INR2002.0001 IR Theory & Practice

Fall 2023 Syllabus

Course Information

Course Name	International Relations Theory & Practice
Course ID & Section	INR 2002.0001
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2023
Time & Location	Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:30-11:20 PM in CB1 (Classroom Building 1) Room 318

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Joseph Paul Vasquez, III School of Politics, Security & International Affairs (SPSIA)
Office	102 Howard Philips Hall
Office Hours	Monday 12:30-3:00 PM; Wednesday 12:30-2:30 PM; and by appointment in person or over Zoom (https://ucf.zoom.us/j/3142725238)
SPSIA Phone #	(407) 823-2608
E-mail	paul.vasquez@ucf.edu
Graduate Teaching Assistant	Thomas Matthews (Thomas.Matthews@ucf.edu)

Course Description

There are a lot of countries out there. In fact, the world is full of them! In this course we will examine factors that influence the behavior of states and other international actors. We will begin by reviewing some important events in world history and explore the issue of globalization today. Second, we will delve into issues related to war, peace, and international security. Our study of these topics will focus on issues related to power politics among states and some alternative perspectives. Specifically, we will consider phenomenon such as foreign policy, military force, and terrorism. In the final half of the course, we will examine issues

related to international political economy, international organizations and human rights, the gap between rich and poor countries and global environmental challenges. In a curricular sense, this course can be used to satisfy Basic Core Requirements for IGS Majors or the Area B requirement for students majoring in Political Science.
Prerequisite: ENC 1102 or 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.

Important Advice: I want you to do the best work you can. I will try hard to clearly explain assignments and do what I can within the limits of fairness–without compromising on standards—to help you do your best. You should do the readings and take notes when you read and watch lectures. 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 Objectives

- Objective One: help students understand trends and developments in the practice of international relations as well as major theoretical perspectives and insights offered by political scientists
- Objective Two: help students understand the influence of international relations on their own lives
- Objective Three: help students to improve their skills in the realm of critical thinking and written communication

Required Materials

- REVEL for International Relations by John C. Pevehouse and Joshua Goldstein, Brief Edition, 8e is the digital/ e-text you'll be using to access assigned readings throughout the semester. The e-text includes videos you should watch as well as practice quizzes and tests, which are optional to complete that do not count toward you grade. All graded assignments will be completed in Webcourses/Canvas. None of them will be done in REVEL for a grade.
- To access your materials, follow the link address (unique to this course) below.
    - Go to: **https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/m8xyg1**
    - Sign in to create a Pearson Account.
    - Click view access options to redeem the access code you bought from the bookstore or buy instant access online. (If you are waiting for financial aid, you can use course materials for free temporarily until your 14-day temporary access expires.)
    - If you need help, check out these Revel student resources: https://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/support/

- The e-text includes videos you should watch as well as practice quizzes and tests, which are optional to complete that do not count toward you grade. All graded assignments will be completed in Webcourses/Canvas. None of them will be done in REVEL for a grade. Since I am not requiring you to use the hardcopy text, I have not asked the bookstore to purchase hardcopies. Of course, if you prefer to work with hardcopies of the text, you can order a hardcopy on your own and use the E-text until the hardcopy arrives.

Course Mode and Use of Webcourses

In-person course attendance is expected for this course. This course will use Webcourses primarily as a platform for housing our course syllabus, posting course announcements and using email for communication, and submitting some assignments. To do so, you will need access to a computer and adequate Internet bandwidth. You can contact Webcourses@UCF Support at https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/ if you have any technical problems. Once you access the course from Dashboard in Webcourses, please check out the course home page and the Announcements from the navigation column to the left of the center of your screen.

Illness Notification

If you become ill, please stay home, and contact your primary care physician. 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. 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	E
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Assignment average (add grades for each row & ÷ by the # of grades for this task)**	**Component Score = column B x column C**	**Open/Due Date**
Class Participation	5			Daily
Quizzes	25			To be announced (administered in class) & by Mon., Sep. 18

Midterm Exam	25			Wed., Oct. 11 (administered in class)
1st Course Paper	10			See the Course Schedule below
2nd Course Paper	10			
Final Exam	25			Mon., Dec. 4, 10:00-Noon (administered in class)
Total	100%	**Add Column D to estimate grade →**		

If you have questions about your final course grade and want to double check the final course grade reported in Webcourses at the end of the semester, you can take the grades for particular assignments and plug them into the grade table above 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. If you have questions about the course readings or international events, raising them in class is a welcome way to participate.

