

INS 3004: International Studies Perspectives
Section 0492

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Office hours: MF 1-2:30 pm or
by appointment

This is the entry course for UF's major in International Studies. It will introduce you to the contemporary international system, the major regions of the world, to the academic disciplines that make up the field of International Studies, and to several major issues in world politics today.

The first component of the course will give you a background on why our world looks the way it does. It is not a history course, but without some foundation on the origins of the world today it would be impossible to understand the dynamics of poverty (and poverty reduction) or civil wars (and their resolutions), for example. Following that introduction to the origins of the contemporary world, we will explore three major issues facing the international community today, three approaches to exploring them, and solutions that require both domestic and external action. In many ways these issues reflect the reality that ours is a highly interdependent world: problems require multi-national solutions, and problems far away are often directly relevant to us here in Florida and the United States more broadly.

This will be a demanding course, as it has to introduce you to a wide array of thinking about international studies and to prepare you both to select and to do well in future coursework in this major. Attendance in all lectures and discussion sections will be central to your success in the course, as will coming to all class meetings having already read carefully, taken notes on, and prepared your own questions from readings.

The course grade will include writing assignments (central of which is a short analytic paper on a topic chosen by you in consultation with us), four quizzes and a final exam, and your regular participation in discussions in both lectures and discussion sections. The breakdown is as follows:

Quizzes: 40% (10% each)

Paper: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Section participation: 10%

The papers will involve developing a research question (a "puzzle"), proposing an answer (an explanation or hypothesis), and presenting appropriate data/evidence to support that answer. We will talk in detail about this paper in the weeks to come.

Required textbooks

- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the World's Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*

- Ronald Findlay and Kevin H. O'Rourke, *Power and Plenty: Trade, War and the World Economy in the Second Millennium*
- Valentine Moghadam, *Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks*
- Roland Paris, *At War's End: Building Peace After Civil Conflict*
- Robert Tignor et al, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of the World (3rd edition), volume C*

A note: all of these are available online, often for substantially less than they will cost in local bookstores.

Schedule of course readings and discussions

August 21: Introduction to the course and the readings. For August 23 read: Brook 1-25; Findlay & O'Rourke (FO), preface; Tignor et al, xvi-xix.

The origins and contours of the modern world.

August 26 and 28:

Tignor et al, xxxii.

FO, chapter 1. Skim chapters 2 and 3.

NOTE: no class August 28: I am in Chicago for the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association and there will be no discussion sections this Friday August 30.

September 2: no class. Labor Day. Celebrate the working man.

Early trends in global trade and the beginning of European expansion, 1500-1650

September 4:

FO, chapter 4.

Mercantilism: New States and Their Economies

September 9 and 11:

FO chapter 5.

Reordering Global Politics, Transforming Production and Creating the First Globalization.

September 16 and 18:

Tignor pp. 561-97., FO chapter 6.

September 20 discussion section: quiz. Also, your paper topics are due to the leader of your discussion section.

September 23 and 25:

Tignor 599-705, FO chapter 7.

The "Great War," and its aftermath.

September 30 and October 2:
FO chapter 8, Tignor 707-43.

How the World Came Apart and Was Put Back Together Again. The Last Half of the 20th century.

October 7 and 9:
FO chapter 9, Tignor 745-821

October 11 discussion section: quiz.

Economics, Statistical Research and the Craft of Poverty Alleviation

October 14 and 16:
Collier, Chapters 1-6.

October 21 and 23:
Collier, Chapters 7-11, postscript and research note (i.e. pp. 99-200)

Political Science, Comparative Study of Civil Wars and the Craft of Durable Peace Building

October 28 and 30:
Paris, Chapters 1-3 and ANY TWO of the case study chapters (i.e. pick any two of chapters 4-8).

November 1 discussion section: quiz.

November 4 and 6:
Paris, Chapters 9-11 and conclusion.

November 11: Veteran's Day. No class.

Sociology, Ethnography and the Mobilization of Women's Rights Movements

November 13:
Moghadam, Chapters 1-4.

November 15: **The first draft (first 2-3 pages) of your papers are due in section and to turnitin.com.**

November 18 and 20:
Moghadam, Chapters 5-8.

November 22 discussion section quiz.

Thinking about the disciplines of International Studies.

November 25:
Myron Aronoff and Jan Kubik, "Beyond Political Culture," to be distributed by email.

November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday. No class. Time to eat too much turkey/tofurkey/ham etc. and be thankful.

December 2 and 4:

What are Research Methods? Where do I find the ones I want to use?

No assigned readings.

December 4: Research paper due in class in hard copy and to turnitin.com by the start of class. NO exceptions.

December 10: final exam, 5:30 – 7:30 pm.