consult the UCF Online Student GuidelinesLinks to an external site. for more information about your access to non-academic services.

Policy Statements

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of ConductLinks to an external site.. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

- *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, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.).
For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices (Links to an external site.)".

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. Links to an external site.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/zgradeLinks to an external site..

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility ServicesLinks to an external site. (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 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.

Campus Safety Statement

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, 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. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.eduLinks to an external site.> 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.

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.

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.