

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

INR 2002—Introduction to International Relations—Summer 2012
Monday through Friday, 12:30 pm to 1:45 pm

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Thursday, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm (or by appointment made via email)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the theories and principles that shape international relations, relying on examples drawn from history and contemporary world politics. Some of the fundamental questions we will examine include: Why do wars occur? How, if at all, can conflict be avoided? What is the role of international trade? How do countries address concerns associated with terrorism, human rights and the global environment?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course this you will:

- Apply a scientific approach to analyze issues in world politics;
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of various theories and their application to the real world;
- Contribute in an educated manner to the debates in contemporary international relations;
- Do a lot of reading, thinking, and discussing.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Kinsella, David, Russett, Bruce, and Starr, Harvey. 2010. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*, 10th ed. Canada: Wadsworth. (Referred to as “KRS”.)
- Additional readings will be required throughout the semester, but I will make them available via the course Blackboard website. Readings denoted with a * can be found on BB.

BLACKBOARD

This course is supported by a Blackboard (“BB”) website. I have posted the syllabus online and will post lecture outlines, course readings, and other course documents throughout the semester. Additionally, I can be contacted via e-mail through the Blackboard course site.

COURSE EVALUATION, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXPECTATIONS

Final grades will be based on the following scale:

Percent	Letter Grade	Percent	Letter Grade	Percent	Letter Grade
93 - 100	A	80 - 82	B-	67 - 69	D+
90 - 92	A-	77 - 80	C+	63 - 66	D
87 - 89	B+	73 - 76	C	60 - 62	D-
83 - 86	B	70 - 72	C-	0 - 59	F

Your individual grade will be calculated based on the following assignments:

Mid-Term Exam	120 points	30%
Final Exam	160 points	40%
Position Paper	80 points	20%
Attendance and Participation	40 points	10%
Total	400 points	100%

* Additional notes on grades. Final grade percentages and grades for individual assignments ending with a decimal .5 or higher will be rounded to the nearest whole number. Any grade less than .5 will be rounded down to the nearest whole number.

** If you have a specific question regarding the grade you receive on an assignment, I am happy to discuss that with you. However, you should e-mail me to set up an appointment and include in the e-mail the basis for your question and an explanation for why the grade should be changed.

*** Extra Credit. There are two ways in which you can obtain extra credit in this course. First, both the Mid-Term and the Final Exams will have bonus questions that relate to current events. Because we cannot have a discussion on those days, you are not required to submit current events questions on those Thursdays. However, you are encouraged to pay attention to the news as I will ask very simple questions that you will be able to answer based on even a cursory knowledge of the news. The second manner in which you can obtain extra credit relates to the daily, required readings. Specific information will be distributed on the first Friday of class.

Exams: There will be two multiple-choice exams this semester. Each will be cumulative in scope, but you can expect that the Final Exam will focus more on material covered in the second half of the semester. Exam questions will draw upon information from the required readings, class lectures, and class discussions. The dates for each exam are provided in Class Schedule, which can be found below.

Position Papers: You will be assigned a country to represent in a United Nations conference simulation. While we will not run the actual simulation, you are required to submit a **three page, double-spaced paper** explaining your country's views on a topic that I will announce later in the semester. I will also announce the due date and provide additional details on the assignment in the next few weeks.

Attendance and Participation: The University Attendance Policy states: "Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness."

My own policy is similar. Attendance is expected. Because material on both the Mid-Term Exam and Final Exam will be taken from class lecture and discussion, you should not expect to do well on either if you do not come to class. Additionally, while I will post slides from each lecture, those slides will not contain all of the information presented in class. They are meant to provide the main ideas for each lecture, and you are encouraged to use them to help take notes in class. To make sure that you are reading, I reserve the right to administer random quizzes based on the day's reading.

I also expect you take an active role in classroom discussion. Every Friday we will spend part of the class having a current events discussion that will require you to follow the

news throughout the week. To facilitate this you are required to submit **two** written questions to me by 5:00 pm every Thursday. Your questions should be well thought out and well written. You should be prepared to answer and discuss your questions with the class, as I will use your questions as the starting point for discussion and will call on students as necessary. I will provide examples of both acceptable and unacceptable questions in the first week of class.

