

Florida International University

From the Selected Works of Dr. Lukas K. Danner

Fall 2017

Syllabus INR 3081 (U01): Contemporary International Problems (Fall 2017)

Lukas K Danner



Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/dannerlu/52/>



Contemporary International Problems
INR 3081 (U01)²
Fall 2017
A Global Learning Foundations Course

Course Information:

Meetings: Mon., Wed. (5:00—6:15 PM)
Classroom: Graham Center 287 B
Class no.: 92645

Instructor: Dr. Lukas K. Danner
Email: LDANNER@FIU.EDU
Office hours: Fri. from 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM (GL150)
with previous appointment

“As the world goes, right is only in question between equals in power,
while the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.”

Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War, V: 69

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to a range of contemporary international problems in the field of security studies. As this course can be taken without prerequisites, it covers traditional theories in security studies, as well as the more complex areas of international security, such as human security or environmental security. These theories and concepts will then be applied to parts surveying contemporary international problems, such as the rise of China or Iran’s nuclear program.

Course Introduction & Learning Objectives:

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools to understand different international problems and security dynamics. In this course students will:

1. Students will become aware of facts and concepts to explain contemporary international issues, with special attention to the interrelatedness of security across many policy areas and levels of governance. (*Global Awareness*)

¹ This course is an officially designated *Affordability Counts* course. This accomplishment confirms the instructor’s commitment to the FIU *Affordability Counts* program, lowering the cost of textbooks and course materials for students.

² Syllabus last updated on Monday, November 20, 2017.

³ This is a Global Learning Foundations course that counts towards your Global Learning graduation requirement.

2. Students will be able to present different theoretical perspectives to explain local, global, international, and intercultural problems and be able to evaluate the utility of these perspectives in solving global problems. (*Global Perspective*)
3. Students will utilize their knowledge and skills to make team-based solution-oriented arguments and prescriptions for contemporary international problems. (*Global Engagement*)
4. Students will improve their research and writing ability when formulating complex arguments.

General Organization:

To successfully accomplish the learning objectives listed above, the course is organized around four main sections. Part one, as a way of introduction, will familiarize students to the theories most common and relevant in security studies. Part two will introduce students to the more complex areas in security studies. And part three will highlight important contemporary international problems.

Course Requirements:

Class Preparation: In order for students to take full advantage of the class and make it more enjoyable for all, the required readings must be completed *before* each class meeting. Students are also encouraged to come to class with a set of questions that they may have encountered while preparing for the meetings, and to share them with the rest of the students at the appropriate moment. Class preparation should go both ways: as the instructor prepares the lectures and discussion sessions, every student must also dedicate, normally, about an hour of preparation prior to each class meeting. Otherwise, the instructor will sound like he is speaking an incomprehensible language. In short, prepare thoughtfully and thoroughly before each class meeting. As far as time spent reading, taking notes, revising notes, and the like, it is realistic to calculate with at least one hour preparatory work before class and at least one hour after class in order to be successful in this course.

General Class Participation & Attendance (together 10%): There is a difference between *tactical dilatory* “participation,” and *quality* participation. While normal, quality class participation is always welcome, blather and dilatory interventions are discouraged. For example, simply posing misinformed questions about the readings or the lecture—when clearly exhibiting an abject lack of proper class preparation or reading of the assigned texts—may actually end up working against, rather than in favor of, the student’s grade. In contrast, active, thoughtful, quality participation, demonstrating intimate and thoughtful familiarity with the assigned readings and class topics, is highly welcome, as it will certainly help students improve his/her overall final grade. For attendance requirements, see the course policies section.

