# Syllabus
# INR 2002, OW60

## Summer 2021

## Instructor Contact

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| Instructor | Mark Schafer |
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## Course Information

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| Course Name | International Relations – Theory and Practice |
| Course ID & Section | INR 2002 – AW60 |
| Credit Hours | 3 |
| Semester/Year | Summer 2021 |
| Location | Online only |

## Course Description

**UCF Catalog Description**: Analysis of the fundamental principles and factors affecting interstate relations and their application to contemporary global developments.

**Course Overview**: This course is designed to introduce you to the theories and practices of global politics. The course deals with two primary dimensions of international politics. The first covers the important theories and concepts of international relations. This will be covered primarily in class lectures and discussions; there is no required textbook for this course. The only *required* book for this course is a novel by Isaac Asimov called *Foundation*. This novel deals fictitiously with many issues pertaining to international relations in general and will be the basis for some provocative discussion throughout the semester. This book should be available at the UCF Bookstore (and perhaps elsewhere in town).

The second primary dimension of the class deals with current issues, practices and problems in today's international setting. In order to accomplish this you are *required* to read international news stories available for free by way of yahoo.com, which I'll show you in class early in the semester. Pay particular attention to international and global happenings, such as events in Iran, North Korea, Afghanistan, Russia, the European Union, Africa, global trade and economic issues, and others as they emerge. Note that you must stay current with these stories. Not only will many modules have an assignment pertaining to current events, but the three exams will have a number of current events questions on them. You can get supplemental international news from sources such as the following (but remember that the yahoo.com stories are required):

1. Listen to National Public Radio (NPR) news programs (particularly *All Things Considered* in the late afternoon and *Morning Edition* in the morning). NPR can be found on the FM dial at 90.7 and is an excellent source of interesting and in-depth international news.
2. Read the international news stories in major magazines such as *Time*, the *Economist,* or *Newsweek.*
3. Watch national news on television and pay particular attention to the international news stories.

## Prerequisite: ENC 1102

## Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- Increased knowledge of international relations theories and practices.
- Improved academic skills in the following areas: reading, writing, communicating, and particularly thinking critically.

## Required Readings

- *Foundation* by Isaac Asimov
- International stories at yahoo.com

## Course Requirements

| Assignment | Date | Percent of Final Grade |
|---|---|---|
| First Exam | May 28 | 25 |
| Second Exam | June 5 | 25 |
| Final Exam | June 25 | 25 |
| First Short Paper | June 3 | 7.5 |
| Second Short Paper | June 11 | 7.5 |
| Class Discussion | semester | 10 |

Exams will be multiple choice and medium-length essay questions.

# Class Discussion

## Required Discussion Participation

Note above that participation in class discussion is a required component of this course (10% of your overall grade). For most discussion assignments, you will need to make two entries to the discussion topic, one that is an original post, and one that is a reply to another student's original post. Be sure to follow the specific directions for each of these required discussion topics.

## Optional Discussion Participation and Bonus Grade

In addition to the required participation in discussion, each module will have an optional discussion topic focusing on the lecture videos for that module. In the optional discussion topic, you may comment on the lecture material, contribute additional information regarding the lecture topic, ask questions about the lecture, and respond to others' posts in the discussion topic. In other words, the lecture discussion topic should resemble open discussions in a regular classroom.

Every time you participate in one of these optional discussion topics, you can receive bonus points, up to two points per post or reply (see the Discussion Grading Rubric linked on the home page for the course), and a maximum of four points total for each module. The points from these optional discussions will go toward a bonus that will be added to your overall grade for the semester, up to 5% addition to your grade. So, for instance, if you earn an 87.5% overall for the semester, but you were very active in the optional lecture discussions and you earn a 4.1% bonus, that gets added to your overall grade, for a new total of 91.6%, and instead of getting a B, you would get an A. And, because this is such a large possible bonus, please note that I do NOT round grades up at all. In other words, if you get an 89.9% overall, but never participate in the optional discussions, then your final grade will be a B.

## Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

Papers and assignments must be completed on time. Exams and quizzes may not be rescheduled or postponed. ***Exceptions will be allowed only under extreme, documented circumstances***. Under such circumstances, you are required to notify me prior to the date or as soon as possible if prior notice is impossible.

## Evaluation and Grading

| Final Percent for Course | Grade |
|---|---|
| 90% - 100% | A |
| 80% - 89.99% | B |
| 70% - 79.99% | C |
| 60% - 69.99% | D |
| Below 60% | F |

## Academic Integrity

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. 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.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

**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 respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this

course can range from a zero on the exercise to an “F” letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a “Z” designation on one’s transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let’s avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

## Disability Statement

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.

## Third-party Notes

Third parties may be selling class notes and other materials from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.

## Deployed Active Military Duty

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.

## Campus Safety Statement for an Online-only Course

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.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.

## Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf>

## 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

## Statement Regarding COVID-19

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf). Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the Golden Rule for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

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 Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement** – Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

# Course Calendar

**(Note: This class is divided into 12 different modules. Content and assignments for each module will become available as we reach that point in the semester.)**

Module 1: Course introduction and overview; global geography.

Module 2: Realism, Idealism, and Interdependence: Core Theories of International Relations.

-Read Part I in *Foundation*.

Module 3: Foundations of the “Nation-State” System.

Module 4: International Organizations; Organizing for Peace.

-Read: Part II in *Foundation*.

- **FIRST EXAM: May 28**

Module 5: Foreign Policy Decision Making and the Levels of Analysis.

-Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Part III of *Foundation*.

- **FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE: June 3**

Module 6: Power, Conflict, and War I.

Module 7: Power, Conflict, and War II

-Read the rest of Part III in *Foundation*.

Module 8: Arms Control; International Law

- **SECOND EXAM: June 5**

Module 9: International Political Economy: Liberalism, Mercantilism, and Marxism I.

-**SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE: June 11**

## Module 10: International Political Economy: Liberalism, Mercantilism, and Marxism II.

-Read Part IV in *Foundation*.

## Module 11: Development and Underdevelopment.

## Module 12: Contemporary Global Issues and Challenges; and review for final exam.

-Read Part V in *Foundation*.

**- FINAL EXAM: June 25**