INR 2002 - International Relations - Theory and Practice

Section: 0W60

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Spring 2026
Class Meeting Days: ASC
Class Meeting Location: Online
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Alanna Reynolds
Office Location: HPH 313
Office Hours
Friday from 1 - 2:30 or by appointment
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Course Description

INR 2002 COS-POLS 3(3,0)International Relations-Theory and Practice: PR: ENC 1102 or C.I. Analysis of the fundamental principles and factors affecting interstate relations and their application to contemporary global developments. Fall, Spring.

In this course we will examine the fundamental principles and factors affecting interstate relations and their application to contemporary global development. The class deals with the following dimensions of international politics:

- Important theories and concepts of international relations. This will be covered in (short) video lectures, and the required textbook. This book should be available at the UCF bookstore, Amazon or other sources.
- Current events in the world today. To stay on top of international events, today's practices, and problems, students are required to read international news stories available for free at yahoo.com. Throughout the class, we will also connect each topic with current events and analyze how international relations theories and concepts apply to the world today.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand core concepts in international relations theories and practices.
- Students will understand trends in developments in the practice of International Relations
- Students will understand the influence of international relations in their own lives
- Students will improve their critical thinking skills and written communication skills

Required Course Materials and Resources

International Relations
ISBN: 9780190648527
Authors: Eric B. Shiraev and Vladislav M. Zubok
Publisher: Oxford University Press
Edition: 4th Edition

Yahoo News Stories from yahoo.com

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Assignments and General Expectations

With the exception of the Academic Activity Quiz and Introduction Discussion Post, which are due on Friday at 11:59 pm for financial aid verification, all course assignments will be due on Sunday at 11:59pm.

Academic Activity Quiz and Introduction Discussion Post

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 the syllabus quiz and introduction discussion post by **Friday, January 16 at 11:59pm.** Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment and a possible delay in the disbursement of any financial aid.

Readings and Lecture Videos

Students are required to complete all readings and watch lecture videos weekly before the relevant each week. The lecture videos are short and will total no more than approximately 30 minutes each week. They are important to understand concepts explained in the book. Students are also encouraged to think critically and understand how the class material finds application in the real world. Students are warmly encouraged to reach out to the instructor for any doubts concerning the material.

8 Weekly Quizzes throughout the semester: 20% of total (2.5% each)

Students are expected to complete weekly quizzes on the book chapters and short video lectures. All quizzes will be due on Sunday of each week by 11:59pm. Each quiz has 10 questions, and you will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz. **The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.**

Two Current Events Quizzes: 10% of total (5% each)

Students will complete two current events quizzes. Students are expected to read the news every day and take notes on them (no questions on news released during Spring Break, Martin Luther King Jr Day or any other holiday when the university is closed). The

questions will be based on news reported at yahoo.com on the World News page. Each quiz will have 25 questions, and you will have 40 minutes to complete each quiz.

Two Short Papers: 30% of total (15% each)

Each paper will be approximately 700 words (minimum 650 words, maximum 750 words). If you go over the word-count, you will have to re-write the paper and will receive a penalty of 5%.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: 40% of total (20% each)

The exams are open note. Each exam will last 80 minutes.

The exams will include multiple choice questions on the course material and two short essay questions on the course material. There will also be some questions on current events on the exams.

The final exam will be cumulative. It will cover some material from prior to the midterm exam, but it will be much more heavily weighted to cover material following the midterm exam.

Extra Credit - Office Hours Attendance

If you schedule and attend an office hours appointment at any point during the semester, you will receive 5 extra credit points on one short paper assignment. Office hours appointments can be virtual or in-person.

Ungraded Weekly Discussion Board

After reading the weekly material, please feel free to use the Weekly Discussion Board to:

- Ask clarifying questions
- Ask "provoking" yet polite questions to start a conversation with your peers
- Share what you have found interesting about the weekly material
- Reply to your peers’ questions about this module
- Comment on your peers' posts

This is not a graded assignment. I want to leave a space where students can freely share their ideas and ask questions without worrying about losing points. The weekly discussion board is a great opportunity to interact with your peers, apply what you have learned during the module, and clarify your doubts before taking the quiz.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	61-63%
F	0-60%

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work Policy and Missed/Late Assignments

Quizzes and assignments 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, 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.

Make-up exams may be given without penalty in instances when students have an official UCF excuse or a reason that is sufficiently verifiable, 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.”

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.

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.

Attendance

While this class is fully online, you are expected to engage with the course material and watch the video lectures. The video lectures will be posted on Panopto, and completion of the video lectures will be tracked. You are expected to watch and take notes on all video lectures and course materials.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

In this course, the use of AI is not permitted. Any content produced or inspired by generative AI will receive a grade of 0.

Developing strong competencies in writing, critical thinking and analytic skills will prepare you for a competitive workplace and/or competitive graduate and law programs. When you use AI, you lose the opportunity to learn and understand the material we cover in this course and apply these skills in your future academic, professional and personal endeavors.

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.

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.

Class Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Assigned Textbook Reading	Assignments
1	1/12-1/18	Module 0: Syllabus Week and Course Introduction	None	• Academic Activity Quiz • Introduction Discussion Board
2	1/19 - 1/25	Module 1: Intro to International Relations	Chapter 1: Introducing International Relations	• Module 1 Quiz
3	1/26 - 2/1	Module 2: The Evolution of International Relations	Chapter 2: The Evolution of International Relations	• Module 2 Quiz
4	2/2 - 2/8	Module 3: Major IR Theories	Chapter 3: Realism and Liberalism	• Module 3 Quiz
5	2/9 - 2/15	Module 4: International Organizations and Global Governance	Chapter 6: International Law and International Organizations	• First Short Paper

Week	Dates	Topics	Assigned Textbook Reading	Assignments
6	2/16 - 2/22	Module 5: Hegemonic Stability Theory	No book chapters, reading will be provided in the Module	• Module 4/5 Quiz (covers both International Orgs and Hegemonic Stability Theory
7	2/23 - 3/1	Module 6: Violent Conflicts	Chapter 5: International Security	• First Current Events Quiz
8	3/2 - 3/8	Module 7: Arms Control	No book chapters, reading will be provided in the Module	• Module 6/7 Quiz (covers both Violent Conflicts and Arms Control) • Review Midterm Exam Study Guide
9	3/9 - 3/15	**Midterm Exam Week**	None	• Midterm Exam
10	3/16 - 3/22	Spring Break! Enjoy the week off!	None	• NO assignments!

Week	Dates	Topics	Assigned Textbook Reading	Assignments
11	3/23 - 3/29	Module 8: International Political Economy and Development	Chapter 7: International Political Economy and Development	• Module 8 Quiz
12	3/30 - 4/5	Module 9: Terrorism and Evolving Security Challenges	Chapter 8: Evolving Security Challenges	• Second short paper
13	4/6 - 4/12	Module 10: Environmental Issues	Chapter 9: Environmental Issues	• Module 9/10 Quiz (covers both Terrorism, Security Challenges and Environmental Issues
14	4/13 - 4/19	Module 11: Global Problems and Humanitarian Concerns	Chapter 10: Humanitarian Concerns	• Module 11 Quiz
15	4/20 - 4/26	Module 12: Current Events Quiz and Study Week	None	• Second current events quiz • Review Final Exam Study Guide

Week	Dates	Topics	Assigned Textbook Reading	Assignments
16	4/27 - 5/3	**Final Exam Week**	None	• Final Exam