

Spring 2013
INR2001, Honors Section 072G
MWF 9:35-10:25
32 AND

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"So our state will be ruled by minds which are awake, and not as now by men in a dream fighting with one another over shadows and for the power and office which in their eyes are the great good."

Plato, THE REPUBLIC

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Images broadcast daily by global news sources and events such as terrorist attacks, wars, and famines around the world confirm that the global arena presents a bewildering array of challenges to national and international leaders and ordinary citizens. Is there is some rhyme or reason behind such disparate factors as global terrorism, nuclear weapons proliferation, human trafficking, the activities of the Red Cross and transnational corporations, student exchange programs, and the internet? This course presents theories, frameworks, and concepts as well as empirical information to facilitate your understanding of the major actors, structures and processes of past and contemporary international relations. The topics to be discussed include:

- * Theorizing about international relations
- * Major structural configurations---the global political and economic systems
- * The powerful/rich/few states and the weak/poor many
- * Challenges to security
- * Potential avenues to security

TEXTBOOK

Kegley, Charles W., Jr. and Shannon L. Blanton. 2012-13. *WORLD POLITICS*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

You are encouraged to regularly access a credible source of international news such as the *NEW YORK TIMES*, *THE LONDON TIMES*, *THE ECONOMIST*, etc. If you are proficient in or studying a non-English language, you will want to read the most reputable source of news in that language. The assigned textbook readings will expand your understanding of the lectures and enable you to derive full benefit from the classroom discussion. You will also find that a good atlas will be an invaluable aid to identifying countries and regions mentioned in the readings and lectures.

COURSE EVALUATION

Your grade in INR2001 will derive from three examinations (25% each), and your participation on a "Controversy" assignment (25%). The first two exams will be essay in format and (given exam week time constraints) the final exam multiple choice in format; all will potentially draw upon material from class lectures, assigned readings, and "Controversy" assignments. Map-related and current event questions will also be included in Exam 3. Exams 1 and 2 will be administered on **February 1 and March 1**, respectively. Exam 3 will be administered on Friday, **May 3, 7:30-9:30 am** in our regular classroom. Exams must be taken as scheduled unless documentation is provided of exceptional circumstances like medical problems, legal obligations, UF-related educational or sports events, or religious observances. The Grading Scale is as follows: 90-92 = A-, 93-100 = A; 80-82 = B-, 83-86 = B, 87-89 = B+.... If you require special in-class or testing accommodations, please consult with the Disability Resource Center for information concerning your rights and responsibilities, and then submit the relevant paperwork to me as soon as possible.

"CONTROVERSY" ASSIGNMENT

I have become increasingly concerned that students (and people in general) lack the skills and willingness to listen, undertake high-quality research, and understand complex arguments and others' points of view. You will be divided into teams to do research on controversial questions raised in the Kegley textbook, identify credible evidence and arguments on all sides of the controversy, and participate in a fairly structured exercise to demonstrate your skills and understanding. A list of at least 5 peer-reviewed journal articles you consulted to prepare for this assignment is due in class (in hardcopy) one week before your scheduled participation (for 10% of this assignment's credit). This assignment will be explained in more detail after the drop-add period.

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

DATES	DISCUSSION TOPICS	READING ASSIGNMENTS
1/7	Course introduction	
1/9-18	Theorizing about international relations	Kegley, chs 1-3 Peer-reviewed articles on pp. 20 and 82
Monday 1/21	NO CLASS – Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday	
1/23-30	The global political system	
Friday 2/1	EXAM 1	
2/4-13	The global economic system	Kegley, chs 10-12 Peer-reviewed articles on pp. 355, 390, and 420
2/15	CONTROVERSY I “Is globalization helpful or harmful?” (see Kegley p. 416)	
2/18-27	The rich/powerful/few	Kegley, ch 4 Peer-reviewed articles on p. 115
Friday 3/1	EXAM 2	
3/4-8	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
3/11-22	The weak/poor many	Kegley, ch 5 Peer-reviewed articles on p. 145
3/25	CONTROVERSY II “What model provides the surest path to sustainable development?” (See Kegley, p. 131)	
4/1-10	Security challenges	Kegley, chs 7-8, 14 Peer-review articles on pp. 233, 277, & 489
Friday 4/5	NO CLASS - PROFESSOR PRESENTING PAPER IN SAN FRANCISCO	
4/12	CONTROVERSY III “Can the war against global terrorism be ‘won’?” (see Kegley, p. 230)	
4/15-19	Avenues to Security	Kegley, chs 6, 9, 13, 15 Peer-reviewed articles on pp. 193, 453 and 508
4/22	CONTROVERSY IV “Can women improve global negotiations and the prospects for world peace?” (See Kegley 320)	
4/24	Discussion of Exam 3	
Friday 5/3 7:30-9:30 am	EXAM 3 in our regular classroom	

