INR 4603 - International Relations Theory

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: Sandor Fabian
Office Location: Online platform
Office Hours
By appointment only
Email: Sandor.Fabian@ucf.edu

Course Description

INR 4603 COS-POLS 3(3,0)International Relations Theory: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Theoretical trends prevalent in the study of international relations, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, feminism, and post-modernism. Fall, Spring.

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 videos. 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand the origins and central tenets of the major theoretical perspectives in the study of international relations,
- discuss the strengths and weaknesses of these theoretical perspectives,
- use their skills in the realm of critical thinking and written communication.

Required Course Materials and Resources

International Relations Theory
Authors: Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi
Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield
Publication Date: 2020
Edition: 6th
Notes: I have asked the UCF Campus Store to stock copies of this text, which you can purchase.

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
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%

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.

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 assignment during the week of 18 Jan 2026. This assignment will ask you to introduce yourself and tell me about your expectations regarding this course. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment and a possible delay in the disbursement of any financial aid.

Quizzes: Multiple choice quizzes may cover any materials from the modules. Those quizzes will open with each module at 08:00 AM on Mondays and close at 11:59 PM on Saturday of each module. **Unlike some of my face-to-face classes, I do not drop the lowest quiz grade for this class.**

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

Student Narrated Power Point Presentation: Toward the end of the semester I will ask you to chose the module from this course that you liked the most and create a narrated power point presentation in which you explain the content of that module with your own words.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
1/18/26	Academic Engagement Activity	Submission	10
1/24/26	Module#1 Quiz	Quiz	100
1/31/26	Module#2 Quiz	Quiz	100
2/7/26	Module#3 Quiz	Quiz	100
2/14/26	Module#4 Quiz	Quiz	100
2/21/26	Module#5 Quiz	Quiz	100
3/7/26	Module#6 Quiz	Quiz	100
3/14/26	Module#7 Quiz	Quiz	100
3/28/26	Module#8 Quiz	Quiz	100
4/4/26	Module#9 Quiz	Quiz	100
4/11/26	Module#10 Quiz	Quiz	100
4/18/26	Student Presentation	Submission	100
2/28/26	Mid-term Exam	Exam	100

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
4/25/26	Final Exam	Exam	100.2

Grading Scale

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A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
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

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/No Extra Credit: I AM VERY STRICT WITH DEADLINES!!!! Quizzes, exams, and the presentation are due by dates outlined in the Syllabus and in Webcourse and WILL 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/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan1 9.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.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

No AI use is authorized in this course.

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

Course Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Course Welcome and Syllabus
2	Module 1: Modern IR Theory
3	Module 2: The Ancients
4	Module 3: The Greeks & Romans
5	Module 4: The Modern State System
6	Module 5: Realism
7	Module 6: Liberalism
8	Module 7: Economic Structuralism
9	Module 8: The English School
10	Module 9: Interpretive Understandings

Week	Topic
11	Module 10: Normative Considerations
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	