

INR 3603: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Fall 2020, MWF 9:35–10:25 pm (via Zoom)

Instructor: Prof. Ido Oren

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<https://oren064.wixsite.com/idooren>

Zoom office hours: M 10:30–11:30 am; W&F 3:00–4:00 pm (or by appt.)

Zoom personal meeting ID: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3047799955>

Course Description and Required Texts

We will carefully consider six books written by major scholars of international relations. All six scholars share the assumption that the varied interactions among states and nonstate actors in the global arena are vital elements of our world. But they differ greatly from each other in the conceptual perspectives that they employ to analyze world politics. The primary objective of the course is to develop an appreciation of the ways in which perspectives shape different understandings of "international relations."

The six books vary from one another not only in theoretical perspective but also in analytical style. Some of the analyses consist primarily of abstract reasoning about global politics, while others are empirical in their orientation, ranging from archival and textual analysis, through historical case studies, to statistical analysis. The secondary objective of the course is to familiarize you with some of the ways in which social scientists establish their claims to knowledge of their subject matter.

Please purchase the following required books from your favorite vendor.

- Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*. [Any edition is fine]
- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* [Updated edition, published in 2014]
- Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. [Any edition is fine]
- Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post-Cold War World*.
- Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*.
- Robert Vitalis, *White World Order, Black Power Politics: The Birth of American International Relations*.

Note that an e-book version of the Waltz book is accessible via the UF Libraries portal (to access the libraries remotely, make sure to activate your VPN). Normally, I would place copies of the books at the Course Reserves counter at Library West. Unfortunately, however, the counter is currently closed due to the pandemic.

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on (a) three "thought pieces;" (b) five short "reaction pieces;" and (c) class attendance.

Thought Pieces: Each one of these three take-home assignments will require you to write a 4–6 pages essay, in which you will be challenged to demonstrate a firm grasp of theoretical perspectives covered in class. For example, I may ask you to interpret a recent international political event from the perspective of one (or more) of these theories. Or, to give another example, I may provide you with an official foreign policy statement issued by the U.S. government and ask you how one (or more) of the theorists we read would react to it. The first “thought piece” assignment will be posted on Canvas on Wednesday, October 7, at 9 am (just before class), and will be due on Monday, October 12, at 9:30 am. The second assignment will be posted on Monday, November 9, at 9:00 am and will be due on Friday, November 13, at 9:30 am. The third assignment will be posted on Wednesday, December 9, at 9 am, and will be due on Monday, December 14, at 11:00 am. For your convenience, these dates are indicated in red font on the class schedule below. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 3 points (that is, 3 percent of the maximum total score for the class) per 24 hours.

Short Reaction Pieces: Five times during the semester you will be required to respond briefly to a prompt/question related to the reading materials assigned for the following week. The prompts will be posted on Canvas on Fridays at 10:30 am (right after class) and the assignment will be due the following Monday at 9:30 am. The relevant dates are indicated in red font on the course schedule. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 0.5 points per 24 hours.

Class attendance: This class meets live via Zoom during the class times designated by the registrar. I expect you to (remotely) attend class sessions regularly and to complete all the readings in timely fashion, as specified by the schedule below. Five percent (five points) of the total grade for the class will be based on attendance. I will randomly take attendance ten times during the semester. You will earn 5 points if you attend 9 or 10 of these sessions; 4 points if you attend 8 sessions; 3 points if you attend 7 sessions; 2 points if you attend 6 sessions; 1 point if you attend 5 sessions; zero points if you attend 4 sessions or less.

The final grade for the course will be distributed as follows:

- Thought piece #1 20%
- Thought piece #2 25%
- Thought piece #3 30%
- Short reaction pieces (4 points each) 20%
- Attendance 5%

For each assignment you will receive a numerical score, not a letter grade. Your final cumulative score will be translated into a letter grade according to the following schedule: 93 points or higher = A; 90–92.9 = A-; 87–89.9 = B+; 83–86.9 = B; 80–82.9 = B-; 77–79.9 = C+; 73–76.9 = C; 70–72.9 = C-; 67–69.9 = D+; 63–66.9 = D; 60–62.9 = D-; <60 = E.

