

INR 3603: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Spring 2024

Prof. Zachary Selden

Classroom

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:45-1:00 Anderson 03

Course Description and Requirements

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 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.

The seven required books are all available for purchase at the UF bookstore or through Amazon. The books are:

- Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*.

- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*.
- Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*.
- Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post-Cold War World*.
- Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*.
- Laura Sjoberg, *Gender, Conflict and War*.
- Daniel Drezner, *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* (Apocalypse edition, 2022).

Grades will be based on (a) three take-home “thought pieces” and (b) class attendance and participation.

Thought Pieces: Each one of these three take-home assignments will require you to write a 1000-1200 word 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 schedule for turning in the assignments is as follows:

Class attendance and participation: I expect you to attend class sessions regularly and to complete all the readings in timely fashion, as specified by the schedule below. Ten percent of the total grade for the class will be based on class attendance and participation. My criteria for evaluating attendance/ participation are as follows. You will earn 10 points if you attend class regularly and participate frequently in class discussions; 8–9 points if you attend class regularly and participate sporadically in class discussions; 6-7 points if you attend class regularly and (almost) never participate, or if you attend class and participate sporadically; 5 points or less if you attend class sporadically and never participate.

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

- Thought piece #1 25% (hand out January 26. Due January 31)
- Thought piece #2 30% (hand out March 16. Due March 21)
- Thought piece #3 35% (hand out April 18. Due April 25)
- Attendance/part. 10%

For each assignment/exam, 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:

93.5+	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-
59 -	F

Information on UF's grading policies is posted at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Other policies: Individual extra-credit work is not allowed.

Deadline extensions may be granted under special circumstances, but you must request them prior to the deadline. Retroactive extensions will not be granted under any circumstances.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing [online evaluations \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students on the [Gator Evals page \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Honor Code \(Links to an external site.\)](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or

criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc (Links to an external site.), and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu (Links to an external site.).

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support (Links to an external site.), 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

Career Resource Center (Links to an external site.), Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

Library Support (Links to an external site.), Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

[Student Complaints Campus \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[On-Line Students Complaints \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

The class will not be recorded and you will not be able to access the lectures outside of normal class hours. There is no on-line option, this is an in person course. Nevertheless, the University of Florida mandates the following language to be included on every syllabus: 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.

Class/Reading Schedule

January 8

Course overview

I. REALIST PERSPECTIVES

January 10	Waltz, pp. 1–15
January 12	Waltz, 16–41
January 17	Waltz, 42–79
January 19	Waltz, 80–123
January 22	Waltz, 124–158
January 24	Waltz, 159–186
January 26	Waltz, 187–238
January 26	Wrap-up of Waltz (thought piece 1 handed out)
January 29	Mearsheimer, 1–67
January 31	Mearsheimer, 75–90, 96–137 (thought piece 1 due)
February 2	Mearsheimer, 138–162, 168–172, 181–202, 224–233

February 5 Mearsheimer, 234–261, 264–272, 288–304, 322–333

February 7 Mearsheimer, 334–402

February 9 Wrap up

II. A LIBERAL-INSTITUTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE

February 12 Keohane, 5–30

February 14 Keohane, 31–64

February 16 Keohane, 65–84

February 19 Keohane, 85–109

February 21 Keohane, 110–134

February 23 Keohane, 135–181

February 26 Keohane, 182–242

February 28 Keohane, 243–259 (thought piece 2 handed out)

III. A LIBERAL-WILSONIAN PERSPECTIVE

March 1 Russett, 3–42

March 4 Russett, 43–71

March 6 Russett, 72–98 (thought piece 2 due)

March 8 Russett, 99–118

March 18 Russett, 119–138

March 20 Wrap up

IV. A CONSTRUCTIVIST PERSPECTIVE

March 22 Finnemore, 1–33

March 25 Finnemore, 34–68

March 27 Finnemore, 69–88

March 29 Finnemore, 89–127

April 1 Finnemore, 128–149

V. A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

April 3 Sjoberg, 1-22

April 5 Sjoberg, 23-53

April 8 Sjoberg, 54-84

April 10 Sjoberg, 85-120

April 12 Sjoberg, 121-148

April 15 Sjoberg, 149-175

VI: HOW BEING A STUDENT OF I.R. CAN SAVE YOU FROM ZOMBIES

April 17 Drezner, 31-54

April 19	Drezner, 55-71
April 22	Drezner, 81-110
April 24	Wrap-up Thought piece 3 handed out
April 30	Thought piece 3 due