Quizzes: These will include multiple-choice quizzes, which will be administered in class. Occasionally, you will be allowed to take quizzes in small groups in class. These quizzes will usually cover substantive information from class, including any assigned courses materials, including course readings, videos, lectures, etc. Information from assigned readings or videos should be mastered by the day it is listed on the syllabus, at which point it could be included on a quiz. By Monday, Sep. 18, you will also be expected to complete a quiz about proper citation practices using the Chicago Manual of Style." This exercise should help to improve course paper grades above what they would be otherwise and help avoid instances of plagiarism. The lowest quiz grade for each student will be dropped when calculating final course grades.

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 ideally due by 11:59 on Friday, Aug. 25, or as soon as possible for those who add the course late. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment and a possible delay in the disbursement of any financial aid. 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 and access the course from the Dashboard. From the course homepage, click on the

Assignments tab to left, click on the Syllabus Quiz under the Quizzes banner, complete the quiz, and submit it.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: Multiple choice exams will be administered in class after Chapter 4 and Chapter 8. The final exam will be cumulative to the extent that it will cover some material from the midterm exam, but it will be much 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 papers: You will write **two** short course papers in response to **three** discussion prompts that will be released over the course of the semester. Obviously, this gives you a degree of choice as to which two you will complete. The first option will be about a topic related to realism and international security, the second option will be about economics and international organizations, and the third option will be about North-South relations. The topics will not be released earlier to discourage collaborative cheating, and they are more like very glorified take-home essay exams than they are a full-blown term paper that requires original research beyond what is assigned for this class. Consult the Course Schedule below to see when the prompts will be released. Thus, you should think carefully about which topic you think you would do best with before you decide to pass up writing on a topic in favor of doing a later topic.

Papers should have a) a title page with your name and the word count for the main text only, b) be between 1,000-1,100 words in length, and c) cite relevant assigned course materials to support your analysis. While other academic sources can be used such as an academic journal article or book, you are not required to do so. Course materials (textbook, videos, etc.) and any other sources should be appropriately cited using Chicago Style when referring to either course concepts or facts that are not common knowledge. Include a references page at the end that is not included in your 1,000-1,100-word limit. Papers should use 12-point font, double-spacing and 1-inch margins with page numbers inserted in the document. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of cheating and plagiarism in this syllabus before starting on this assignment.

When each discussion prompt is released, it will include a breakdown of how points will be allocated. Please note that mechanical elements of writing including, but not limited to proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. are all important components of formal writing such as a college paper. Typically, most students lose points on papers for me because of mechanical flaws in their writing, so take steps to minimize those kinds of flaws in your work. Poor performance in this regard could lower your paper grade by as much as 20 points, so take steps to avoid this eventuality. Sound writing skills will help you not only when applying for jobs or further educational opportunities, but once you

secure those opportunities. Also, please consult the section below on academic dishonesty for details on how to avoid plagiarism.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/No Extra Credit: 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 (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf), such as an excused religious holiday (https://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf) or a military deployment. Students who are deployed active-duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact the instructor as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements. Also, you must notify me in advance if you intend to miss class for a religious observance and want latitude for completing assignments. 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 completing a quiz.

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." Missed quizzes may be made up for the aforementioned reasons mentioned regarding exams, but they may not be made up without such circumstances. However, recall that the lowest quiz grade will be dropped for everyone. Late papers will be penalized 10% for each full calendar day they are late, up to as much as 30%, unless they meet the excused criteria in the paragraph above. I do not plan to offer extra credit for this course, so please ensure that you direct your energies accordingly.

Evaluation and Grading

The grading scale for this course is listed below. For more details on the evaluation criteria, see the specific tasks listed under Course Requirements. 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.

Behavior

Disruptions: If circumstances require you to arrive late for class, please do so in as discreet a manner as possible. Please limit distractions in class as much as possible. Such behavior bothers others who are paying good money to learn, and it may be distracting to me as I attempt to do my job. If your use of electronic devices, including laptops, becomes disruptive, you may be required to discontinue their use.