Other Matters/Policies

Individual extra-credit work is not allowed.

My office hours are listed above, along with my Zoom personal meeting ID. You will need this ID to join the meeting. You will be directed to a virtual waiting room. I will “let you in” as soon as I can. If my office hours are inconvenient, please do not hesitate to contact me to set up an appointment.

Deadline extensions may be granted under special circumstances; if you anticipate such circumstances, please do not hesitate to ask for an extension. But you must do so prior to the deadline; retroactive extensions will not be granted.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). 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.

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies posted at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for enrolled students who are unable to attend live (I will only share such recordings with students who request them and provide a compelling reason for missing class). Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. 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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Class/Reading Schedule

August 31 Course overview

I. REALIST PERSPECTIVES

September 2 Waltz, pp. 1-15

September 4 Waltz, 16-41

September 7	No class (Labor Day)
September 9	Waltz, 42-79
September 11	Waltz, 80-123 Reaction piece #1 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
September 14	Waltz, 124-158 Reaction piece #1 due at 9:30 am
September 16	Waltz, 159-186
September 18	Waltz, 187-238 Reaction piece #2 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
September 21	Continued discussion of Waltz Reaction piece #2 due at 9:30 am
September 23	1. Wrap-up of Waltz 2. A few words on writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Rosenzweig, “The Whistle-Blower Knows How to Write,” New York Times, Sept. 27, 2019, at https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/27/opinion/whistleblower-complaint.html • Skim the whistle-blower’s letter at https://intelligence.house.gov/uploadedfiles/20190812_-_whistleblower_complaint_unclass.pdf
September 25	Mearsheimer, 1-67
September 28	No class (Yom Kippur)
September 30	Mearsheimer, 75-90, 96-99, 108-137
October 2	Mearsheimer, 138-162, 168-172, 190-202, 232-261
October 5	Mearsheimer, 264-272, 322-359
October 7	Mearsheimer, 360-411 Thought piece assignment #1 posted on Canvas at 9:00 am
	II. A LIBERAL-INSTITUTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE
October 9	Keohane, 5-30

October 12 Keohane, 31-64
Thought piece assignment #1 due at 9:30 am

October 14 Keohane, 65-84

October 16 Keohane, 85-109
Reaction piece #3 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

October 19 Keohane, 110-134
Reaction piece #3 due at 9:30 am

October 21 Keohane, 135-181

October 23 Keohane, 182-242

October 26 Keohane, 243-259

October 28 Wrap-up of Keohane

III. A LIBERAL-WILSONIAN PERSPECTIVE

October 30 Russett, 3-42
Reaction piece #4 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

November 2 Russett, 43-71
Reaction piece #4 due at 9:30 am

November 4 Russett, 72-98

November 6 No class (ISA-Northeast conference)

November 9 Russett, 99-118
Thought piece assignment #2 posted on Canvas at 9:00 am

November 11 No class (Veterans Day)

November 13 Russett, 119-138
Thought piece assignment #2 due at 9:30 am

IV. A CONSTRUCTIVIST PERSPECTIVE

November 16 Finnemore, 1-33

November 18 Finnemore, 34-68
November 20 Finnemore, 69-127
November 23 Finnemore, 128-149
November 25/27 No classes (Thanksgiving)

V. A CRITICAL-REFLEXIVE PERSPECTIVE: THE COLOR LINE IN IR

November 30 Vitalis, 1-45
December 2 Vitalis, 46-84
December 4 Vitalis, 85-120
Reaction piece #5 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
December 7 Vitalis, 121-168
Reaction piece #5 due at 9:30 am
December 9 Vitalis, 169-181
Thought piece assignment #3 posted on Canvas at 9:00 am

December 14 Thought piece assignment #3 due at 11:00 am