Team-Based Learning Quizzes (30%): Team-Based Learning (TBL) Quizzes will consist out of students taking a quiz first individually, and thereafter students taking the same quiz in a group together. 65 percent of a student’s quiz grade will be determined by their individual quiz score, whereas 35 percent will be determined by their team quiz score. Students will be grouped into nine teams of exactly five students per team. This is done by the instructor on Wednesday, August 30, during a practice quiz run. Once a designated team, students will stay in the same team formation for the six TBL quizzes in class which run through the entirety of September, October and November every couple of classes. Subject of the quizzes will be the prior readings since the last TBL quiz. See the class schedule below to see which

topics/readings each of the TBL quizzes will be on. There will be seven (7) TBL quizzes in all (not including the practice TBL quiz), however, only the six (6) TBL quizzes with the highest scores will be counted toward each student's grade, each of which counts five (5) percent for a total of 30 percent of students' overall class grade. Since six out of seven TBL quizzes are the minimum needed, a student may miss one of the quizzes if need be. Should a student miss a quiz unexcused, it will count as 'zero.' Students missing a quiz with a valid, documented excuse may take a make-up quiz which may have different questions than the in-class quiz. Each TBL quiz has an allotted time of twenty (20) minutes, i.e., eight (8) minutes to take the quiz individually, and twelve (12) minutes to take it in the team.

Student Presentation of Current News ('News Briefing') (10%): Every student will individually present one or two pieces of news at one occasion in the semester. A list of assignments of students names to dates (by alphabet) will be circulated after the add-and-drop period is over, on Wednesday, August 30, 2017. The first students (usually one to three per session) will present Monday, September 18, 2017. It is the student's responsibility to be present at the assigned date and time (i.e., at the beginning of class), or else they will forfeit that part of their overall grade. Should there be scheduling conflicts with the assigned date on the circulated list, please let the instructor know ahead of time, so that you could be rescheduled. Part of the assignment is for the student to look for an appropriate piece of news that relates to international (relations) problems. Please stay on top of what is happening in the world of international (relations) problems by going through the news—political, economic, and social—on a regular, best be daily, basis—also when you are not about to present the news in class. This may be achieved by reading or visiting, especially the business/finance/economy sections of the freely on campus available *The New York Times* (<http://nytimes.com>), or other trusted media outlets like *The Economist* (<http://economist.com>), *Financial Times* (<http://ft.com>), *Spiegel Online International* (<http://spiegel.de/international/business/>), *BBC News* (<http://bbc.com>) or that of your personal choice. When choosing which news to present, please keep in mind that it should be recent, that is, it should not be over one week old at the time of presentation. Also, you should be able to relate it to our course, and you should make it clear during your presentation how exactly it is related to IR. Please check with the instructor one to two days before your assigned presentation date, if the news you have in mind is fitting via email or in person (this is also done to avoid the same news being presented twice in one or more sessions). The duration of one student's presentation should not exceed two to three minutes. Upon grading, your assigned grade will become available to you in FIU Blackboard's "My Grades" section. This will count for ten (10) percent of your class grade.

Co-Curricular Activity (10%): Students will be required to attend a co-curricular activity, event, museum exhibition visit, or the like during the course of the semester, but no later than November 19, 2017. The instructor will announce eligible activities for this assignment to students on a regular basis—the choice is the student's what in particular they would like to undertake. Whichever co-curricular activity is undertaken, a one (1)- to one-and-a-half (1.5)-page (300-450 words) report is required to be written by the student describing their co-curricular experience (summary), how they feel about it (personal opinion), and how it relates to this class (academic relevance). Submission is within one week of attending the co-curricular event, however, no later than the November 19th deadline (whichever comes first), through a *TurnItIn* dropbox link in the class's Blackboard. Late submissions will be subject to point penalties along the lines of -10 points (out of 100) per one day late (i.e., -20 points for two days late; -40 points for four days late, etc.). This assignment will count for ten (10) percent of your class grade.



Midterm & Final Exams (40%): There will be one (1) partial (midterm) exam during the semester, and one (1) comprehensive final exam during Final’s Week for a total of two (2) exams. Specific dates are listed below. Exams will include any or a combination of the following types of questions: identifications, factual short-answer questions, multiple-choice questions and essay questions. Students must take all exams, the midterm and the final in order to be able to pass this class. Make-up exams can only be granted, if a student has a valid and documented reason for not making the pre-set exam date; if you do miss an exam, you must make arrangements to make it up within ONE WEEK from the date of the scheduled exam. If you do not make up the exam within that time, you will receive a zero as a grade. The partial (midterm) exam counts fifteen (15) percent of the class grade, and the final comprehensive exam twenty-five (25) percent of the final grade—for a total forty (40) percent of your final grade. Relevant to the exams are anything learned during class lecture, all of the required assigned readings, videos watched in class, and PowerPoint presentations (excluding group presentations), if used for lecture. Also, there will be no supporting materials allowed during exam (i.e. no open books, no scrap paper, etc.). Your grades for this (and other) assignment will be available in Blackboard’s “My Grades.”