CLASSROOM POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Make up examinations are given only with prior instructor approval and/or appropriate documentation of a medical or family emergency. Please notify me as soon as you know that you cannot attend either of the scheduled exams so alternate arrangements can be made.
2. All written assignments (Position Paper and weekly questions) must be electronically submitted by 5:00 pm on the date they are due. Assignments not submitted by that deadline will be immediately penalized **ten points** and you will lose an additional **ten points** every day until the assignment is received.
3. As a courtesy to the class, cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off or set to silent/vibrate before class begins and put away. Failure to do so will result in a deduction in your Attendance and Participation grade. Additionally, while you are free to use a laptop to take notes in class, I expect that their use will be limited to that purpose. If I become aware that you are using your computer for reasons other than to enhance classroom learning, your Attendance and Participation grade will suffer.
4. The classroom is a place for mutual respect. You are all adults, and I will treat you as such. However, that also means that I expect certain things from you. While I anticipate healthy debate and discussion over the course of the semester, comments and questions must be respectful of diverse viewpoints and should be designed to advance the discussion as it relates to the class and course material. Personal attacks (i.e. those aimed at another person's appearance, demeanor, political beliefs, etc.) will not be tolerated. Likewise, repeated classroom disruptions such as interrupting each other while speaking or coming into class late and/or leaving early are disrespectful to the entire class. If such behavior becomes an issue, your Attendance and Participation grade will be lowered.

5. **Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated.** The University's Academic Honor Policy is as follows: the Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

I expect students to bring possible violations of this honor code to my attention. Violations of the honor code, including cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the University and otherwise dealt with at my discretion, consistent with FSU guidelines.

6. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC); and (2) bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This must be done within the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

7. **Syllabus Change Policy** Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

8. You are expected to complete the following reading assignments before the date on which they are listed:

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1		Readings
May 14 th	Introduction to Course and Syllabus Review	None
May 15 th	What is International Relations?	KRS Ch. 3, pp. 43-66
May 16 th	The Tools of Political Science: Theories and Analysis	KRS Ch. 1, pp. 3-20 KRS Ch. 2 , pp. 28-39
May 17 th	An Introduction to the “-isms”	KRS Ch. 2, pp. 21-28 * Thucydides “The Melian Dialogue.” * Carr, E.H. “Realism and Idealism.”
May 18 th	Current Events Discussion; Structure, Polarity, and World Wars	* RSK, 8 th edition “The World System,” pp. 73-101.
Week 2		
May 21 st	Structure and Polarity, Cont’d; Relations Between the States	KRS Ch. 4, pp. 67-97.
May 22 nd	Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy	KRS Ch. 5, pp. 99-127.

May 23 rd	Individual Decision Making	KRS Ch. 6, pp. 129-155.
May 24 th	Making Foreign Policy	* Allison, Graham. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis."
May 25 th	Current Events Discussion; Why do States Fight?	KRS Ch. 7, pp. 159-174.
Week 3		
May 28 st	Memorial Day (no class)	None
May 29 nd	Why States Fight, cont'd	KRS Ch. 8, pp. 191-225.
May 30 rd	Rationalist Explanations of War	* Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." <i>International Organization</i> , 49: 379-414.
May 31 st	Mid-Term Examination	None
June 1 st	Taking it Easy; Review of Ideas From First Half	Movie, <i>Thirteen Days</i>
Week 4		
June 4 th	Unconventional Conflict: Civil War and Terrorism	KRS Ch., pp. 175-190.
June 5 th	Terrorism	* Crenshaw, Martha. 1981. "The Causes of Terrorism."

		* Crenshaw, Martha. 2002. "The Logic of Terrorism Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Strategic Choice."
June 6 th	International Law and Norms	KRS Ch. 9, pp. 227-255.
June 7 th	International Cooperation and International Organizations	KRS Ch. 10, pp 257-286.
June 8 th	Current Evens Discussion; The Democratic Peace	* RSK, 8 th edition "Causes of Peace and Non-Violent Transformation," pp. 308-339.
Week 5		
June 11 th	Interdependence and International Trade	KRS Ch. 11, pp. 292-3119.
June 12 th	International Financial and Monetary Relations	TBD
June 13 th	Regionalization or Globalization?	KRS Ch. 12, pp. 321-353
June 14 th	Development: Causes of Wealth and Poverty	KRS Ch. 13, pp. 355-388
June 15 th	Current Events, Discussion; Economics of Defense	* RSK, 8 th edition "Political Economy of National Security and Defense," pp. 346-376.

Week 6		
June 18 th	Collective Goods and the Environment	KRS Ch. 14, pp. 393-428
June 19 th	Special Topic, TBA	TBD
June 20 th	Where Do We Go From Here?	KRS Ch. 15, pp. 429-436
June 21 st	Summing up and Final Exam Review	None
June 22 nd	Final Exam	None