INR 1015.521—World Perspective (3 Credit Hours)
ONLINE COURSE
Spring 2014

Instructor: BLEDAR PRIFTI
Classroom: N/A
Office: N/A
Office Hours: Online at any time by appointment
Contact: Via Canvas

Welcome to World Perspective!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

World Perspective is an introductory course in the study of world politics. This course will equip you with knowledge and skills about the concepts, ideas, and analytical tools necessary to understand the actions and relationships among different state and nonstate actors in the global arena. In this course, we will look at the major concerns, issues, and actors that characterize world politics. In addition, we will examine various theoretical explanations, such as realism, liberalism, and constructivism. We will use these theories to address some of the most pressing questions in world politics. Major topics analyzed in this course include war, cooperation, international law, political economy, terrorism, human rights, and the forms of conflict that characterize the global system of politics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Ideally, students will leave this course being able to:

1. Define the basic concepts of world politics
2. Demonstrate an understanding of various theories of world politics and how they apply to current and past political events.
3. Discuss the role of the state and nonstate actors in world politics
4. Identify the issues that concern world politics today and how they shape the foreign policy decisions of states
5. Explain security issues and major causes of conflict in the world

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGIES

The course will be a combination of class discussion (participation required), exams, research project, videos, etc.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Also, given the subject matter of this course, I expect you to be familiar with current events. You should regularly read a quality national newspaper, such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, or similar newspapers. They are available online, free of charge.

**CANVAS USE:**

This is an online course, and every material is available in Canvas. In addition, Canvas will be used for any type of communication, including but not limited to class lecture and discussion. Please feel free to contact me at any time whenever you have a need. Information on how to use Canvas is available at: [http://usfsm.edu/information-commons/instructional-support/](http://usfsm.edu/information-commons/instructional-support/)

**PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE:**

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows student assignments be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to ask students to submit their assignments to *Turnitin* through Canvas. Assignments are compared automatically with a database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student’s paper was plagiarized.

PLEASE REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE BODY OF YOUR PAPER AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR USF ID#. ALSO REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE FILE NAME AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR USF ID# (e.g., “U12345678 Essay 1.docx”) BEFORE SUBMITTING IT TO TURNITIN.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students are requested to maintain confidentiality as a way to keep their personal contact information (i.e. name, address, telephone) from being disclosed to vendors or other outside agencies. By your submission, you are also agreeing to release your original work for review for academic purposes to *Turnitin*.

**INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS:**

*Respect is paramount!* Courtesy towards the instructor and class members is expected at all times. Students are expected to participate in class discussions and complete all assignments on time.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Your grade will be determined by a combination of a research paper, exams, and class discussion. You will have two exams during the term, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

1. **Research Paper**

You are required to write a research paper about a specific issue related to world politics. The paper should follow a traditional essay structure, comprising introduction, body, and conclusion paragraphs. It must have an introduction paragraph with the last sentence clearly stating the issue to be discussed throughout the paper. Also, each body paragraph should have a secondary thesis statement supporting the main thesis statement of the paper. Finally, the concluding paragraph should discuss your findings and incorporate your critical thinking approach about the issue.
Research Paper Format

The research paper should be no less than eight but no more than ten double-spaced pages in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, with 1-inch margins, and no extra spacing or use of bold. You are allowed to use your favorite writing style; however, you should be consistent throughout the paper.

The research paper is worth 20% toward your final grade. Due date for the research paper is July 13th, 2014. No later papers will be accepted!

2. Exams

There will be two exams; one given halfway through the class, the Mid-Term Exam (20% of the grade), and the second given at the end of the class, the Final Exam (35% of the final grade). The Mid-Term Exam is scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 19th, 2014 and the Final Exam on Thursday, July 17th, 2014. Each exam will be taken on campus at USF Sarasota. You will have two hour to take each exam. Each test will be comprised of fifty questions. The majority of questions will be multiple-choice and a few will require writing down the answer. All questions will be based on the readings and related discussions we hold in Canvas.

The Mid-Term Exam is worth 20% toward the final grade and the Final Exam is worth 35% toward the final grade.

Make-up exams will be available ONLY to those with documented emergencies! Make-up exams may vary substantially in form from regularly scheduled exams.

3. Discussion

As an on-line course, we will not be meeting in a classroom for lectures and discussions of the readings. Instead, we will make use of the online tool Canvas by setting up a series of postings that are designed to replicate the discussion we would have were we to meet in a classroom.