Final Grade Point Distribution and Schedule:

Attendance & Participation.....	10%
Team-Based Learning Quizzes (six out of seven ~ à 5% each; various dates; <i>see below</i>).....	30%
Midterm Exam, Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 5:00pm-6:15pm, GC287B.....	15%
Student News Briefings (September 18–December 6; <i>see schedule on Blackboard</i>).....	10%
Co-Curricular Activity Report (due by Nov. 19, 11:59pm via <i>Blackboard TurnItIn</i> dropbox).....	10%
Final Comprehensive Exam, Monday, December 11, 2017, 5:00pm-7:00pm, GC287B.....	25%
Total.....	100%

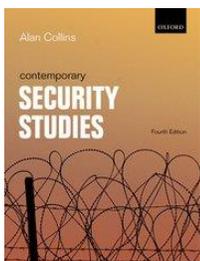
Grading System: The grading scale will follow FIU standards. Please note that less than a 60% average score is an automatic “F.”

No incomplete grade will be granted.

A: 95-100%	B: 83-86%	C: 70-76%
A-: 90-94%	B-: 80-82%	D: 60-69%
B+: 87-89%	C+: 77-79%	F: <60%

Readings: One textbook is required for this class (see below). Textbook readings *will not* be provided to students; I will assume you have bought or rented them. Other required reading assignments, if applicable, would be provided to students through FIU Blackboard. Suggested readings will not be provided and would be the student’s responsibility, if interested in reading more on the subject. Students will not be expected to have read the suggested, i.e. optional, readings. Should they have been discussed during class lecture, they will indirectly become relevant for examinations, though.

Purchasing Textbooks: Significant portions of the following book are assigned as required readings and will be available for purchase or rental through the FIU bookstore ([here](#)), or online:



- Alan Collins, (editor)
Contemporary Security Studies, **Fourth Edition**
 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).
 ISBN-13: 978-0-1987-08315 (New \$59; Used \$33; Rent \$13).

Keep in mind that readings complement lectures. Thus, readings will not be summarized in class and I will assume that you read them closely. Rather class sessions will be used to tease out important concepts from the assigned readings and discuss related issues.



The list of topics and readings is a general guideline or schedule. This is not a strict plan to cover at all cost. I establish my class pace based on the progress I sense from the class. Some topics may need additional coverage while others may need less. This is something that I cannot anticipate at the time of selecting the topics and readings for this course. Ultimately, the coverage of the syllabus depends on the nature and evolution of the class itself, not on the instructor's ability to rattle on material that is poorly understood by the majority of the students. My first and foremost priority is to make sure that *all* students progress uniformly when a serious effort is devoted to the class.

*At any time during the semester, the instructor may input changes to the present syllabus, as he deems necessary. The instructor reserves the right to change material on the syllabus, based on his estimation of the class caliber, comprehension, and progress. In case of any such changes, the instructor will notify the modifications in class.

Course Policies:

Excuse Policy for Attendance, Quizzes, Exams: If you miss the midterm exam or the comprehensive final exam, without a well-certified and verifiable excuse, it will count as a zero. In this case, there will be no chance for a make-up exam. A written, verifiable, and valid excuse is required in order to request a make-up exam. If you have conflicting work schedule, adjust it ahead of time or drop the class to avoid future problems. I consider classes and exams more important than work at this time of your life. Examine closely the schedule included here. If you identify a schedule conflict, make your choice early on and decide whether to stay in the course or drop it to avoid future problems.

Attendance: In order for the classes to begin on time (and end on time, too), students should plan ahead and seriously consider coming to the classroom 5 to 10 minutes early. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken via occasional (pop-up) signature sheet and count toward students' overall grade as 10 % of the final grade together with participation in class. Generally, it is preferred that students will let the instructor know much ahead of time, if they need to miss class. Students, who consistently miss classes, even if their performance in the exams and written assignments is satisfactory, will harm their overall class grade. Coming to class is an indispensable part of the student's training and education. Traffic, parking, or car problem excuses are not accepted.

Electronic Devices: The use of mobile electronic devices, such as cell-/smartphones, MP3 players, and other such electronic devices goes against FIU's professional student demeanor policy and is not allowed inside the classroom during class time, and should be turned off and stored away before the beginning of each class. Don't wait to be admonished in public for such prohibited use in class. If in need of making a phone call or texting, please quietly step outside of the classroom—it is your right. Laptop computers, eReaders, or tablets may be allowed for note taking or book reference, if using the eBook-copy of the textbooks. Students are generally encouraged to take notes by hand, though. Under no circumstances will the instructor send out PowerPoints to lectures before class; PowerPoints, if used during class, would be available after class in the class's Blackboard. Finally, the instructor permits no recording of the classes. Please adhere to these policies—otherwise laptop and other privileges may be revoked for class entirely.



Academic Integrity: Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

It is also to be noted that academic dishonesty is a violation of FIU's Student Code of Conduct Procedures. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation of one's work. These are academic offenses that will result in failing the course, as per the Student Code of Conduct Procedures.

DRC-Registered Students: The Disability Resource Center (DRC) collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

Syllabus: The syllabus is also available online in this course's Blackboard (<http://fiu.blackboard.com/>). Please check the class's Blackboard and your FIU email account for possible communication regarding changes to the syllabus.

Course Communication: I do not email students to personal email addresses, except when replying to students' specific questions. Please check your FIU email (<http://panthermail.fiu.edu/>) regularly, as well as the course's blackboard (<http://fiu.blackboard.com/>) for announcements (announcements in Blackboard are simultaneously sent to your student email address. If you like to continue to use your private email address, I recommend you set up forwarding in your FIU email account to your preferred email account.

Extra Credit Assignments: There will be no individual extra credit assignments. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Further Global Learning-Related Information:



Global Learning Medallion: FIU's Excellence in Global Learning Graduation Medallion is awarded to select students who complete at least four global learning courses, participate in a variety of global co-curricular activities, and complete a capstone consisting of one of the following: a substantial original research project and presentation on a global topic; extensive foreign language study; long-term study abroad; or, a globally-focused internship. The Peace Corps Prep certification is conferred upon select students who complete at least three global learning courses, extensive language study, and a global problem-solving project. For full program details and to sign up, visit <http://goglobal.fiu.edu>.

Course Schedule:

Important Dates:

Please note the following holidays when FIU is closed and other important dates in the class:

1. Monday, August 21: Classes Begin.
2. Monday, August 28: Last Day to Add, Drop or Swap courses without incurring financial liability.
3. Wednesday, August 30: Practice TBL Quiz.
4. Monday, September 4: Labor Day Holiday (University closed, no classes).
5. Monday, September 18 – Wednesday, December 6: News briefing presentations of current event (schedule will be determined on August 30 and be available for download via BB—*updated on September 14 due to Hurricane Irma impact on schedule*).
6. Wednesday, September 20: First TBL Quiz.
7. Wednesday, September 27: Second TBL Quiz.
8. Wednesday, October 4: Midterm Exam.
9. Monday, October 16: Third TBL Quiz.
10. Wednesday, October 25: Fourth TBL Quiz
11. Saturday, October 28: Preliminary Mid-semester Course Grade available via Blackboard section “My Grades.”
12. Monday, October 30: Last Day to drop a course with a DR grade.
13. Wednesday, November 1: Fifth TBL Quiz.
14. Wednesday, November 15: Sixth TBL Quiz.
15. Monday, November 27: Seventh TBL Quiz.
16. Monday, December 11: Final Exam as per FIU exam schedule from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in GC287B.
17. Thursday, December 21: Grades available on My.FIU.edu (starting 9:00am).

Class Session Topic/Reading/Assignment Schedule:

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READING/ASSIGNMENT
1	Aug 21 (M)	<i>Initial Class Meeting</i>	<i>Read the syllabus</i>
Part I: Theoretical Foundation			
	Aug 23 (W)	Realism	<i>Read chapter 2</i>
2	Aug 28 (M)	Liberalism	<i>Read chapter 3</i>
	Aug 30 (W)	Historical Materialism, Peace Studies	<i>Read chapters 4 & 5</i> <i>Practice TBL Quiz on the syllabus</i>
3	Sept 4 (M)	<i>No class (Labor Day)</i>	-----
	Sept 6 (W) Sept 11 (M) Sept 13 (W)	<i>No class</i> <i>(Hurricane Irma)</i>	-----



4	Sept 18 (M)	Constructivism, Critical Security Studies	Read chapters 6, 7 & 8 <i>Student News Briefings start</i>
	Sept 20 (W)	Human Security, Gender, Securitization	Read chapters 10, 11 & 12 <i>First TBL Quiz (on chapters 2 through 8)</i>
Part II: Deepening & Broadening Security			
5	Sept 25 (M)	Military Security, Regime Security	Read chapters 13 & 14
	Sept 27 (W)	Societal Security, Environmental Security	Read chapters 15 & 16 <i>Second TBL Quiz (on chapters 10 through 16)</i> <i>Download & Review Midterm Exam Study Guide</i>
6	Oct 2 (M)	Economic Security, De- velopment & Security	Read chapters 17 & 18
	Oct 4 (W)	<i>Midterm Exam</i>	-----
Part III: Contemporary International Problems			
7	Oct 9 (M)	Nuclear Iran	Read Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb" (BB) Kroenig, "Time to Attack Iran" (BB) & Sagan, "How to Keep the Bomb from Iran" (BB) Watch in-class debate
	Oct 11 (W)	Nuclear North Korea	Read "North Korea's Other Nuclear Threat" (BB) "Can Ballistic Missile Defense Shield Guam from North Korea?" (BB) & "There Are No Good Options Left on North Korea" (BB)
8	Oct 16 (M)	Humanitarian Intervention	Read chapter 22 Watch in-class debate <i>Third TBL Quiz (on Iran, North Korea & Humanitarian Intervention)</i>
	Oct 18 (W)	Transnational Crime	Read chapter 26 Watch in-class documentary
9	Oct 23 (M)	China's Rise	Read Mearsheimer, "China's Unpeaceful Rise" (BB) & Kirshner, "The Tragedy of Offensive Realism: Classical Realism and the Rise of China" (BB) Watch in-class debate
	Oct 25 (W)	China's Rise II	Read Shambaugh, chapters 7-8 (BB) <i>Fourth TBL Quiz (Transnational Crime, China's Rise)</i>
10	Oct 30 (M)	Cybersecurity	Read chapter 27
	Nov 1 (W)	Cybersecurity II	Watch in-class documentary <i>Fifth TBL Quiz (Cybersecurity)</i>
11	Nov 6 (M)	Coercive Diplomacy, Energy Security	Read chapter 23 Watch in-class documentary



	Nov 8 (W)	Coercive Diplomacy, Energy Security II	Read chapter 19
12	Nov 13 (M)	Terrorism	Read chapter 21
	Nov 15 (W)	Terrorism II	Watch in-class documentary Sixth TBL Quiz (on Coercive Diplomacy, Energy Security & Terrorism)
13	Nov 20 (M)	Refugee Crisis, EU 'Existential Crisis,' Brexit	Review http://www.economist.com/Brexit Watch in-class debate
	Nov 22 (W)	Refugee Crisis, EU 'Existential Crisis,' Brexit II	Watch in-class debate Read Tiersky & Jones, chapter 9 (via FIU Library e-Book access: click here)
14	Nov 27 (M)	Defense Trade, Health	Read chapters 24 & 25 Watch in-class documentary Seventh TBL Quiz (on Refugee/EU Crisis, Brexit, Defense Trade & Health)
	Nov 29 (W)	Future of Geopolitics I	Read Zakaria (BB)
15	Dec 4 (M)	Future of Geopolitics II	Watch in-class debate Download & Review Final Exam Study Guide Watch Optional Recorded Online Review (BB) Student News Briefings end
	Dec 6 (W)	No class (prepare yourself for the Final Exam)	-----
16	Dec 11 (M)	In-Class Final Exam	Final Exam as per FIU Exam Schedule (120 minutes) from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in GC287B