

INR 3603: Theories of International Relations

Spring 2018

MWF Period 8 (3:00-3:50pm) FLI 0105

Instructor: Taylor McDonald (taylormcdonald17@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Anderson Hall 307, M 4:00-5:30pm, W 4:00-5:30pm and by appointment

Course Description

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the main theoretical approaches in the discipline of International Relations and foster critical assessment of the works of major scholars. We will focus primarily on eight key books that have significantly shaped the study of IR, varying in terms of their methodological and conceptual approaches and implications for understanding international relations, as well as several articles. The primary objective of this course is to develop an appreciation of the ways in which perspectives shape different understandings of “international relations”.

Required Texts

E.H. Carr, *Twenty Years' Crisis*, Palgrave, New York, 2001

Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, Columbia University Press, New York, 2001

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, W.W. Norton, New York, 2002

Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1993

Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2005

Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1996

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2000

Roxanne Doty, *Imperial Encounters*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1996

*You can purchase any edition of these books. They are also all available in the Library West reserve section (2-Hour-Library-Use-Only)

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on:

(1) Three take-home essays: The first will account for 20% of your final grade and will be 4-5 pages long, the second will account for 25% of your final grade and will be 5-6 pages long, and the third will account for 30% of your final grade and will be 6-7 pages long (double spaced). Each essay will require students to respond to a particular question I will share with the class and post on Canvas one week before the essay is due. Essay questions will challenge students to demonstrate a firm grasp of the theoretical perspectives covered in class as well as their ability to critically analyze these perspectives. For example, I may ask you to compare different theoretical perspectives with respect to their approach to a current international political event or you may be asked to explain and analyze the main assumptions of a single theoretical perspective. The take-home essays will be cumulative and can incorporate readings up until the exam question is announced. Further information on the take-home essays will be given in class and posted on Canvas. For the due dates of the take-home essays see the class reading schedule or the table of Course Requirements below.

(2) Pop Quizzes: There will be multiple pop-quizzes during the semester based on the assigned readings for the particular class session they are handed out in. These quizzes will be unannounced and are mainly to test that students are following along with the weekly readings. Pop quizzes are worth 10% of your final grade.

(3) Attendance: Students are expected to be attending class regularly and completing readings before class sessions. Attendance accounts for 5% of the final grade. Students are allowed to miss up to 2 classes (unexcused absences). For each additional unexcused absence students will lose 20 points out of 100 attendance points. Please note that if you miss 30% of classes (12) you will not be allowed to complete the take-home essays and will receive a failing grade for the course. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

(4) Participation: Much of this class is based on discussion of the readings by students during class sessions. Therefore, it is imperative that students come to class prepared to actively participate. Participation points will be given according to the following criteria:

Regular participation: 8-10 points / Sporadic participation: 5-7 points / Poor or No participation: 0-4 points. If you struggle with public speaking, come see me at the beginning of the semester.

Course Requirements	%	Due Date	Submit
Take-Home Essay 1	20	Feb 12th by 3:00pm	Online on Canvas
Take-Home Essay 2	25	Mar 26th by 3:00pm	Online on Canvas
Take-Home Essay 3	30	April 30th by 3:00pm	Online on Canvas
Pop Quizzes	10	Unannounced	In class
Participation	10		
Attendance	5		
TOTAL	100		

Grading Scale											
94-100	90-93	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	74-76	70-73	67-69	64-66	60-63	-59
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

For current regulations and/or grading policies at the University of Florida please see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) 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.

Attendance, Make Up, and Grading Policy

Attendance and make-up policies/requirements for this class are consistent with university policies, available at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Deadline extensions will be given only in cases that conform with university policies. Otherwise, 5 points will be deducted for each day that an assignment is submitted late. Also, keep in mind that if you miss a class on a day when one of the pop-quizzes is given and do not have an excuse conforming with the University's policy, you will not be given a make-up quiz. Official documentation must be provided for excused absences.

Academic Honesty

All students' work submitted in this class will be checked through a plagiarism software. There is zero tolerance for plagiarism or any forms of academic misconduct. All UF students are required to abide by the University's Academic Honesty Guidelines. For more information, please see <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>

Other Policies and Guidelines

- **Read the syllabus carefully** as it contains important information about the course
- **Check your UF e-mail and Canvas regularly**
- **Contact me** if you need help with or have questions regarding readings and assignments. Do not hesitate to send me an email.
- **Come to class on time and prepared.** Class time is for discussion and lecture and is not to be used for internet browsing, Facebook, etc. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced and if your behavior in class is disruptive I may ask you to leave the class and mark you as absent for the day.

