INR 7337 - Issues in International Security

Section: 0001

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Spring 2026
Class Meeting Days: R
Class Meeting Time: 02:00PM - 04:50PM
Class Meeting Location: HPH O305G
Modality: P
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Kelsey Larsen
Office Location: HPH 302F
Office Hours
Tuesday 12:00-1:30pm
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Course Description

INR 7337 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Issues in International Security: PR: Admission to Political Science Ph.D. or C.I. Overview of international issues such as terrorism, genocide,

nuclear proliferation, war, the spread of infectious diseases, fragile and failing states, transnational organized crime and gender. Even Spring.

The purpose of this course is to train doctoral students in understanding and analyzing issues in international security. Its overarching goals are twofold: first, it aims to cultivate students' mastery of major theoretical perspectives within existing security studies research. Second, it aims to nurture students' own research abilities and foster their unique contributions to the security studies literature. Each module of the course will cover some of the most influential areas within international security studies, drawing on classical and modern works—both from dominant and critical approaches—to grow students' understanding of what we do (and do not) know about how international security 'works.'

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Accurately describe and critically evaluate the key arguments and findings across the international security studies subfield, including but not limited to arguments about the nature of the international system, alliances, coercion, diplomacy, nuclear weapons, and human security
- Locate and integrate emerging research, as well as historical/contemporary examples, into existing paradigms
- Clearly communicate original ideas and theoretical contributions, both in speech and in writing

Required Course Materials and Resources

None - see Modules for free linked materials

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Graded Assignments:

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- Participation (20%)
- Discussion Leader (20%)
- Mock Field Core Exam I (20%)
- Mock Field Core Exam II (20%)
- Mock Field Core Exam III (20%)

Class Participation:
Students are expected to attend every class session, to have read the assigned readings thoroughly, and to actively participate in class discussions with thoughtful and informed engagement. The seminar nature of the course means that while there will be some guiding instructor, significant portions of the coursework will be expected to be discussions led by the students—meaning students will be expected to arrive with both knowledge of and questions about the organizing themes/works of the week. Students should expect at least one ‘cold call’ during the semester, in which they are asked to provide contemporaneous thoughts.

Discussion Leader:
As the semester progresses, students will be expected to serve as a 'Discussion Leader' at least twice. Two dates will be assigned, and the learner will be expected to manage the course discussion of relevant material during that course period. More instructions/guidance on leading discussion will be provided in class.

Mock Field Core Exams I, II, and III
There will be three exams, held for the purposes of helping students prepare for their Field Core Exams. These exams will be held during the assigned class period, and will involve students preparing 1500-3500 word responses (not including references) to instructor provided prompts. These prompts will challenge students to synthesize, critically evaluate, and propose future solutions to themes addressed during the course. More information and tips for preparing for the mock exams will be provided in-class.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Total points
A	93%-100%	925- 1000
A-	90-93%	895 - 924
B+	87-89%	865 - 894
B	84-86%	835 - 864
B-	80-83%	795 - 834
C+	77-79%	765 - 794
C	74-76%	735 - 764
C-	70-73%	695 - 734
D+	67-69%	665 - 694
D	64-66%	635 - 664
D-	60-63%	595 - 634
F	0-59%	0-594

Policies for Course Grade

Policy on Late Work and Absences

Doctoral-level students are expected to submit all assignments the assigned due dates. Late work and/or absences will only be accepted when students experience an emergency (e.g., hospitalization, family death, religious observance, military service, emergency medical provider visit). Students experience such emergencies should communicate with the instructor as soon as possible.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

All ideas, analysis, and conceptual work you submit must be entirely your own. To be sure that you're effectively learning the material enough to succeed thoroughly on the exams, using AI to generate, outline, or substantially revise ideas, arguments, or text is prohibited.

Disability Access & Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing equal access to all students with disabilities (ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism, chronic medical conditions, physical disabilities, etc.). To receive consideration for reasonable disability-related course accommodations, disabled students must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and complete the steps required for SAS to review accommodation requests. More information can be found on the UCF Student Accessibility Services website under the Start Here tab or by contacting SAS directly (Ferrell Commons 185; sas@ucf.edu; Phone - 407-823-2371).

Approved accommodations are shared with course instructors via the SAS Course Accessibility Letter. Implementing certain accommodations may require discussion about specific considerations of the course design, course learning objectives, and the individual academic and course challenges experienced by the student. While students with disabilities or chronic health needs are also encouraged to discuss any course concerns with professors in addition to contacting SAS, professors are not required to facilitate disability-related adjustments to the course unless the professor has received a Course Accessibility Letter from SAS that outlines approved accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

1. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assessment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.
2. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.
4. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

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*. 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 and Academic Integrity, 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" designated 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.

Title IX

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 Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on access and community engagement, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – ONAC – Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)

- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced discrimination by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance via the ONAC website or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line either anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or by using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

Class Schedule

Note: Class schedule is subject to change; any modifications will be announced by the instructor.

Week	Topic
1	What Is International Security?
2	Levels of Analysis and Anarchy
3	Realism and the Balance of Power
4	Liberalism and Cooperation
5	Constructivism: Identities and Norms
6	Exam I (Foundations & Core Theories)
7	Causes of War (Competing Theoretical Lenses)
8	Coercion, Credibility, and Technology
9	Strategic Stability in a Multipolar and Technological Era
10	Spring Break
11	Exam II (War, Deterrence, and Strategy)
12	Economic Statecraft and Weaponized Interdependence
13	Climate, Health, and Human Security
14	Ethics, Norms, and the Moral Limits of Security

Week	Topic
15	Global IR and the Future of Security Studies
Final Exam Period	Exam III — Final Written Exam (Mock Field Exam)

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 arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF's Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF Classroom has an Emergency Procedure Guide posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.
    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY**. When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND**. When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive

and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.

- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty, and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete this activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.