

INR 3603: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Fall 2022, MWF 9:35-10:25 pm @ Pugh 120

Instructor: Prof. Ido Oren
320 Anderson Hall
Mobile phone: [provided on Canvas]
Email: oren@ufl.edu
<https://oren064.wixsite.com/idooren>

Office hours:

M 4:00-4:45 pm @ <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3047799955>

F 10:30-11:15 am @ 320 Anderson Hall

Or by appointment

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). Copies of the other five books are available at the Course Reserves counter at UF Library West. They may be checked out for a maximum of two hours and they may not be taken out of the building.

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 Monday, October 3, at 9 am (just before class), and will be due on Friday, October 7, at 9 am. The second assignment will be posted on Wednesday, November 9, at 9 am and will be due on Monday, November 14, at 9 am. The third assignment will be posted on Wednesday, December 7, at 9 am, and will be due on Monday, December 12, at 11 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 typically be posted on Canvas on Fridays at 10:30 am and the assignment will be due the following Monday at 9:00 am (but note two exceptions during Labor Day and Thanksgiving weekends). 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

August 24 Course overview

I. REALIST PERSPECTIVES

August 26 Waltz, chapter 1 (pp. 1-15)

August 29 Waltz, chapter 2 (16-41)

August 31 Waltz, chapter 3 (42-79)

September 2 Waltz, chapter 4 (80-123)
Reaction piece #1 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

September 5 No class (Labor Day)

September 7 Online class. Waltz, chapter 5 (124-158)
Reaction piece #1 due at 9:00 am

September 9	Waltz, chapter 6 (159-186)
September 12	Waltz, chapter 7 (187-223)
September 14	No class (annual APSA meeting)
September 16	Waltz, chapter 8 (223-238) Reaction piece #2 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
September 19	Wrap-up of Waltz Reaction piece #2 due at 9:00 am
September 21	1. Mearsheimer, 1-67 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 23	Mearsheimer, 75-90, 96-99, 108-137
September 26	No class (Rosh Hashanah)
September 28	Mearsheimer, 138-162, 168-172, 190-202, 232-261
September 30	Mearsheimer, 264-272, 322-359
October 3	Mearsheimer, 360-411 Thought piece assignment #1 posted on Canvas at 9:00 am
October 5	No class (Yom Kippur)
October 7	No class (Homecoming) Thought piece assignment #1 due at 9:00 am
II. A LIBERAL-INSTITUTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE	
October 10	Keohane, chaps. 1-2 (5-30)
October 12	Keohane, chaps. 3-4 (31-64)
October 14	Keohane, chapter 5 (65-84) Reaction piece #3 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

- October 17 Keohane, chapter 6 (85-109)
Reaction piece #3 due at 9:00 am
- October 19 Keohane, chapter 7 (110-134)
- October 21 Keohane, chapter 8 (135-181)
- October 24 Keohane, chaps. 9-10 (182-242)
- October 26 Keohane, chapter 11 (243-259)
- October 28 Wrap-up of Keohane
Reaction piece #4 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

III. A LIBERAL-WILSONIAN PERSPECTIVE

- October 31 Russett, chaps. 1-2 (3-42)
Reaction piece #4 due at 9:00 am
- November 2 Russett, chapter 3 (43-71)
- November 4 Russett, chapter 4 (72-98)
- November 7 Russett, chapter 5 (99-118)
- November 9 Russett, chapter 6 (119-138)
Thought piece assignment #2 posted on Canvas at 9:00 am
- November 11 No class (Veterans Day)

IV. A CONSTRUCTIVIST PERSPECTIVE

- November 14 Finnemore, chapter 1 (1-33)
Thought piece assignment #2 due at 9:00 am
- November 16 Finnemore, chapter 2 (34-68)
- November 18 Finnemore, chaps. 3-4 (69-127)
- November 21 Finnemore, chapter 5 (128-149)
Reaction piece #5 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
- November 23/25 No classes (Thanksgiving)

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

November 28	Vitalis, Introduction and chap. 1 (1-45) Reaction piece #5 due at 9:00 am
November 30	Vitalis, chaps. 2-4 (46-84)
December 2	Vitalis, chaps. 5-6 (85-120)
December 5	Vitalis, chaps. 7-9 (121-168)
December 7	Vitalis, Conclusion (169-181) Thought piece assignment #3 posted on Canvas at 9:00 am

December 12	Thought piece assignment #3 due at 11:00 am