

INR 3004: Geography, History, and International Relations (Spring 2002)

| [Dr. Paul Hensel \(../index.html\)](#)

Office: 550 Bellamy Bldg.

Phone: 644-7318

phensel@garnet.acns.fsu.edu (<mailto:phensel@garnet.acns.fsu.edu>)

| **Fall 2001 Semester**

TTh 11:00-12:15 AM

334 Rovetta Business Bldg.

Office Hours: T 3:30-5:00, F 2:00-3:00 PM

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NOTE: This is the syllabus from Spring 2002, not Fall 2002. There will be some relatively small changes in the organization of the course, and perhaps in the specific readings that are assigned, but this syllabus should give prospective students a good idea of what to expect. The final fall syllabus will be posted here once it is completed, but that may not be until mid-August.

Course Description

Most political scientists study international relations "in a vacuum," without reference to the geographic and historical context in which events take place. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the impact of geography and history on international relations, and to re-examine traditional international relations phenomena such as trade or military conflict with a consideration for the influence of historical and geographic factors. A more technically accurate title might be "Geographic and Historical Influences on International Relations," although that is too long to fit in the schedule of classes. Upon completion of this course, students should have a better understanding of how geographical and historical forces influence international relations, and should be able to apply these concepts in following world events. The course will require a range of readings, regular attendance, two essay exams, and two research papers.

It should be noted that this is NOT a course in geography or history, but rather a course on the ways that geographic and historical factors can influence international relations. The topics covered in this course are traditionally seen as political science topics, and most of the readings and lecture materials are drawn from political scientists and political science journals. Students interested in a more geographic perspective are urged to take a complementary course from the geography department, such as GEO 4471 (Political Geography) or GEO 4480 (Military Geography). Additionally, this course uses history as a theoretical explanation for decision-making, events, and interactions in international relations, rather than as a separate subject of study; specific historical events or episodes will only be used to illustrate general theories. Students interested in history are urged to take any of the many courses offered by the history department.

Required Texts

- " **Student Atlas** ": John L. Allen (2001). *Student Atlas of World Geography*, second edition. Guilford, CT: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill. (available at the FSU Bookstore or Bill's Bookstore)
- The remaining readings are available online, sometimes through JSTOR (a journal service provided for us by FSU). The online version of the syllabus has direct links to these resources.

Course Requirements

(1) **Examinations** : two noncumulative essay exams are required. The first exam will be given in class on **Tuesday, March 5** ; the second exam will be given in the regular class room on **Monday, April 22** from 5:30 – 7:30 PM (the assigned time for the course's final exam). Each exam will be worth 25% of the total course grade.

(2) **Research Paper** : two research papers are required for this class; more details are provided at the end of this syllabus. These papers will be due at the *beginning* of class on **Tuesday, February 26** and **Thursday, April 11**. Each paper will count for 20% of the total course grade.

(3) **Preparation, Attendance, and Participation** : Students are required to complete the assigned readings before class, attend class regularly, and participate actively in class discussion. Class preparation will be measured through approximately six to ten (unannounced) quizzes given at the very beginning or ending of class periods, which together will be worth 10% of the total course grade; each student's quiz grade will be determined from the five highest scores.

Course Rules

(1) Make-up examinations are given only with **prior** instructor approval and with appropriate documentation, and take place only during final exam week. Note that the documentation must indicate why you could not be in class *at the exact time of the test*. (Also note that standard Thagard notes explicitly state that they are not valid class excuses)

(2) Failure to complete any paper assignment or failure to take any exam will result in a failing grade for the entire course; a passing grade requires completion of all course requirements.

(3) Any exceptions to these rules are given at the instructor's discretion, only with **prior** approval where possible, and only under extraordinarily pressing and well-documented circumstances.

(4) Students are required to keep an extra copy of each assignment until the instructor has returned the graded copy of that assignment. Students are also required to keep graded, returned copies of all exams and writing assignments until two weeks after the final exam. Failure to do so will invalidate any potential question or protest about assignment or course grades.

(5) All course policies -- classroom expectations, late paper policies, grading policies, and many others -- are available at < <http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~phensel/teaching.html> >.

Americans with Disabilities Act

(See also the section of the FSU Student Handbook dealing with the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/ada.html>), and the [Disabled Student Services](http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/disable.html) (<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/disable.html>) page from the Dean of Students Office)

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 SDRC indicating that you need academic accommodations. This must be done within the first week of class.

Academic Honor Code

(See also the section of the FSU Student Handbook dealing with the [Academic Honor System \(http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html\)](http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html))

_" The academic honor system of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility: (1) To uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the students own work, (2) To refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) To foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community."

— Students are expected to bring possible violations of this honor code to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible, so that the violations -- if any -- may be stopped quickly. Violations include (but are not limited to) the use of unauthorized information on course assignments or examinations, representing anothers work or any part thereof (published or unpublished) as ones own, assisting another student in obtaining unauthorized information for course assignments or examinations, and attempting to commit such an offense. A more complete listing of violations can be found in the FSU Student Handbook.

Violation of this honor code will be dealt with in an appropriate manner, consistent with FSU guidelines. Academic penalties may include (but shall not be limited to) a requirement of additional work to provide evidence that the student knows and understands the course material; a lower or failing grade on the assignment or examination in question; and a lower or failing grade for the course. The University may also enforce further disciplinary penalties, such as a formal reprimand, probation, or suspension or dismissal from the University.

Instructor's Web Site

The instructor maintains a web site at < <http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~phensel/> > with -- among other things -- teaching policies, solutions to common writing problems, and numerous Internet resources for students of international relations or geography. The on-line version of this syllabus, found at < <http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~phensel/Teaching/inr3004.html> >, includes links to additional Internet resources not included in the printed version of the syllabus. Students are strongly encouraged to become familiar with this web site during the semester.



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Writing: [Writing Tips \(../writing.html\)](#) and [Problems \(../problems.html\)](#)

- [Citations and Plagiarism \(../citation.html\)](#) * [Using Internet Sources \(../internet.html\)](#)
Dr. Hensel: [Teaching Overview \(../teaching.html\)](#) * [Teaching \(../policies.html\)](#) and [Grading \(../grading.html\)](#) Policies * [Exam/Paper/Quiz Tips \(../examtips.html\)](#)

<http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~phensel/Teaching/inr3004.html>

Last updated: 8 January 2002

To contact me please send email to

phensel@garnet.acns.fsu.edu (<mailto:phensel@garnet.acns.fsu.edu>)

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