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Expectations: All Knights should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct (https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/). Relatedly, when it comes to assignments, **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; 2) presenting material obtained through the effort of someone other than the student for the student's assignment credit; 3) buying and 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 a) using another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own, b) submitting work for more than one class without the instructor's approval or c) use of tools related to Artificial Intelligence (AI). After hearing my lecture on proper citation practices using the Chicago Manual of Style, you should clearly understand my expectations of you with regards to correctly citing material. For more details on academic integrity matters, you are encouraged to consult UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* (https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/).

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). Particularly bad behavior in this regard could result in dismissal from UCF, if decided upon by higher authority.

Campus Safety and Title IX

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 <https://centralflorida-prod.modolabs.net/student/safety/index>.
- 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 <https://ehs.ucf.edu/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-locations>.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <www.getrave.com/login/ucf> and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- 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>).
- Also related to campus safety, Title IX (of the Education Amendments of 1972; AKA, Title IX) prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/.

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.

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 Cares: During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students. Please visit UCFCares.com if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges. You can also e-mail ucfcares@ucf.edu with questions or for additional assistance. You can reach a UCF Cares staff member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services (Bldg. 27) to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.

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 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.

University Writing Center: 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. The UWC is located in Trevor Colbourn Hall Room 109 with satellite Locations in the Main Library, Rosen Library, and online. They can be reached at 407-823-2197 or http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/

Important UCF administrative deadlines:

Date	Event
Friday, Aug. 25, 11:59 P.M.	Drop/add deadline
Friday, Oct. 27, 11:59 P.M.	Withdrawal deadline

Course Schedule

Monday, August 21	**Course Welcome Lecture**
Wednesday, August 23	**Lecture**
Friday, August 25	**Lecture, **Syllabus Quiz deadline or ASAP for late enrollees****
Monday, August 28	**Lecture**
Wednesday, August 30	**Lecture, Chapter 1. The Globalization of International Relations**
Friday, September 1	**Lecture**

Monday, September 4	**Labor Day Holiday-Class will not meet**
Wednesday, September 6	**Lecture**
Friday, September 8	**Lecture**
Monday, September 11	**Lecture**
Wednesday, September 13	**Lecture, Chapter 2. Realist Theories**
Friday, September 15	**Lecture**
Monday, September 18	**Lecture, **Proper Citation Practices Quiz****
Wednesday, September 20	**Lecture**
Thursday, September 21	**Paper A Realism topic released**
Friday, September 22	**Lecture**
Sunday, September 24	**Paper A due before midnight**
Monday, September 25	**Lecture, Chapter 3. Liberal and Social Theories**
Wednesday, September 27	**Lecture**
Friday, September 29	**Lecture**
Monday, October 2	**Lecture**
Wednesday, October 4	**Lecture**
Friday, October 6	**Lecture, Chapter 4. Conflict, War and Terrorism**
Monday, October 9	**Lecture**
Wednesday, October 11	****Mid-term Exam****
Friday, October 13	**Lecture**

Monday, October 16	**Lecture**
Wednesday, October 18	**Lecture**
Thursday, October 19	**Paper B Economics & International Organizations topic released**
Friday, October 20	**Lecture**
Sunday, October 22	****Paper B due before midnight**
Monday, October 23	**Lecture, Chapter 5. Trade and Finance**
Wednesday, October 25	**Lecture**
Friday, October 27	**Lecture**
Monday, October 30	**Lecture**
Wednesday, November 1	**Lecture, Chapter 6.International Organizations, Law, and Human Rights**
Friday, November 3	**Lecture**
Monday, November 6	**Lecture**
Wednesday, November 8	**Lecture**
Friday, November 10	**Veterans' Day Holiday—Class will not meet**
Monday, November 13	**Lecture**
Wednesday, November 15	**Lecture, Chapter 7. North-South Relations**

Watch the documentary: Firestone and the Warlord | Watch S2014 E3 | FRONTLINE | PBS | Official Site or https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/firestone-and-the-warlord/ 1:23 minutes

Thursday, November 16	**Paper C topic released**

Friday, November 17	**Lecture**
Sunday, November 19	**Lecture, **Paper C due****
Monday, November 20	**Lecture**
Wed., Nov. 22 – Fri., Nov. 24	**Thanksgiving Holiday-Class will not meet**
Monday November 27	**Lecture**
Wednesday, November 29	**Lecture**
Friday, December 1	**Lecture, Chapter 8. Environment and Technology**
Monday, December 4	****Final Exam, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM****