INR 2002: Introduction to International Relations  
University of West Florida  
Spring 2012

Instructor Contact Information

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Office Location: Building # 50 (Room 126)  
Online Office Hours: Tue/Wed/Thur. 9-12pm

Class Schedule/Location: Online

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to the study of International Relations and, as such, is designed to introduce key concepts and theories of the field. In this course, we will survey: (1) three theoretical traditions in IR; (2) major causes and outcomes of war; (3) international institutions/organizations and cooperation; (4) international political economy; and (5) theories of foreign policy.

This course is delivered completely online through the e-learning system. You will use your Argus account to login to the course from the Argus login page (https://argus.uwf.edu/cp/home/displaylogin, or https://elearning.uwf.edu/index.cfm?). You are required to have consistent access to the Internet. Taking an online course may be a very different environment for most of you. You are expected to set your own schedules, participate in online class activities at your convenience, and satisfy other course requirements at your own pace. You may want to make sure that you spend substantial amount of time during the first few weeks to become familiar to the online class format. You are expected to spend a minimum of 12 hours per week for weekly reading assignments, online lessons and discussions on weekly topics.

Special Technology Requirements:
Students are required to have a certain level of word processing skills, email interactions with file attachments, uploading/downloading internet files, as well as utilizing Adobe Acrobat Reader and PowerPoint Viewer.

Course Topics and Student Learning Outcomes

Main course topics include:
1. Levels of Analysis and the History of State Systems  
2. Three Theoretical Perspectives: Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism  
3. Theories of War and Peace  
4. International Institutions and Cooperation  
5. International Political Economy
6. Foreign Policy

At the end of the course, student will be able to:
1. Comprehend historical and philosophical foundations of the discipline
2. Articulate major theoretical perspectives in international relations
3. Apply the theories to different areas of inter-state interactions
4. Relate theoretical perspectives to current international issues

Required Texts:
We have two required textbooks.


Additional required readings are posted on e-learning.

Students also are required to read at least one daily newspaper or weekly review, such as the New York Times, Financial Times, or the Washington Post.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Apart from reading the required texts, course requirements include a 5-page review essay, 4 position papers, and two in-class exams.

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<tr>
<th>Grading Scheme</th>
<th>5-page Review Essay</th>
<th>4 Position Papers</th>
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4 Position Papers (20%): You will write four one-page position papers on specific international issues given to you throughout the semester (300 words, one page, Times Roman, with font 12). Specific topics and guidelines will be posted on e-learning.

Submission Deadlines:
Position Paper 1: January 30
Position Paper 2: March 12  
Position Paper 3: April 2  
Position Paper 4: April 16

**Two In-class Exams:** Each exam includes multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. Study guides will be posted on e-learning one week before the exams. There will be no make-up except for a legitimate reason with a proven document. **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO COME TO CAMPUS TO TAKE THE EXAMS.**

- **Exam I:** February 27 (9-10:15am or 4-5:15pm)  
- **Exam II:** April 26 (9-10:15am or 4-5:15pm)  
  There is No Final Exam (5-page review essay will replace it).

**Academic Integrity:**
All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be punished severely. Failure to provide proper information on words, concepts, and opinions borrowed from other works constitute plagiarism. The author of any plagiarized review essay or exam answer will receive an automatic “F” for the class and will be reported to the University authorities. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, consult University documents and regulations: (http://library.uwf.edu/Research/OnlineTutorials/Plagiarism/)

**Assistance:** Students who need special accommodations for class attendance and exams need to contact the professor during the first week of the semester. Students with special needs who require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact Barbara Fitzpatrick, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS), dss@uwf.edu, (850) 474-2387. DSS will provide the student with a letter for the instructor that will specify any recommended accommodations.

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**Course Schedule and Reading**

I. **INTRODUCTION** (January 9 - 15)  
   1. What is International Relations?  
   2. What Nations Pursue  
   **Read:** Jackson & Sorensen, pp. 1-27.

II. **HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS** (January 16 – 22)  
   1. Inter-Paradigm Debates  
   2. History of State Systems  
   **Read:** Jackson & Sorensen, pp. 28-57

III. **THREE THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES**  
   1. Realism (January 23 – February 5)
Read: Jackson & Sorensen, pp. 58-94
Hans J. Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Realism.” (e-learning)
Co., pp. 29-54. (e-learning)

January 30: Position Paper 1

2. Liberalism (February 6 – 13)
Read: Jackson & Sorensen, pp. 95-126
Russett, Bruce. 1993. Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post-Cold
Doyle, Michael. 1986. “Liberalism and World Politics.” American Political
Science Review 84: 4, pp. 1151-1169. (e-learning)

3. Constructivism (February 14 – 20)
Read: Jackson & Sorensen, pp. 161-177
(e-learning)

February 27: Exam I

IV. Hegemonic Stability (February 28 – March 11)
1. Balance of Power vs. Hegemony
2. Power Transition & War
Read: Jackson & Sorensen, pp. 84-86
World Politics 28: 3.

V. Security Alliances (March 12 – 18)
1. Theories of Alliance
2. Alliances in Practice
International Security 9: 4, pp. 3-43. (e-learning)
Christensen, Thomas and Jack Snyder. 1990. “Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks:
Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity.” International Organization 44.

March 12: Position Paper 2

March 18 – 25: Spring Break

VI. International Institutions (March 26 – April 1)
1. Theories of International Institutions
2. IGOs and NGOs
Read: Jackson & Sorensen, pp. 105-108

VII. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (April 2 – 8)
1. Three Theoretical Approaches
2. Globalization and Its Outcomes
Read: Jackson & Sorensen, pp. 181-224

April 2: Position Paper 3

VIII. FOREIGN POLICY (April 9 – 22)
1. Theories of Foreign Policy
2. American Foreign Policy
Read: Jackson & Sorensen, pp. 222-247

April 16: Position Paper 4

April 26: Final Exam

April 30: 5-page Review Essay Submission