

University of Florida
Department of Political Science
INR 6938
SEMINAR IN CULTURE AND WORLD POLITICS

Dr. Aida A. Hozic

Email: hozic@ufl.edu

Office Hours (starting January 18): Monday 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or by appointment via [Personal Zoom Link](#)
PLEASE SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT DURING OFFICE HOURS VIA [CALENDLY](#).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course explores the interplay between culture and power in contemporary world politics. Previous versions of the course explored concepts such as identity, difference, and representation, which had emerged as objects of major political and theoretical contestations in the aftermath of the Cold War. I recommend that you review the previous syllabus as it contains a number of articles that constitute background reading for conversations about culture and politics in the discipline of International Relations.

This year, however, the course has been designed differently. The pandemic has placed limits to our mobility and, thereby, to culture as a manifestation of (post)modernity and (post)modern capitalism, dependent upon circulation of goods and bodies. Therefore, this spring we will have to journey “back into the future” without travelling, considering the world with and without movement within it. Relying on metaphors of voyage and encounter, we will explore different modalities of power- and capital-driven spatial and temporal dislocations and of notions of culture that they have produced and might produce in the future. After the first two weeks, which are devoted to analysis of culture in different disciplinary frameworks, we will be reading one (beautiful) book a week, tackling questions as they open themselves to us. I will add additional recommended readings to the syllabus (some from the previous versions of the course, some new) so that you can use this syllabus as a resource for your further explorations of culture and arts in world politics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Grade will be based on three components – class participation and attendance (10%); a diary kept throughout the semester (30 %), which **MUST** include a record of your visit to the Harn Museum of Art; and a research paper (6,000-7,000 words) on a pre-approved topic (60%). A preliminary research topic should be submitted by February 5 (5%), a detailed research proposal should be submitted by March 19 (5%), and the final paper turned in by April 23 (50%). Each component in this process will be graded.

This class will be delivered by Zoom, with the exception of the visit to the [Harn Museum of Art](#), which constitutes the face-to-face component of the class and is scheduled for Friday, February 5. Attendance/presence in every class is not just mandatory but it is assumed. Similarly, it is expected that students will come to class having done all the readings and well prepared to contribute to discussions in a meaningful way. Brief questions (no more than 3) for class discussion should be submitted to the entire class in advance of our weekly meetings. Failure to do so more than 3 times will result in a 10% grade reduction. The quality of the questions will be taken into consideration when finalizing the grade for the course.

Accommodations will be made for students who need to miss classes for health reasons (with documentation), religious holidays, University of Florida official functions or important conferences.

Students who believe that they will not be able to complete all the requirements for the course in due time have to discuss an “I” (Incomplete) grade with the instructor **before the final paper is due**. Students will have to sign an “[Incomplete Contract](#)” and complete all their requirements by a date set (in agreement with the professor) in that contract. Students should be aware that “I” grades become punitive after one term.

Grading Scale

Grading scale is 94-100 A; 90-93 A-; 87-89 B+; 84-86 B; 80-83 B-; 77-79 C+; 74-76 C; 70-73 C-; 67-69 D+; 64-66 D; 60-63 D- .

For current academic regulations on - among other topics - academic honesty, attendance and grades and grade point averages for graduate students at the University of Florida please see [this website in the University Catalog](#).

Zoom Policy

Participation in our class is fundamental since improving oral conversation skills is a key objective of the course. Thus, students are required to have their cameras on from start to finish during our classes on Zoom. A default setting for our sessions in Zoom is that participants will be muted when they enter, so you will unmute yourself when you comment orally during our whole-group conversations and when you are in small groups. Your instructor may also ask students to reply in the chat box for specific activities. Oral comments on camera and written comments in the chat box are considered activities for participation. If you have technical issues, please immediately consult UF IT Help to resolve them and then contact your instructor. **Zoom sessions will not be recorded by the instructor and may not be recorded by students.** As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded material is prohibited.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Most of the readings (including many of the recommended readings) are available electronically – either in Files on Canvas or as E-book through University of Florida Library.

WEEKLY OUTLINE

Week 1, January 15

Introduction: What is culture?

Terry Eagleton, [The Idea of Culture](#) (Blackwell, Oxford, 2000) (Chapter 1, “Versions of Culture”)

William H. Sewell, “[The Concept\(s\) of Culture](#)” in Victoria E. Bonnell and Lynn Hunt (eds.) *Beyond the Cultural Turn: New Directions in the Study of Society and Culture* (University of California Press, 1999), pp. 35-61

Stephen Greenblatt “[Culture](#)” in Frank Lentricchia and Thomas McLaughlin (eds.) *Critical Terms for Literary Study* (University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1990), pp. 225-232

Raymond Williams, "[Culture](#)," in *Keywords* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1983), pp. 87-93

Week 2, January 22

Culture, Political Science and IR

Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba, *Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations* (particularly chapters 1, III, XII and XIV in any edition)

Carol Pateman, "[The Civic Culture: A Philosophic Critique](#)" (In Almond and Verba (eds.), *Civic Culture Revisited* – any edition)

Inglehart, Ronald, "[The Renaissance of Political Culture](#)," *American Political Science Review* 82(4), 1988, pp. 1203-30

David D. Laitin, "[Political Culture at 30](#)" *American Political Science Review* 89 (1), 1995 pp.168-73

Lisa Wedeen "[Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science](#)," *American Political Science Review*, 96:4, December 2002, pp. 713-728

Ido Oren, "[Uncritical Portrayals of Fascist Italy and of Iberic-Latin Dictatorships in American Political Science](#)," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 42/1 (January 2000), pp. 87-118.

Elif Kayalicoglu, "[Cultural Diversity and World Politics](#)," Oxford Research Encyclopedia, International Studies, 2020

Week 3, January 29

Voyages and Encounters

Stephen Greenblatt, *Marvelous Possessions* (University of Chicago Press, 1992)

Week 4, February 5

Panel at Stanford on [Yugosplaining](#) (3-5 pm. by Zoom)

Visit to the [Harn Museum of Art](#), University of Florida; you may want to read Christine Sylvester, *Art/Museums: International Relations Where We Least Expect It* (Routledge, 2009) before the visit - [E-book through UF Library](#).

Week 5, February 12

Exploration and Conquest

Tzvetan Todorov, *The Conquest of America: the Question of the Other* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1999)

Week 6, February 19

Representation: Imagining the Other

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (Vintage, 1979)

Week 7, February 26

Home and Exile

Edward Said, *Out of Place: A Memoir* (Vintage, 2000)

Week 8, March 5

Culture and Colonialism

Nivi Manchanda, *Imagining Afghanistan: The Identity, History and Politics of Imperial Knowledge* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) - [E-book through UF Library](#)

Week 9, March 12

Culture and Power

Marguerite Feitlowitz, *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture* (Oxford University Press, revised and Updated edition, 2011)

Week 10, March 19

Culture, Change and Order

Sara Salem, *Anticolonial Afterlives in Egypt* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) - [E-book through UF Library](#)

Week 11, March 26

Culture, Gender and Intervention

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Do Muslim Women Need Saving* (Harvard University Press, 2013) - [E-book through UF Library](#)

Week 12, April 2

Culture and Economy

Sylvia Federici, *Caliban and the Witch* (Autonomedia, 2004)

Week 13, April 9

Culture/Art

Sanjukta Sundareson, *Partisan Aesthetics: Modern Art and India's Long Decolonization* (Stanford University Press, 2020) - [E-book through UF Library](#)

Week 14, April 16

Culture/Art/Modernity

Svetlana Boym, *The Off-Modern* (Bloomsbury, 2017)