PSCI 2300
Introduction to International Relations

Instructor: Dr. Mark Mullenbach

Affiliation: Department of Political Science, University of Central Arkansas

Email Address: markm@uca.edu

Course Dates: Monday, June 3, 2019 to Friday, July 5, 2019

Virtual Office Hours: Sunday through Thursday evenings, 8:00pm-10:00pm

Course Overview:

This is an introductory political science course designed to familiarize students with the field of International Relations (IR). The course primarily focuses on the behaviors and interactions of state and non-state actors in the international system in the areas of international security, economic security, and human security. In addition to providing students with important critical thinking, communication, research, and writing skills.

The course is part of the Critical Inquiry [I] component of the UCA Lower-Division Core. Critical Inquiry courses promote the ability to analyze new problems and situations to formulate opinions and conclusions. This UCA Core course will be assessed through an assessment examination (50-question multiple-choice examination) and a writing assignment. For more information, go to http://uca.edu/core. The course is also a required core course for students majoring or minoring in Political Science or International Studies and is a prerequisite for all upper-division Political Sciences courses in the field of IR.

Required Textbook:


Grades:

Discussion Forums (ten points per discussion forum) – 100 points
Writing Assignment – 100 points (20 points for rough drafts and 80 points for final version)
Examinations (50 points per exam) - 200 points

Total Points – 400 points

Students must earn at least 90 percent of the total points (360) to get an A in the course; 80 percent of the total points (320) to get a B in the course; 70 percent of the total points (280) to get a C in the course; and 60 percent of the total points (240) to get a D in the course.
Discussion Forums:

Twelve of the modules in this course include a discussion forum on the course’s Blackboard site, most of which require students to watch a short video and post a written response to a discussion prompt. Students are required to participate in 10 of the 12 discussion forums during the summer session. Students may choose to participate in any 10 of the discussion forums. Students may earn up to ten points in each discussion forum, including five points for responding to the discussion prompt and five points for posting a question regarding another student’s response prior to the deadline. Participation in the discussion forums is evaluated on the basis of the discussion forum scoring rubric. Students may earn up to a total of 100 points in the discussion forums.

Extra Credit Points:

Students who participate in more than 10 discussions forums during the summer session may earn up to 10 extra credit points for each additional forum (maximum of 20 extra credit points). Any extra credit points earned for participating in additional discussion forums will only be posted in the "Extra Credit Points" column in My Grades on Blackboard. Extra credit points will not be calculated as part of the "Total Points" or "Total Percentage" in My Grades on Blackboard, but extra credit points will be considered when calculating the Final Grade.

Writing Assignment:

Students are required to write a paper on the question: **Should the international community implement a global ban on nuclear weapons?** The paper should be at least 10 to 15 pages, not including the cover page (title of the paper, student name, course name, and date) and references page (list of sources cited in the paper). None of the information required on the cover page should be included on any other page of the paper. The paper should be double-spaced (2.0), Times New Roman 12 pt. font, and one inch margins on all sides (top, bottom, left, and right). Make sure to check the line-spacing, font type and size, and margins on your document before submitting the final version of the paper at the end of the summer session. Other paper guidelines are listed below. Rough drafts of the first four sections of the paper are due on Mondays during the summer session. The final version of the paper is due on the last day of the summer session. The paper is worth up to 100 points, including 20 points for the rough drafts and 80 points for the final version. The papers are evaluated on the basis of the writing assignment scoring rubric. The paper should include the following five sections, each of which should be clearly labeled in the paper:

I. Introduction (1 to 2 pages) - An introductory paragraph(s) about the topic of the paper, including background information pertaining to the proposed global ban on nuclear weapons.

II. Literature Review (2 to 3 pages) - A review or summary of three or more scholarly or academic articles on the proposed global ban on nuclear weapons.

III. Arguments (3 to 4 pages) - An explanation of at least two different positions held by scholars, government officials, and/or public policy experts regarding the proposed global ban on nuclear weapons. What are the positions and what is the logic or evidence supporting each of the positions?

IV. Critical Analysis (3 to 4 pages) - Your critique of the different positions held by scholars, government officials, and/or public policy experts about the proposed global ban on nuclear weapons, as well as an explanation of your personal position on the proposed global ban on nuclear weapons. What is your position on the topic and why do you hold that position?

V. Conclusion (1 to 2 pages) - Final thoughts about the topic of the paper.
Paper Guidelines:

1. **Quotations** – Students may not insert quoted sentences or paragraphs (including block quotes) from sources into their papers. The only permissible quotations are those sentences or words that are directly attributed to a person. All attributed quotations in the paper, which must be properly cited, should be limited to a sentence or a partial sentence. Quotations of a person that are more than one sentence long are not permitted in the paper.

2. **Sources**: Students should use at least five academic sources of information, including scholarly articles and books, organization briefing reports, and government documents that are publicly available. Additional sources of information, including news articles published by professional media organizations, may be cited in the paper but are not included in the minimum of five academic sources. Sources may only be used if they have an identifiable author (e.g. John Smith) or organization (e.g. United Nations) and a publication date (e.g. December 15, 2015). Examples of sources, which you are free to use, are located at the "Sources" tab located on the left-hand column of the Blackboard site.