You are required to participate in weekly discussion. I will post a set of questions based on the assigned weekly readings, and each student is required to respond to two of my questions as well as to one other student’s response. I will follow-up periodically with some comments throughout the course session.

IMPORTANT: Your responses should be substantive in nature; a simple “I agree” will not suffice. Responses to each of my questions and a peer’s posting must be in at least 200 words. I encourage students to bring in knowledge from other classes, outside readings and personal experiences. This portion of your grade will largely reflect the quality of your postings.

Discussion is worth 25% toward your final grade. Each weekly discussion will have its own grade weight. Week 13 will be worth 1 (one) point while the rest of the weekly discussions will be worth 2 (two) points each, totaling 25 points (25%). In weeks that are worth 2 points, 1.5 points will be given for responding to my questions and 0.5 points will be given for responding to a classmate’s posting. In Weeks 13, you will receive 1 (one) point for responding to one of my questions.
Your postings should demonstrate to me that you have both engaged and critically thought about the readings. All responses to my questions must be made within the first five days of the assigned weekly discussion. The response to a fellow student’s posting must be made within the week of the assigned discussion.

GRADING
The grading is weighted as follows:
1. Class Discussion: 25% of the final course grade
2. Mid-term Exam: 20% of the final course grade
3. Final Exam: 35% of the final course grade
4. Research Paper: 20% of the final course grade
5. TOTAL: 100%

GRADING SCALE:
Your final grade will correspond to the grade scale below:
97.5-100 = A+
92.5-97.49 = A
89.5-92.49 = A-
87.5-89.49 = B+
82.5-87.49 = B
79.5-82.49 = B-
77.5-79.49 = C+
72.5-77.49 = C
69.5-72.49 = C-
67.5-69.49 = D+
62.5-67.49 = D
59.5-62.49 = D-
0-59.49 = F

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
This is an online course and attendance is measured and evaluated based on your participation in weekly discussions. I expect you to participate in every week. Discussion counts for 25% toward your final course grade.

FINAL GRADES:
Final course grades are just that—final. The grade you receive is a function of the effort you put forth in this class. Do the readings, participate in weekly discussions, put in the time, and you will be fine.

USFSM AND USF SYSTEM POLICIES:

A. Academic Dishonesty: The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university’s policy in the catalog, USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog, the USF System Academic Integrity of Students, and the USF System Student Code of Conduct.

B. Academic Disruption: The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the catalog: USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM
C. Contingency Plans: In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule.

It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency. See the Safety Preparedness Website for further information.

D. Disabilities Accommodation: Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Disability Coordinator, 941-359-4714, disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu, http://www.usfsm.edu/students/disability/

E. Fire Alarm Instructions: At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated. See Emergency Evacuation Procedures.


G. Religious Observances: USFSM recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes. Instructors canceling class for a religious observance should have this stated in the syllabus with an appropriate alternative assignment.

H. Web Portal Information: Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and Canvas course information via that address.

I. Instructor Copyright: Students may not sell notes or other course materials.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Course Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (08/25-08/31)</td>
<td>Course Introduction &amp; Ch. 1: Thinking and Caring About World Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Deadline to drop via OASIS by 5PM &amp; receive full refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (09/01-09/07)</td>
<td>Ch. 2: The Evolution of World Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 (09/08-09/14)</td>
<td>Ch. 3: Levels of Analysis and Foreign Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 (09/15-09/21)</td>
<td>Ch. 4: Nationalism: The Traditional Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 (09/22-09/28)</td>
<td>Ch. 5: Globalization: The Alternative Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 (09/29-10/05)</td>
<td>Ch. 6: Power, Statecraft, and the National State…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 (10/06-10/12)</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam (Chs. 1-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 (10/13-10/19)</td>
<td>Ch. 7: Intergovernmental Organizations: Alternative Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 (10/20-10/26)</td>
<td>Ch. 8: International Law and Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 (10/27-11/02)</td>
<td>Ch. 9: Pursuing Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11 (11/03-11/09)</td>
<td>Ch. 10: National Economic Competition: The Traditional Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12 (11/10-11/16)</td>
<td>Ch. 11: International Economics: The Alternative Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13 (11/17-11/23)</td>
<td>Ch. 12: Preserving and Enhancing the Biosphere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14 (11/24-11/30)</td>
<td>Graded Review Discussion for the Final Exam (Chs. 1, 3-5, 7-11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15 (12/01-12/07)</td>
<td>Ungraded Review Discussion for Final Exam (Chs. 1, 3-5, 7-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15 (12/01-12/07)</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM WEEK (Chs. 1, 3-5, 7-12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>