

INR 3603: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Spring 2024, MWF 12:50 PM - 1:40 PM @ AND 0034

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Office hours:

Wednesdays: 2 pm – 3 pm @ AND 201b

Fridays: 2 pm – 3 pm @ AND 201b

*Or by appointment

Course Description and Required Texts

What are theories of International Relations? What, and to whom, do they address? In what historical contexts did they arise? In this course, we will carefully read six books written by major scholars of international relations, each who share the assumption that the varied interactions among states and nonstate actors in the global arena are vital elements of the world system. But they differ from each other in the conceptual perspectives they use to analyze global politics, such as the meanings and practices of “power,” “security,” and “cooperation.”

The primary objective of this course is to appreciate the ways in which the variety of perspectives we will read and discuss shape different understandings of “international relations,” and their implications for studying global politics today. The six books and scholars vary from one another not only in theoretical perspective, but also in their analytical lenses. 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 feminist and critical analyses applied to both abstract and empirical reasoning. The secondary objective of the course is to familiarize yourself with some of the ways in which social scientists establish their claims to knowledge of their subject matter. Finally, a third objective is to reflect on the particular historical contexts and dynamics of global politics within which these scholars wrote, and to consider the ways in which their theories are still applicable today.

Please purchase the following required books:

- 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]
- Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*.
- Robert Vitalis, *White World Order, Black Power Politics: The Birth of American International Relations*.
- J. Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security*.

Please let me know if you need any assistance accessing these books. An e-book version of Waltz's book is accessible via the UF Libraries portal online (to access the libraries remotely, make sure to activate your VPN). Copies of the other five books are available to check out at UF Library West.

Course Requirements

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

Thought Pieces: 4-6 page (double spaced) take-home essay assignment (3 total essays). For each essay assignment, you will be challenged to demonstrate a firm grasp of the 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, I may provide you with an official policy statement such as from NATO Heads of State and 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 Monday, February 12 at 12 pm and will be due on Monday, February 19 at 12 pm. The second assignment will be posted on Monday, April 1 at 12 pm and will be due on Monday, April 8 at 12 pm. The third assignment will be posted on Monday, April 22 at 12 pm, and will be due on Tuesday, April 30 at 5 pm. 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 and/or short article /video interview related to the reading materials assigned that week. The reaction pieces should be 2-3 pages each (double spaced). The prompts and additional resources needed will typically be posted on Canvas on Wednesdays at 12 pm and the assignment will be due the following Monday at 12 pm. 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: I expect you to 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.

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 (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). 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>

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. More information about in-class recording is available at <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in-class-recording/>

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

January 8 Introduction and Course overview

I. REALIST PERSPECTIVES

January 10 Waltz, chapter 1 (pp. 1–15)

January 12 Waltz, chapter 2 (16–41)

August 30 Waltz, chapter 3 (42–79)

January 15 No Class (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

January 17 Waltz, chapter 4 (80–123)
Reaction piece #1 posted on Canvas at 12 pm

January 19 Waltz, chapter 5 (124–158)

January 22 Waltz, chapter 6 (159–186)
Reaction piece #1 due at 12 pm

January 24 Waltz, chapter 7 (187–223)

January 26 Waltz, chapter 8 (223–238)

January 29 In Class: *Conversations with History: Kenneth Waltz*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9eV5gPIPZg>

At home reading:

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>

January 31 Mearsheimer, prefaces & chapter 1 ‘Introduction’
Reaction piece #2 posted on Canvas at 12 pm

February 2	Mearsheimer, chapter 2 'Anarchy and the Struggle for Power'
February 5	Mearsheimer, chapter 3 'Wealth and Power' Reaction piece #2 due at 12 pm
February 7	Mearsheimer, chapter 4 'The Primacy of Land Power'
February 9	Mearsheimer, chapter 5 'Strategies for Survival'
February 12	Mearsheimer, chapter 6 'Great Powers in Action' Thought piece assignment #1 posted on Canvas at 12 pm
February 14	Mearsheimer, chapter 7 'The Offshore Balancers'
February 16	Mearsheimer, chapter 8 'Balancing versus Buck-Passing'
February 19	"Conversations in International Relations: Interview with John J. Mearsheimer" https://indianstrategicknowledgeonline.com/web/31Interview%20with%20John%20J.%20Mearsheimer.pdf Thought piece assignment #1 due at 9:00 am

II. A LIBERAL-INSTITUTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE

February 21	Keohane, Preface & chaps. 1-2 (5-30)
February 23	Keohane, chaps. 3-4 (31-64)
February 26	Keohane, chapter 5 (65-84)
February 28	Keohane, chapter 6 (85-109) Reaction piece #3 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
March 1	Keohane, chapter 7 (110-134)
March 4	Keohane, chapter 8 (135-181) Reaction piece #3 due at 9:00 am
March 6	Keohane, chapter 9 (182-216)
March 8	Keohane, chapters 10-11 (217-259) Reflecting on Keohane and a Liberal Perspective:

“Discord in Global Politics: An Interview with Professor Robert Keohane”

<https://harvardpolitics.com/interview-with-professor-robert-keohane/>

March 11 No class (Spring Break)

March 13 No class (Spring Break)

March 15 No class (Spring Break)

III. A CONSTRUCTIVIST PERSPECTIVE

March 18 Finnemore, chapter 1 (1–33)

March 20 Finnemore, chapter 2 (34–68)
Reaction piece #4 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

March 22 Finnemore, chapter 3 (69–88)

March 25 Finnemore, chapter 4 (89–127)
Reaction piece #4 due at 9:00 am

March 27 Finnemore, chapter 5 (128–149)

IV. FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES OF GLOBAL POLITICS

March 29 Tickner, Preface- chap. 1 (ix – 26)

April 1 Tickner, chap. 2 (27 – 66)
Thought piece assignment #2 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

April 3 Tickner, chap. 3 (67 – 96)

April 5 No Class (International Studies Association Annual Conference)

April 8 Tickner, chap. 4—5 (97 – 144)
In Class:
“J. Ann Tickner on how gender impacts politics & international relations,” *Academic Influence*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUm90ZXQ-A>

Thought piece assignment #2 due at 9:00 am

V. A CRITICAL-REFLEXIVE PERSPECTIVE: COLOR LINES AND INTERSECTIONS IN IR

April 10	Vitalis, Preface and Introduction (i-24)
April 12	Vitalis, chaps. 1—2 (25-54) Reaction piece #5 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
April 15	Vitalis, chaps. 3—4 (55-84) Reaction piece #5 due at 9:00 am
April 17	Vitalis, chaps. 5-6 (85-120)
April 19	Vitalis, chaps. 7-8 (121-157)
April 22	Vitalis, chap. 9 - Conclusion (158-181) Thought piece assignment #3 posted on Canvas at 12 pm
April 30	Final Thought Piece Due 5:00 pm