Course Schedule		
WEEK 1		
Jan 8	Introduction: course and syllabus overview	
Jan 10	What is Theory? Leslie Thiele, <i>Thinking Politics</i> , Chapter 1: Theory and Vision (available on Canvas)	
Jan 12	E.H Carr, <i>The Twenty Year's Crisis</i> , Chapters 1 and 2	
WEEK 2		
Jan 15	No Class - Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Jan 17	E.H Carr, <i>The Twenty Year's Crisis</i> , Chapters 3 and 4	
Jan 19	E.H Carr, <i>The Twenty Year's Crisis</i> , Chapters 5 and 6	
WEEK 3		
Jan 22	E.H Carr, <i>The Twenty Year's Crisis</i> , Chapters 7 and 8	
Jan 24	Realist Perspectives: K. Waltz, <i>Man, the State and War</i> , Chapter 1	
Jan 26	K. Waltz, <i>Man, the State and War</i> , Chapter 2	
WEEK 4		
Jan 29	K. Waltz, <i>Man, the State and War</i> , Chapter 3	
Jan 31	K. Waltz, <i>Man, the State and War</i> , Chapter 4	
Feb 2	K. Waltz, <i>Man, the State and War</i> , Chapter 5 and 6	
WEEK 5		
Feb 5	K. Waltz, <i>Man, the State and War</i> , Chapter 7	Take-home essay #1 question announced
Feb 7	K. Waltz, <i>Man, the State and War</i> , Chapter 8	

Feb 9	J. Mearsheimer, <i>Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> , Chapter 1 and 2	
WEEK 6		
Feb 12	J. Mearsheimer, <i>Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> , Chapter 3 and 4	Take-home essay #1 due
Feb 14	J. Mearsheimer, <i>Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> , Chapter 5 and 6	
Feb 16	J. Mearsheimer, <i>Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> , Chapter 7 and 8	
WEEK 7		
Feb 19	J. Mearsheimer, <i>Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> , Chapter 9 and 10	
Feb 21	Discussion of Waltz and Mearsheimer	
Feb 23	Liberal-Institutionalist Perspective R. Keohane, <i>After Hegemony</i> , Chapters 1-4	
WEEK 8		
Feb 26	R. Keohane, <i>After Hegemony</i> , Chapter 5 and 6	
Feb 28	R. Keohane, <i>After Hegemony</i> , Chapter 7 and 8	
Mar 2	R. Keohane, <i>After Hegemony</i> , Chapters 9-11	
WEEK 9 - SPRING BREAK		
WEEK 10		
Mar 12	Liberal-Wilsonian Perspective B. Russett, <i>Grasping the Democratic Peace</i> , Chapter 1 and 2	
Mar 14	B. Russett, <i>Grasping the Democratic Peace</i> , Chapter 3 and 4	
Mar 16	B. Russett, <i>Grasping the Democratic Peace</i> , Chapter 5 and 6	
WEEK 11		
Mar 19	Keohane and Russett discussion	Take-home essay #2 question announced
Mar 21	Mid-semester review	
Mar 23	Constructivist Perspective M. Finnemore, <i>National Interests in International Society</i> , Chapter 1	
WEEK 12		
Mar 26	M. Finnemore, <i>National Interests in International Society</i> , Chapter 2	Take-home essay #2 due
Mar 28	M. Finnemore, <i>National Interests in International Society</i> , Chapter 3	
Mar 30	M. Finnemore, <i>National Interests in International Society</i> , Chapter 4 and 5	

WEEK 13		
April 2	Feminist Perspective C.Enloe, <i>Bananas, Beaches, and Bases</i> , Chapter 1 and 2	
April 4	C.Enloe, <i>Bananas, Beaches, and Bases</i> , Chapter 3	
April 6	C.Enloe, <i>Bananas, Beaches, and Bases</i> , Chapter 4 and 5	
WEEK 14		
April 9	Post-Modernist Perspective R. Doty, <i>Imperial Encounters</i> , Chapters 1-3	
April 11	R. Doty, <i>Imperial Encounters</i> , Chapter 4 and 5	
April 13	R. Doty, <i>Imperial Encounters</i> , Chapters 6-8	
WEEK 15		
April 16	Enloe, Finnemore, Doty discussion	
April 18	The Future of IR Theory David Lake, "Why "isms" Are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding Progress" in <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> (available on Canvas)	
April 20	Wayne S. Cox and Kim Richard Nossal, The "Crimson World" and Thomas Biersteker, The Parochialism of Hegemony in <i>International Relations Scholarship Around the World</i> (both available on Canvas)	
WEEK 16		
April 23	John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, "Leaving Theory Behind: Why simplistic hypothesis testing is bad for International Relations" in <i>European Journal of IR</i> (available on Canvas)	Take-home essay #3 question announced
April 25	Concluding discussion	
April 30		Take-home essay #3 due

This Syllabus is subject to amendment during the semester. Any changes considered as necessary by the instructor might be made without prior notification. However, the changes will be announced in class and/or via e-mail. If any changes are made, the syllabus will be updated and shared with the students via e-mail.