

INR 6208 – Spring 2020: Advanced IR Theory
Class Number: 23220; Section: IR08
Department of Political Science, University of Florida
Wed: Periods 2-4 (8:30AM – 11:30 AM) Room: CBD 216

Instructor: Prof. [Badredine Arfi](#)
Office: 221 Anderson Hall
Office Hours: Wed 1:00-4:00pm
Or: by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The seminar seeks to train students in formulating research questions and studying literatures which they have not yet had the opportunity and the time to deeply engage with, examine, learn about, and hopefully contribute to in innovative ways. The idea is therefore to provide a forum for students to think in-depth about research proposals or deepen even more what they have already learned about so far in the graduate program, and elsewhere. The course is consequently organized along themes of research in world politics and is divided into two parts. A first part is a set of themes that are worthwhile examining today with some *profondeur* as they pertain to world politics as we have been and will be experiencing now, and in the foreseeable future. The second part consists in a set of themes distilled from the questions/issues that the students have identified based on their personal research interests and agendas. The expectation is that by the end of the semester each student should have been exposed to enough literature of their choosing (in consultation with the instructor) so as to be able to write a research review or dissertation-like proposal on the themes that they have identified. The philosophy driving the organization of the course is to learn from cutting-edge published research while also ploughing some new ground for your own research in a focused and systematic way, all in a collegial environment.

REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

The seminar is organized as a learning environment where students are both actually designing and conducting the learning enterprise. As such:

- Students are required to “digest” thoroughly the readings before coming to class and come prepared to fully discuss the readings in depth and share their insights with the rest of the class, as well as engage with one another in scholarly debates.
 - The designated students for a particular theme of a given week should choose either **a book and four articles** or **eight articles** from the theme folder.
 - The other students should engage in discussing both the readings and the presentations done by the designated student.

- Each student is required to make a number of power point presentations and lead the ensuing class discussions throughout the semester.
 - The presentations are expected to be at the level of an academic conference.
- Students are required to write a research review (for MA's) or proposal (for PhD's) on a theme of their choice. Please see details down below. In preparation for this task:
 - Each student is required to identify a set of readings for the research proposal/review consisting at least of **one major academic-press book and eight refereed journal articles** published in journals dealing with world politics broadly defined.
 - Both the book and the articles should have been published within the last six years or so (and must receive approval from the instructor before being shared with the rest of the class).
 - The student should share this information (actual literature or citations for it) with the rest of the class so that they get ready after reading the materials to collectively discuss the readings in class.
- All students will be presenting their respective research review/proposal to the class on the last day of classes for this course.

GRADING POLICY

1. Presentations from the general reading list: 20%.
2. Presentation from individualized reading list: 10%.
3. Identifying and distributing reading set (or citation for/information on it) for research proposal/review: 20%.
4. Writing a research review/proposal: 40%.
5. Presenting the research review/proposal at the end of the semester: 10%.

SPECIFICS ON THE PAPER

In order for the instructor to provide timely and useful guidance on the paper, students will be required to upload to canvas various intermediate papers throughout the semester according as follows:

1. **First paper:** Identify a research question that interests you (in consultation with the instructor). Submit the research issue/question and an abstract thereof to canvas. **Date: Jan 29**

2. **Second paper:** Submit a few-page paper discussing the proposed review/research and expected conclusions. That is: provide an elaborate rationale why you chose this specific research issue/question and what you expect to achieve from it. **Date: Feb 19.**
3. **Third paper:** Submit a 10-page (or so) paper discussing the relevant literature to the research issue/question. **Date: March 18**
 - (a) **Research review paper:** this paper should consist in a literature review organized in sections, one theme per section. The writer is expected to summarize, assess and critique the literature from the perspective of the research issue that the writer is interested in.
 - (b) **Research proposal paper:**
 - i. The paper should summarize key arguments of extant literature on the research question – that is, *state of the art* on the question as presented in the literature being considered.
 - ii. The paper should identify the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the literature from the perspective of the research question.
4. **Final paper:** In addition to bringing together in a coherent and logically sound text the previous three parts of the paper that you have already submitted, you must do the following:
 - (a) **For the research review paper:**
Propose an extension to the literature – that is, having reviewed the literature, this should allow you to suggest where you want to take the literature beyond its current status.
You do this by raising a number of questions that you argue should be pursued in future work. Make sure that you provide rationales for each of the questions.
 - (b) **For the research proposal paper:**
Craft a proposal on how you would add a new contribution to the literature by:
 - i. Suggesting a new argument that is missing in the literature
 - ii. Discussing the type of methodology and sources that you might need to fully develop these ideas
 - iii. Discussing what you expect might be potential limitations to the research that you are proposing.

All four parts should be brought coherently together with a conclusion. The whole paper should be 15-25 pages long, including the bibliography. **Date: April 22.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Classes Begin (for this course)	Wed, January 8
Holidays <i>No classes</i>	January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. February 29 – March 7: Spring Break
Classes End	Wed, April 22

ISA Annual Convention – Honolulu: No class	March 25 – 28
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IMPORTANT NOTES

- The instructor reserves the right to change or amend any part or aspect of this document should a need for doing so emerge at any point in time during the semester.
- **Academic Honesty**
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 (sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) 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.
- **Class Attendance, Make-up Exams, Assignments**
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: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/
- **UF Grading Policies**
Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including a link to the web page: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/.
- **Online Course Evaluation Process**
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 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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/
- **Services for Students with Disabilities**
Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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.

- **Campus Helping Resources**

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.
- University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](http://ufcomputinghelpdesk.com) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.
- Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420.
- General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/
- Student Complaints On-Campus: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/
- On-Line Students Complaints: distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

Theme 1 / January 15: Power & World Politics

Theme 2/ January 22: World Order & World Politics

Theme 3/ January 29: Technology & World Politics

Theme 4/ February 5: Cyber & World Politics

Theme 5/ February 12: Migration & World Politics

Theme 6/ February 19: Global Capitalism & World Politics

Theme 7/ February 26: **Mai**: Small States

February 29 – March 7, 2020: Spring Break

Theme 8/ March 11: **Anqi**: Wars and State Building

Carl: Great Power Games and Spheres of Influence

Theme 9/ March 18: **Glen**: Climate Change, Science and Technology

ISA 2020 Annual Convention - March 25th - 28th, 2020 – Honolulu, Hawaii

“Multiple Identities and Scholarship in a Global IR:

One Profession, Many Voices”

Theme 10/ April 1: **James**: Military Interventionism

Theme 11/ April 8: **Long**: Perceptions and Misperceptions in IR: The China-US

Theme 12/ April 15: **Denise**: Impact of Chinese Foreign Investments on Income Inequality

The End / April 22: Research Presentations