INR 4603.0W60 International Relations Theory

Spring 2024 Syllabus

Course Information

Course Name	International Relations Theory
Course ID & Section	INR 4603.0W60
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Spring 2024
Class meeting time & location/mode	Not applicable — class is online and asynchronous in Webcourses

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Joseph Paul Vasquez, III School of Politics, Security & International Affairs (SPSIA)
Office	102 Howard Philips Hall
Office Hours	Tuesday & Thursday 10:45 - 11:15 AM & 1:45 - 4:15 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	Mr. Thomas Mathews (Thomas.Mathews@ucf.edu)

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: ENC 1102 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.

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 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. I have asked the UCF Campus Store to stock copies of this text, which you are free to purchase.

Course Mode via Webcourses

This course will require asynchronous, largely self-driven participation via Webcourses@UCF within each module, though it will be impossible for students to work ahead on modules that have not yet opened. To do so, you will need access to a computer and adequate Internet bandwith. 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. Assignments and grades will be posted in Webcourses.

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-related 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	
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**	**Due Date**
Quizzes	50			See the Course Schedule below
Midterm Exam	15			March 4 12:01 AM & March 5 11:59 PM
1st Course Paper	10			See the Course Schedule below
2nd Course Paper	10			
Final Exam	15			April 25 12:01 AM & April 26 11:59 PM
Total	100%		**Add each of your component scores to get your anticipated final 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. Incidentally, at the end of the semester, I round grades up from .45 to the next nearest whole number. Thus, an 89.45 and a 59.45, would get rounded up to a 90 and 60, respectively.

Quizzes: Multiple choice quizzes may cover any materials from the modules. Those quizzes will open at 12:01 AM on the last Saturday of each module and close at 11:59 PM on the last Sunday of each module. Also, during one of the modules you will complete a quiz specifically covering video material about correct citation practices, which should help to improve course paper grades above what they would be otherwise and help avoid instances of plagiarism. Unlike some of my face-to-face classes, I do not drop the lowest quiz grade for this class.

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, January 12, 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.

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, the second option will be about liberalism, and the third option will be about perspective covered in the module on interpretive understandings of international 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. Once the deadline for a paper passes by more than two hours, late papers will only be accepted if there is a verifiable, compelling, significant, and unexpected reason or if a 20-point late penalty is imposed. Thus, you should think carefully about which topic you think you would do best on 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. 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.

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 tend 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.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: These will be online multiple-choice exams with each question having only one correct answer for each question. The Midterm Exam will cover Modules 1 through 5. 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. Warning: Do not assume that these exams will be easy simply because they will take the form of a multiple-choice exam.

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. Unlike some of my face-to-face classes, I do not drop the lowest quiz grade for this online class since quizzes are open for 48 hours

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." Once the deadline for a paper passes by more than two hours, late papers will only be accepted if there is a verifiable, compelling, significant, and unexpected reason or if a 20-point late penalty is imposed. Once papers have been graded and returned, late papers will only be accepted if students satisfy one of the underlined criteria above. Thus, taking the 20-point late penalty at that stage is not allowed. Thus, you should think carefully about which topic you think you would do best on before you decide to pass up writing on a topic in favor of doing a later topic.

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.

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

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 <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.

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, Jan. 12, 11:59 P.M.	Drop/Add deadline
Friday, March 29, 11:59 P.M.	Withdrawal deadline

Course Schedule

Topic	Assignments	Open & close dates (quiz dates)	Open & close times
Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz	Jan. 8 - Jan. 12 (or ASAP for late enrollees)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 1: Modern IR Theory **Chapter 1. Thinking About IR Theory (approx. 20 pages)** **Watch the video interview linked below of Kenneth Waltz as part of the "Conversations with History" series produced by the Institute for International Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. http://www.uctv.tv/search-details.aspx?showID=7386**	Quiz	Jan. 8 - Jan. 21 (Jan. 20 - Jan. 21)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 2: The Ancients **Chapter 10. The Ancients: Greek, Chinese & Indian Thought (approx. 65 pages)**	Quiz	Jan. 22 - Feb. 4 (Feb. 3 – Feb. 4)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 3: The Greeks & Romans **Chapter 11. Greco-Roman Thought and the Middle Ages (approx. 40 pages)**	Quiz Information Literacy Tutorial	Feb. 5 - Feb. 11 (Feb. 10 – Feb. 11)	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)**	Quiz	Feb. 12 - Feb. 25 (Feb. 24 - Feb. 25)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 5: Realism **Chapter 2. Realism: The State & Balance of Power (approx. 42 pages)**	Quiz	Feb. 26 - March 3 (March 2 – March 3)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
	Midterm Exam	March 4 - March 5	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 6: Liberalism **Chapter 3. Liberalism: Interdependence & Global Governance (approx. 33 pages)**	Quiz realism paper due (prompt will be	March 4 - March 10 (March – March 10)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM

	released on Th, March 7)		
Module 7: Economic Structuralism **Chapter 4. Economic Structuralism: Global Capitalism & Postcolonialism (approx. 30 pages)**	Quiz	March 11 - March 25 (March 24-25) **the quiz will be open on Sunday & Monday to accommodate those returning from Spring Break	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 8: The English School **Chapter 5. The English School: International Society & Grotian Rationalism (approx. 20 pages)**	Quiz liberalism paper due (prompt will be released on Th, March 28)	March 25 - March 31 (March 30 - March 31)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 9: Interpretive Understandings **Chapter 6. Constructivist Understandings** **Chapter 7. Positivism, Critical Theory, and Postmodern Understandings** **Chapter 8. Feminist Understandings in IR Theory (approx. 80 pages)** **Not required: Joseph Paul Vasquez, III. "Patriot Games, War Games, and Political Football: A Constructivist Analysis of Militarization in an American 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 to purchase this article!)**	Quiz	April 1 - April 14 (April 13 - April 14)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
Module 10: Normative Considerations **Chapter 9. Normative IR Theory: Ethics & Morality (approx. 30 pages)**	Quiz Interpretive understandings paper due	April 15 - April 21 (April 20 – April 21)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM

	(prompt will be released on Th, April 18)		
	Final Exam	April 25 - April 26	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM

General procedures for each module

Activities/Assignments:

1. **Text:** Read and take notes over the assigned reading in each module.
2. **Online Materials:** Watch and take notes over the assigned videos.
3. **Quiz:** Go to the Assignments Tool and complete the quiz for each module between the last Saturday of the module and the Sunday when it closes. Take the quiz when you have sufficient command of the information because I intentionally do not allow a long time to discourage cheating.