3. **Citations** – All references to sources of information should be properly cited at the end of the sentence or paragraph in which the reference is made. There is no specific citation format (e.g. MLA) that is required in the paper. Citations may be footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical citations. Parenthetical citations should only contain the author’s last name or the name of an organization and the year in which the source was published (e.g. Smith, 2005 or UN News Centre, June 15, 2015). A parenthetical citation should also contain a page number(s) if the sentence includes an attributed quotation. For parenthetical citations, the full bibliographic information (the author’s full name, the title of the article or document, the name of the publication or organization, and the date or year in which the article or document was published) should be provided on the references page at the end of the paper.

4. **Plagiarism**: Students will receive zero [0] points if any one or more sentences in the paper are copied-and-pasted from the Internet or any other location. Students will also receive zero [0] points if the paper contains sentences that are largely copied from a source with some of the words changed.

5. **Proof-Reading** – All papers should be proof-read for writing errors by the student and/or someone else prior to submitting it to the instructor.

Examinations:

At the end of each of the four parts of the course, there will be a 50-question, multiple-choice examination. The examinations are scheduled on four different days during the summer session (see schedule below). Students will be given one hour to complete each of the four examinations on Blackboard. Students are permitted to use their notes and textbook during the examinations. Each of the examinations is worth up to 50 points.

**Assessment Examination**

On the last day of the summer session, students will also be asked to complete a 25-question, multiple-choice assessment examination for the UCA Lower-Division Core (Critical Inquiry). This examination is for assessment purposes only and will not negatively impact a student’s final grade in the course. Students who correctly answer at least 80 percent of the questions will receive five [5] extra credit points.
### Academic Integrity:

The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university’s Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the UCA Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the *UCA Student Handbook*. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student’s acceptance of this university policy.

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need an accommodation under the ADA due to a disability, please contact the UCA Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 450-3613.

### Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972:

If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to “student on student” or “employee on student”), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator at the University of Central Arkansas. For further information, please see: [http://uca.edu/titleix](http://uca.edu/titleix).
Course Schedule

Part I – Concepts and Theories in International Relations:

Module 1 (Monday, June 3, 2019 and Tuesday, June 4, 2019) – Introduction to the Study of International Relations.

- Read Chapter 1 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 2-19).
- Review presentation #1 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #1 on Blackboard. Note: Students are scored for participation in 10 of the 12 discussion forums during the summer session. Students may choose any 10 of the discussion forums in which to participate.

Module 2 (Wednesday, June 5, 2019 and Thursday, June 6, 2019) – The Modern International Political System.

- Read Chapter 2 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 22-56).
- Review presentation #2 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #2 on Blackboard.

Module 3 (Friday, June 7, 2019) – The Main Theoretical Approaches in the Study of International Relations.

- Read Chapter 3 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 58-89).
- Review presentation #3 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #3 on Blackboard.

Module 4 (Monday, June 10, 2019) – Alternative Theoretical Approaches in the Study of International Relations.

- Read Chapter 4 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 90-120).
- Review presentation #4 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #4 on Blackboard.
- Submit rough draft of Introduction section of the writing assignment.
- Prepare for examination #1.

Examination #1 – Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Part II – International Security:

Module 5 (Wednesday, June 12, 2019 and Thursday, June 13, 2019) – International Conflict, War, and Terrorism.

- Read Chapter 5 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 122-154).
- Review presentation #5 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #5 on Blackboard.
Module 6 (Friday, June 14, 2019) – International Security and Military Force.
- Read Chapter 6 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 156-192).
- Review presentation #6 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #6 on Blackboard.

Module 7 (Monday, June 17, 2019 and Tuesday, June 18, 2019) – International Law and Organizations.
- Read Chapter 7 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 194-228).
- Review presentation #7 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #7 on Blackboard.
- Submit rough draft of Literature Review section of the writing assignment.
- Prepare for examination #2.

Examination #2 – Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Part III – Economic Security:

Module 8 (Thursday, June 20, 2019 and Friday, June 21, 2019) – International Trade, Finance, and Economic Integration.
- Read Chapter 8 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 230-260).
- Review presentation #8 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #8 on Blackboard.

- Read Chapter 9 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 262-292).
- Review presentation #9 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #9 on Blackboard.
- Submit rough draft of Arguments section of the writing assignment.

- Read Chapter 10 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 294-325).
- Review presentation #10 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #10 on Blackboard.
- Prepare for examination #3.

Examination #3 – Thursday, June 27, 2019
Part IV – Human Security:


- Read Chapter 11 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 328-359).
- Review presentation #11 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #11 on Blackboard.

Module 12 (Monday, July 1, 2019 and Tuesday, July 2, 2019) – The Global Environment

- Read Chapter 12 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 360-388).
- Review presentation #12 posted on Blackboard.
- Participate in discussion forum #12 on Blackboard.
- Submit rough draft of Critical Analysis section of the writing assignment.


- Read Chapter 13 in the Scott et. al. textbook (pp. 390-412).
- Review presentation #13 posted on Blackboard.
- Prepare for examination #4.

Examination #4 – Friday, July 5, 2019

Assessment Examination – Friday, July 5, 2019

Writing Assignment (final version) due on Friday, July 5, 2019