

INR 2001
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Monday - Wednesday - 5th Period
Spring 2026

Professor Richard Nolan

219 Anderson Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 - 12:00 (or by appointment)

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Teaching Assistants: Vu Luong, Jain Choi, Victoria Farayola, Stephen Quansah, Caitlin Holden

Teaching Assistants and Sections

Section	Day	Period	Room	Teaching Asst	email	Office Hours
17552	Thursday	3	Flint 0113	Vu Luong	luongvu@ufl.edu	Thurs. 10:45-11:45
27179	Thursday	6	Matherly 0013	Jain Choi	jainchoi@ufl.edu	Tues. 1:30-2:30
25180	Thursday	4	Matherly 0119	Victoria Farayola	farayolav@ufl.edu	Wed. 3-4
25181	Thursday	5	Anderson 0134	Stephen Quansah	stephen.quansah@ufl.edu	Mon. 2:30-3:30
25182	Thursday	2	Matherly 0117	Caitlin Holden	c.holden@ufl.edu	Wed. 10:30-11:30
25183	Friday	5	Matherly 0005	Caitlin Holden	c.holden@ufl.edu	Wed. 10:30 -1:30
25185	Friday	2	MCCA 2186	Jain Choi	jainchoi@ufl.edu	Tues. 1:30-2:30
25186	Friday	5	Matherly 0009	Victoria Farayola	farayolav@ufl.edu	Wed. 3-4
27884	Friday	6	Anderson 0032	Vu Luong	luongvu@ufl.edu	Thur. 10:45-11:45
27885	Friday	3	Turlington 2349	Stephen Quansah	stephen.quansah@ufl.edu	Mon. 2:30-3:30

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will develop a familiarity with the basic concepts of international relations. There are two specific goals facing the students: 1) developing an appreciation for the elements of both change and continuity in the global system and 2) developing skills necessary to apply theoretical and conceptual understanding in analyzing current international events. The broad intellectual objective is to assist students in developing an appreciation for the complexity of international issues, including the inter-relationship of domestic and international events.

This course fulfills the Gen Ed categories for International (N) and Social and Behavioral Science (S) requirements. International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world. Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques.

The course is structured into lectures (Mondays and Wednesdays) and weekly discussion sessions (Thursdays and Fridays). The lectures cover the prominent actors and the various issues that world politics deals with. Lectures will cover/discuss dominant theoretical perspectives to assist students' understanding of world politics. Students are thus expected to fully acquaint themselves with the material discussed in the lectures and discussion sections. By the end of the semester the students will have acquired enough background to identify, describe, and explain the dynamic interaction of processes that characterize the contemporary world.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Charles W. Kegley, Jr. and Shannon L. Blanton, World Politics: Trend and Transformation, 2016-2017 Edition, Boston: Cengage.
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/> (website for assignments and quizzes)

COURSE READINGS

Weekly required readings and other exercises for the discussion sections will be available on Canvas and any updates or modification will be preceded by email notification

EXAMS AND EVALUATION

There will be three exams, each accounting for 25% (75% total) of the final grade.

There will be 5-10 assignments/quizzes in the discussion sessions which will count for 15% of the final grade.

Attendance will count for 10% of the final grade. Attendance from both lectures and discussion sessions.

Grading Scale

A	90-100
B+	87-89.9
B	80-86.9
C+	77-79.9
C	70-76.9
D+	67-69.9
D	60-66.9
E	less than 60

Students are required to attend every class (lecture and discussion) session on a regular basis. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

**EXAM DATES (subject to change by instructor depending on circumstances such as hurricanes, locusts, bad hair . . .
Instructors have the right to modify aspects of the course when it benefits the academic outcome of the course)**

Exam 1 – February 18 (in class)

Exam 2 – March 25 (in class)

Exam 3 – April 22 (in class)

COURSE OUTLINE

I. The System and The Players

- Introduction: Why Are We Here? (Do We Have to Be?)

- Analyzing World Politics: Realism, Idealism and Other Pretenders

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapters 1 & 2

- Sizing Up the Actors

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapters 3 & 4

- Third World States

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 5

- The Rising Influence of Nonstate Actors

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 6

The Stakes (Part I): High Politics

- The State and Security

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 8

- Power Variables and Power Relations

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 8

- Theories of War and Civil War

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 7

- Nuclear Weapons, Deterrence, and Crisis Management and Arms Control

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapters 9 (pp. 277 - 289)

EXAM 1 Wed. Feb 18

II. The Stakes (PartII): Political Economy

- Political Economy: Changing Nations' Priorities

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 10

- The International Monetary System and Trade Politics

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 11

- Third World Perspective

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - REVIEW Chapter 5

- Oil and Energy Politics: Choices of States and Consumers

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 14 (pp. 473 - 475, 481 - 485)

EXAM 2 WEDNESDAY March 25

III. Global Community and Global Commons: Pressures, Power, Order and the Future of World Politics

- Population Pressures on a Finite Planet

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 12

- Food Politics

- Problems of the Global Commons

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 14 (pp. 455 – 472, 475 - 481)

- International Law: Forces for Peace or Prerogatives of the Powerful?

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 9 (pp. 298 - 313)

- International Organization: Limits of the Institutional Management of Anarchy

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 9 (pp. 289 - 297)

- International Integration: Building Communities or the Evolution of the State?

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 6 (pp. 162 - 168)

Reading Assignment:
Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 15

EXAM 3 WEDNESDAY APRIL 22